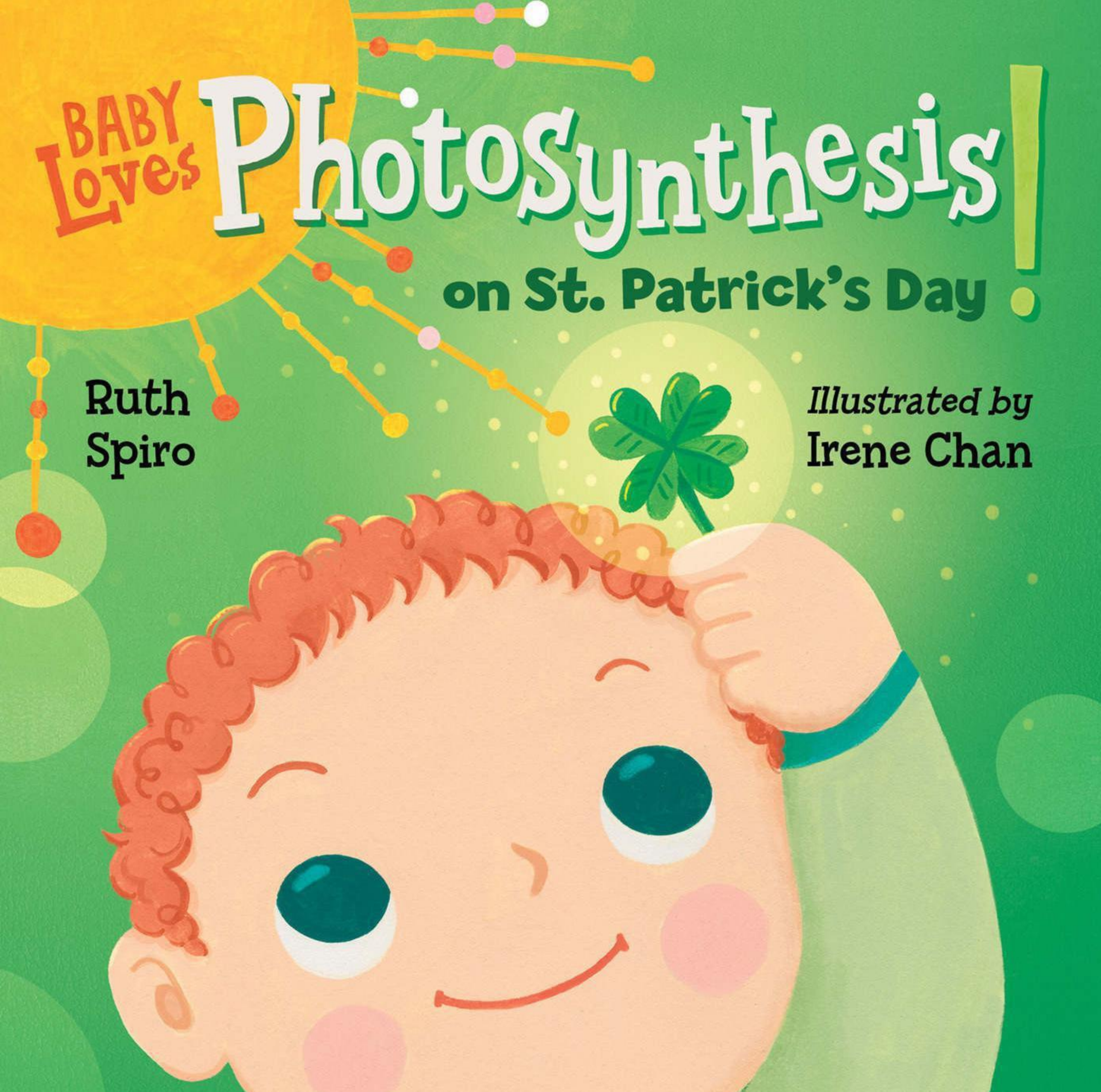
Baby Loves Photosynthesis! on St. Patrick's Day

