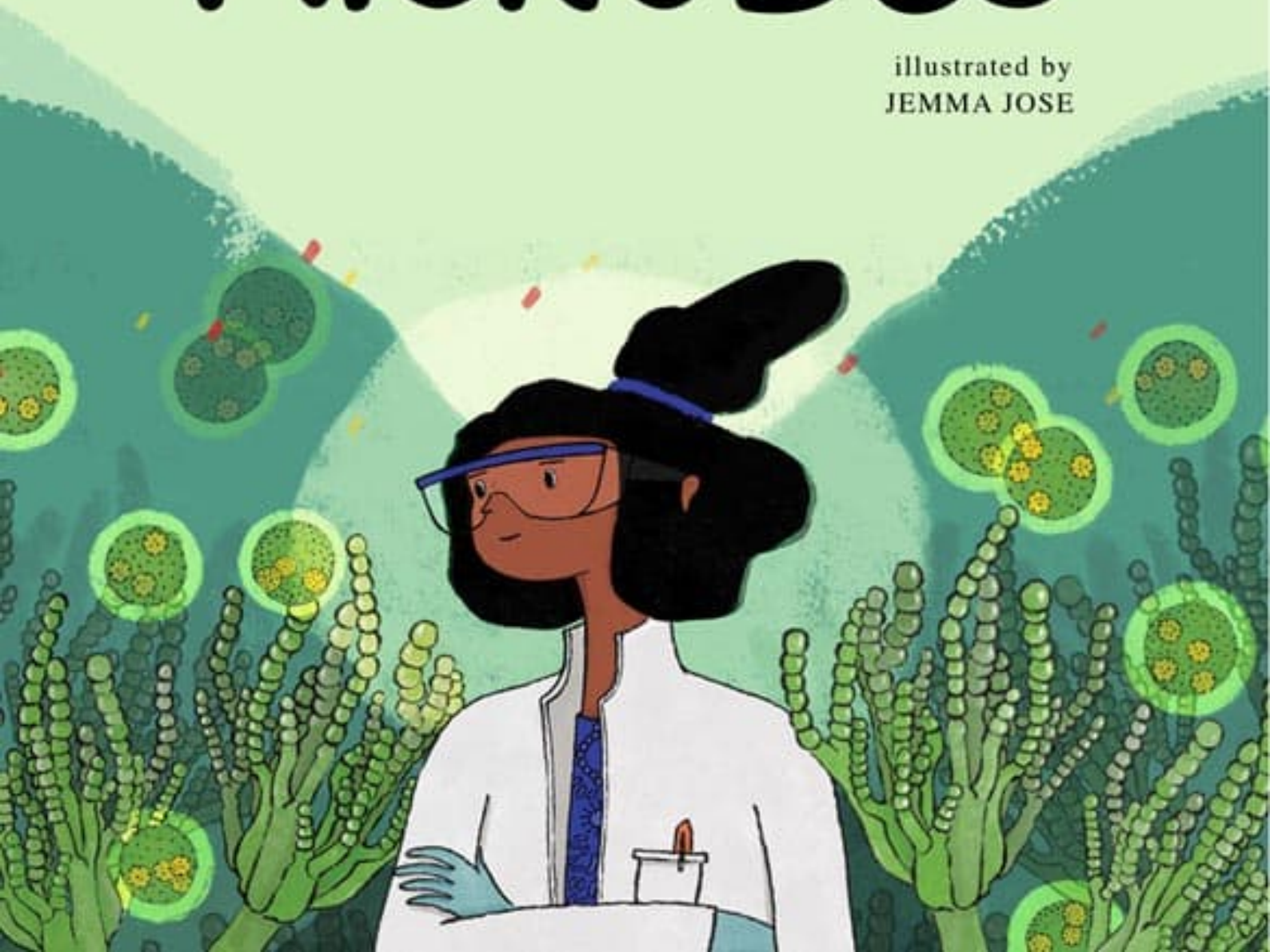


written by  
BEL RICHARDSON

# MICROBES

illustrated by  
JEMMA JOSE



Zara did tests with microbes in class when she was in school. She set a goal to get a job in a lab.





