



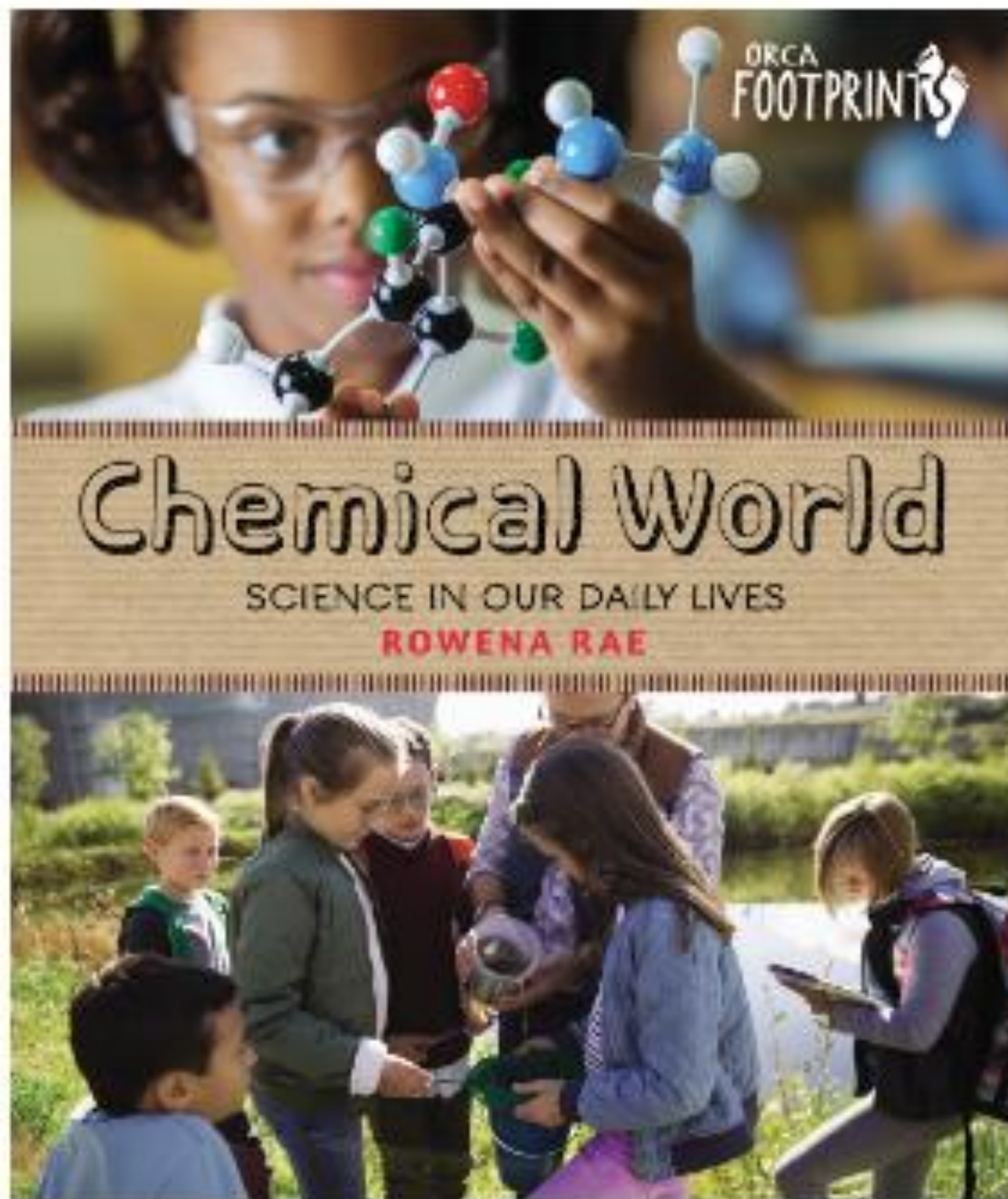
**Reading Sharing on Stage**  
*A good day starts with a good book*

# *Chemical World*



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Good morning, Principal, teachers, and my fellow schoolmates. Look around you. Your chairs, your desks, your clothes.. even you. You might not realize it, but everything around you is made of elements from the periodic table, combined in countless ways. It's not just numbers and diagrams, it's all around you.

In Rowena Rae's book *The Chemical World*, chemistry isn't about the hassle of diagrams and notations. It's about real stories, ones on how materials are invented, how they change society, and sometimes, how dangerous they can be.

Plastic today is made from petrol, the same source as gasoline. But the first plastic was made from cellulose, a plant based material. In the 1800s, people were cutting down elephants for ivory billiard balls. When supplies ran low, a new material had to be created. That was the birth of plastic.

Or take DDT, a pesticide once seen as a miracle. So trusted, that it was sprayed on children to kill lice. There were instances of kids showering under fog machines releasing clouds of it like harmless mist. But it didn't stay harmless. DDT gradually built up in the nature, weakened bird eggshells, drastically affected certain bird populations, and was eventually banned in many countries.

These aren't just historical notes. They show how deeply chemistry shapes our lives. What we use, what we trust, and what we later regret. The next time you pick up a pen or drink from a bottle, remember that it's not just an object. It's the result of scientific choices, economic needs, and often, unintended consequences.

Chemistry is everything, and understanding it even a little bit helps us see the world more clearly.