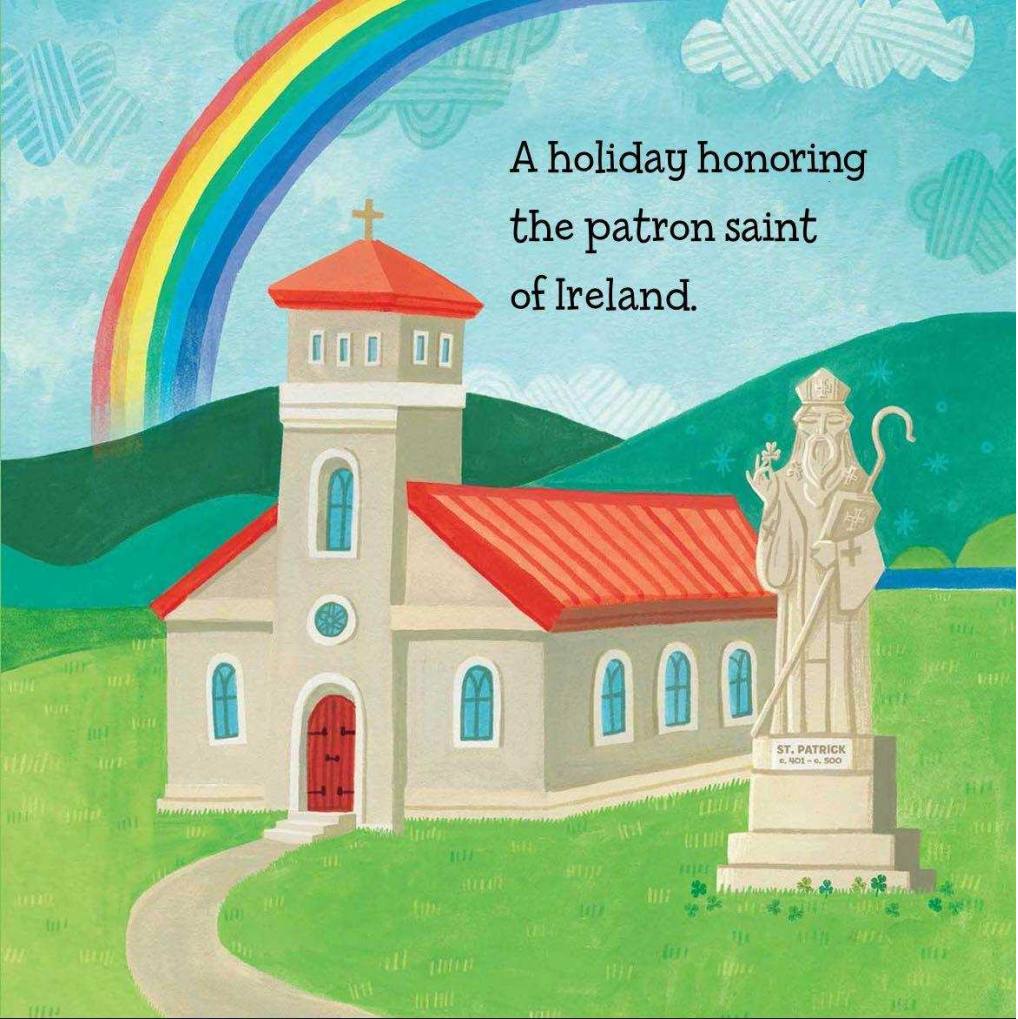
Ruth Spiro

Illustrated by Irene Chan



Baby is wearing green for St. Patrick's Day!

What is
St. Patrick's Day?


A holiday honoring
the patron saint
of Ireland.
ST. PATRICK
c. 401 – c. 500

Long ago, St. Patrick's Day began as a religious feast day.

When people from Ireland came to America, they brought customs from their homeland.