Now she works in a lab. She works with microbes. They are so small that she needs the right lens to see them.



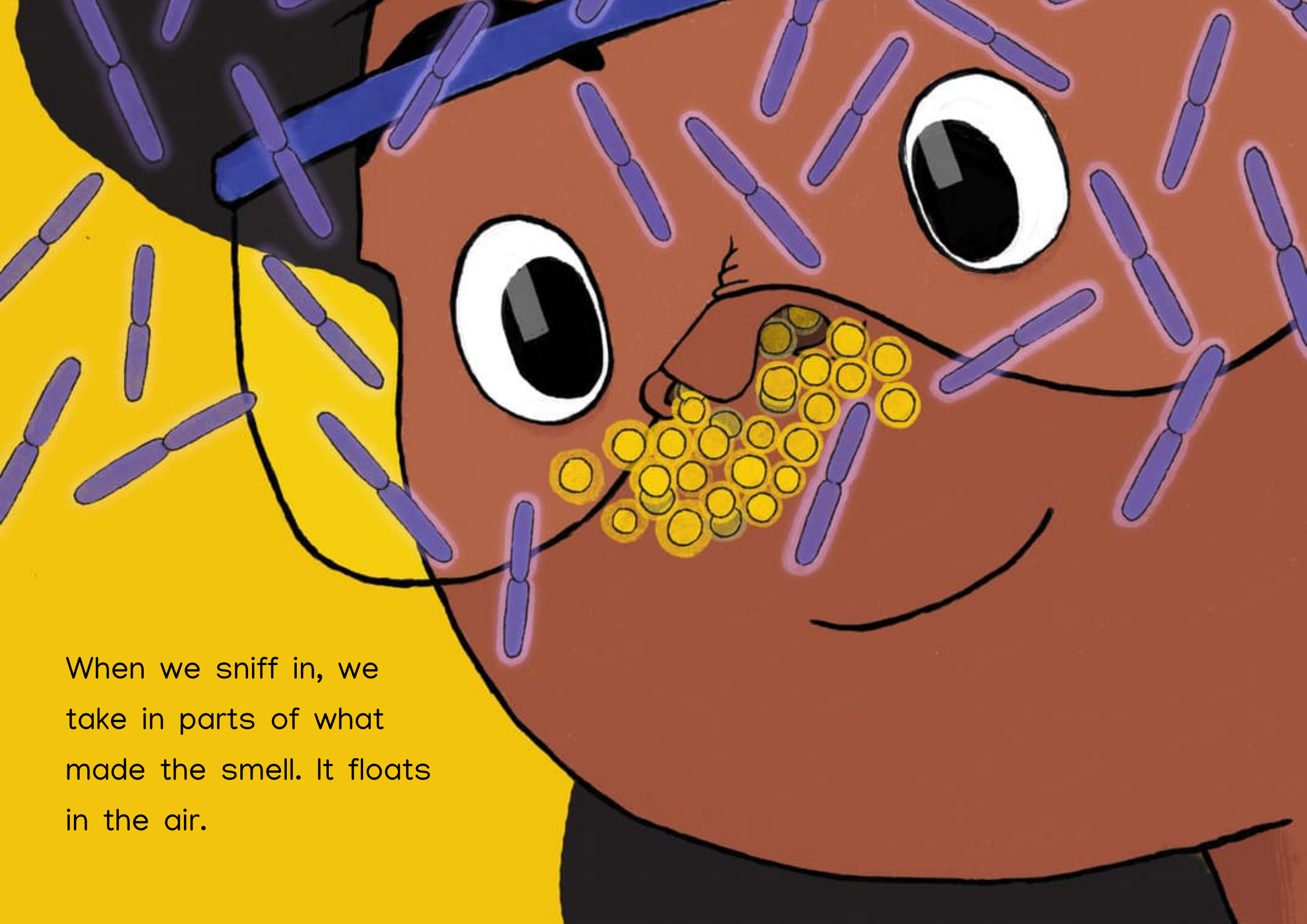


There is a bad  
smell in the  
fridge. She  
wants to test it.  
She wants to  
test the fruit  
and see what  
makes it smell.