They celebrated St. Patrick's Day
to show pride in their heritage.

They started new traditions, too.

On St. Patrick's Day,
Baby wears green,

reads stories
about magical
leprechauns,

and gathers
shamrocks,
or clover.

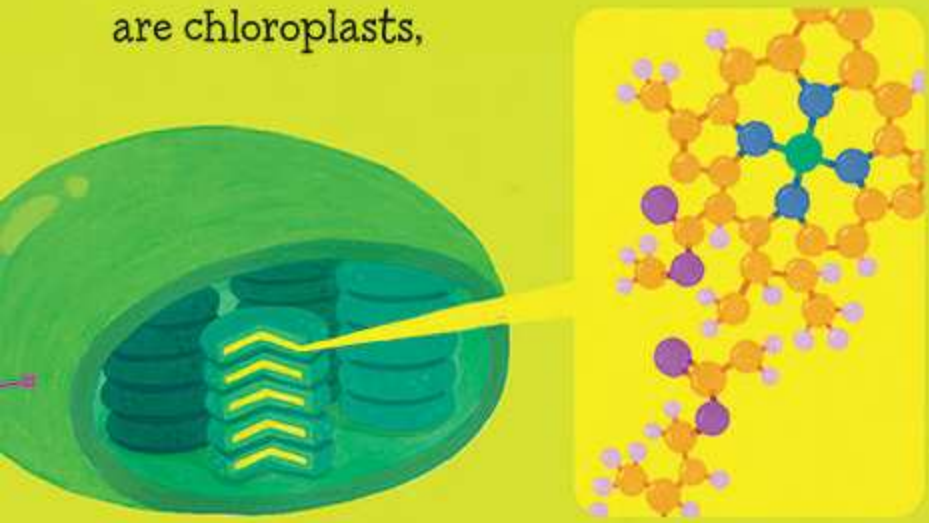
Most shamrocks have three leaves,
but the lucky ones have four!


What makes clover and other plants grow?
Photosynthesis!


Photosynthesis means “build with light.”

The clover's leaves are made of cells.

Inside the cells
are chloroplasts,

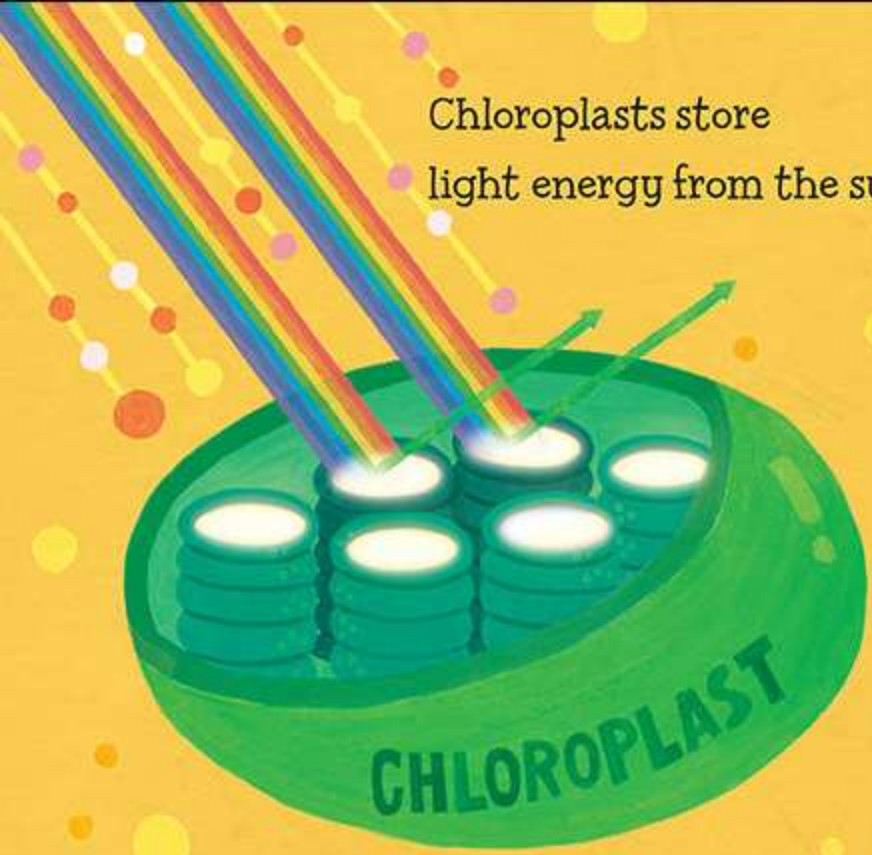


CHLOROPLAST

CHLOROPHYLL

and inside the chloroplasts is chlorophyll.

Chloroplasts store
light energy from the sun.



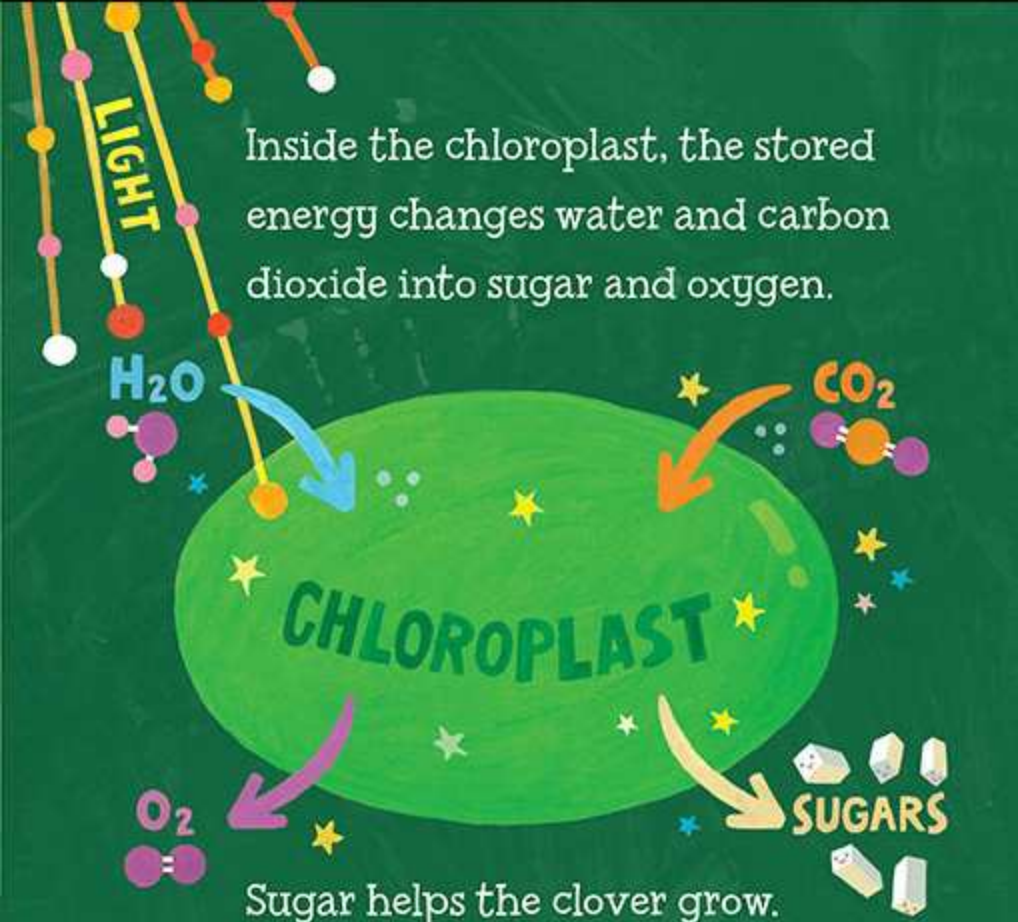
Chlorophyll absorbs the red and blue light.