At first, Zara tries to just use the smell to think. She cuts out microbes that do not fit.



When we sniff in, we  
take in parts of what  
made the smell. It floats  
in the air.





Zara takes some of the flesh from the fruit. She does tests on it. She uses flasks to make sure she puts in the right amounts.

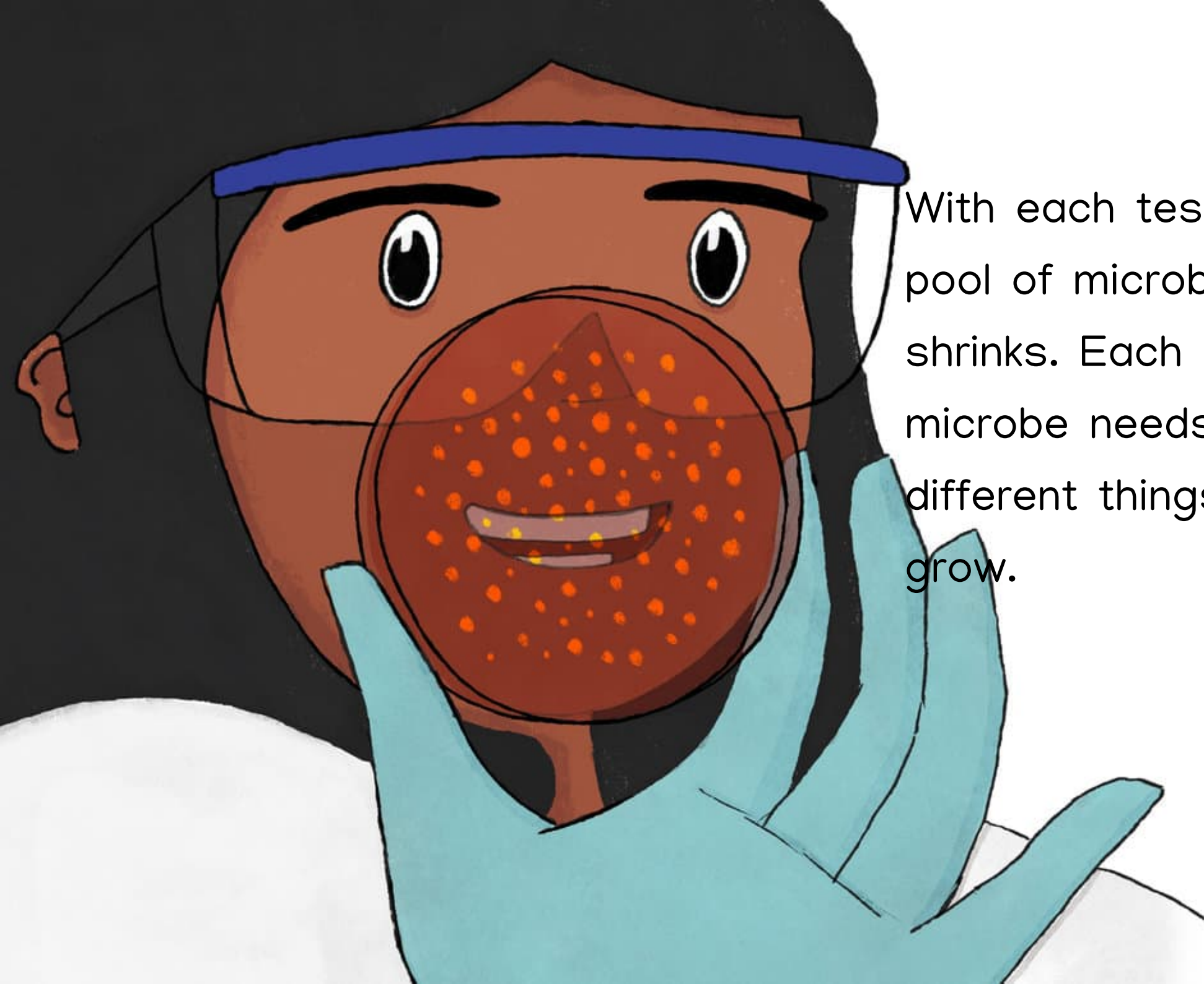


Then she waits. She checks the flasks each hour. She takes notes when they turn dark.