It reflects the
green light,
GREEN
so the clover looks green.

The clover takes in carbon dioxide from the air through tiny openings in the leaf, called stomata.

It takes in water from the soil through its roots.

H_2O WATER


LIGHT
Inside the chloroplast, the stored energy changes water and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen.
H2O
CO2
CHLOROPLAST
O2
SUGARS
Sugar helps the clover grow.

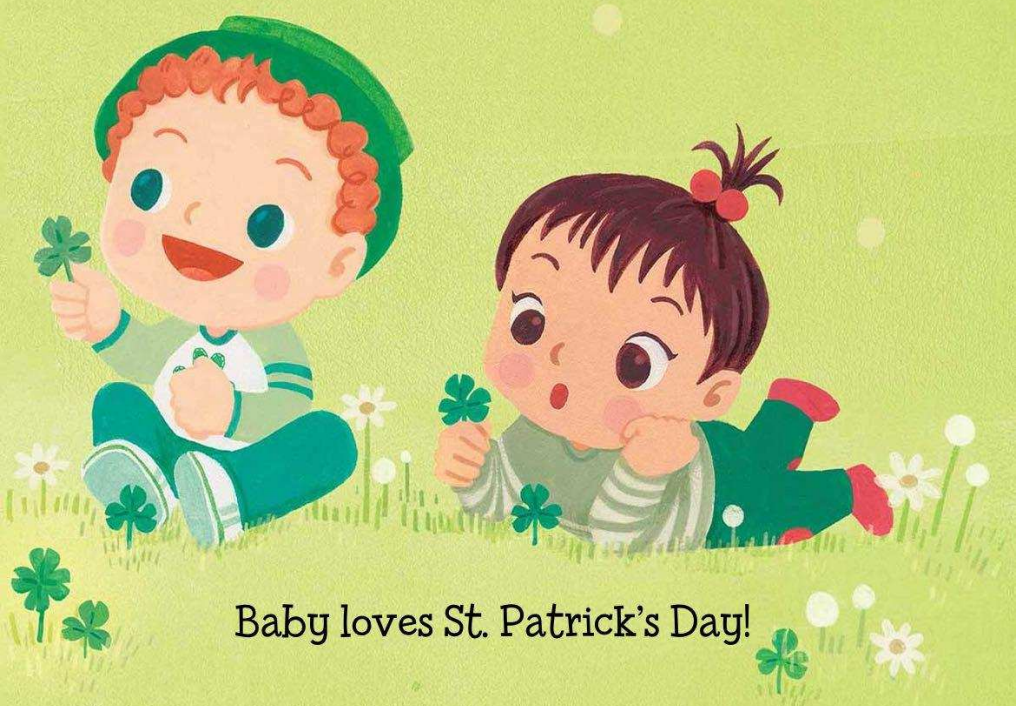
The clover releases oxygen into the air.
Animals and humans (like Baby!)
breathe in the oxygen.
Ahhh!

Families celebrate St. Patrick's Day in different ways. They may attend church, share a special meal with others,

or go to a parade.

Not all Baby's friends celebrate
St. Patrick's Day . . .

but they all can help search
for lucky four-leaf clovers!



Baby loves St. Patrick's Day!

BABY Loves Science
Little books about big ideas

Baby looks for a lucky four-leaf clover. He learns what makes plants green and grow. It's fun to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with food, parades, science, and a little luck!

Also available:

To my "wee friends," may the sun shine warm upon your face.—R. S.

To all of us who live under and receive warmth from the sun.—I. C.

Very special thanks to Dr. Fred Bortz for his invaluable expertise and advice.

Published by Charlesbridge • 9 Galen Street, Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 926-0329 • www.charlesbridge.com
Library of Congress Control Number: 2020057702
Printed by Hung Hing Printing (Heshan) Co., Ltd., in Heshan, Guangdong, China
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1