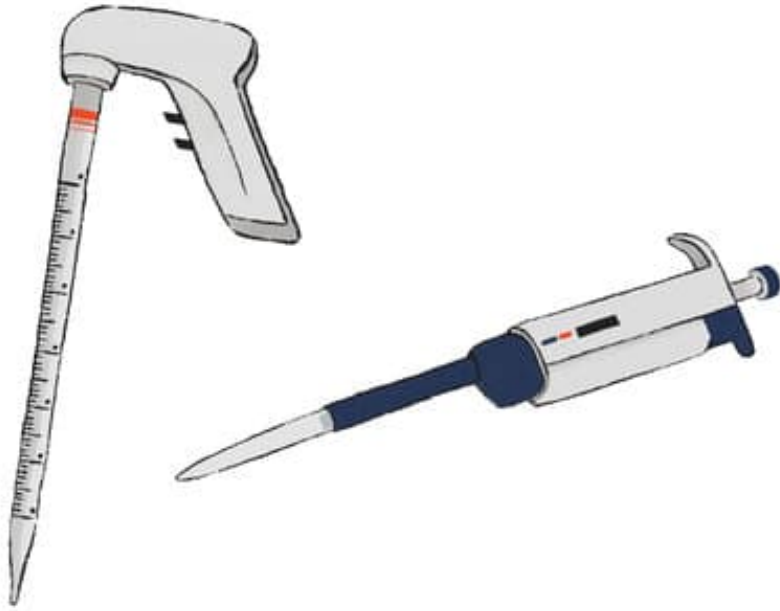


She plates some of it. Mold grows with a clear moat on the edge. This will help her to cut out more microbes. This one is a hard case, but she will get there!

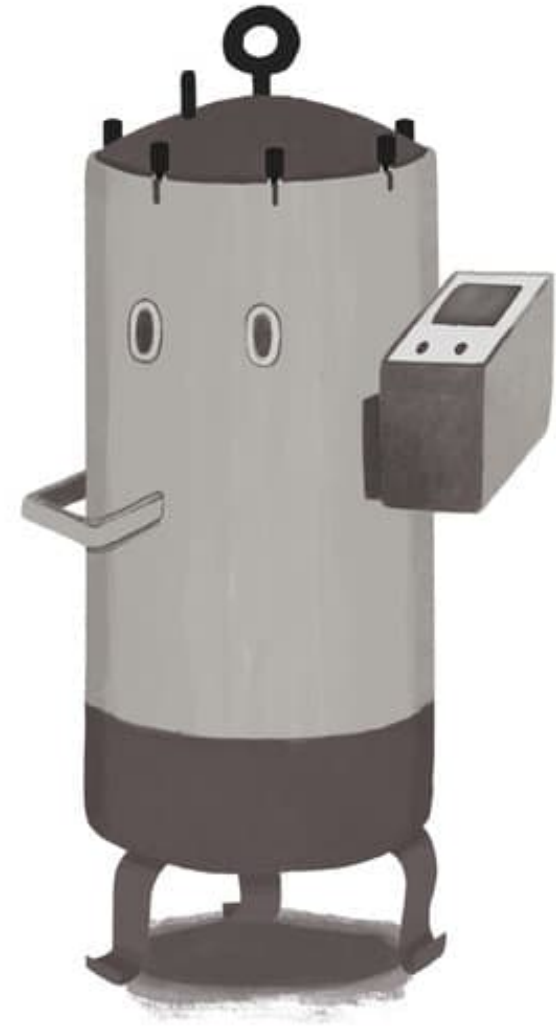


With each test, the pool of microbes shrinks. Each microbe needs different things to grow.





She uses tools to help her. Tools in the lab must be kept clean.



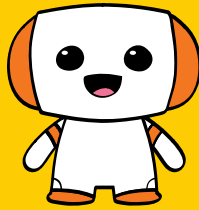
Zara thinks that she has found a new microbe! She tells her work pal. He says he will test it too to check.







It is a new microbe! A toast to Zara. She will do more tests to see what it can do.



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