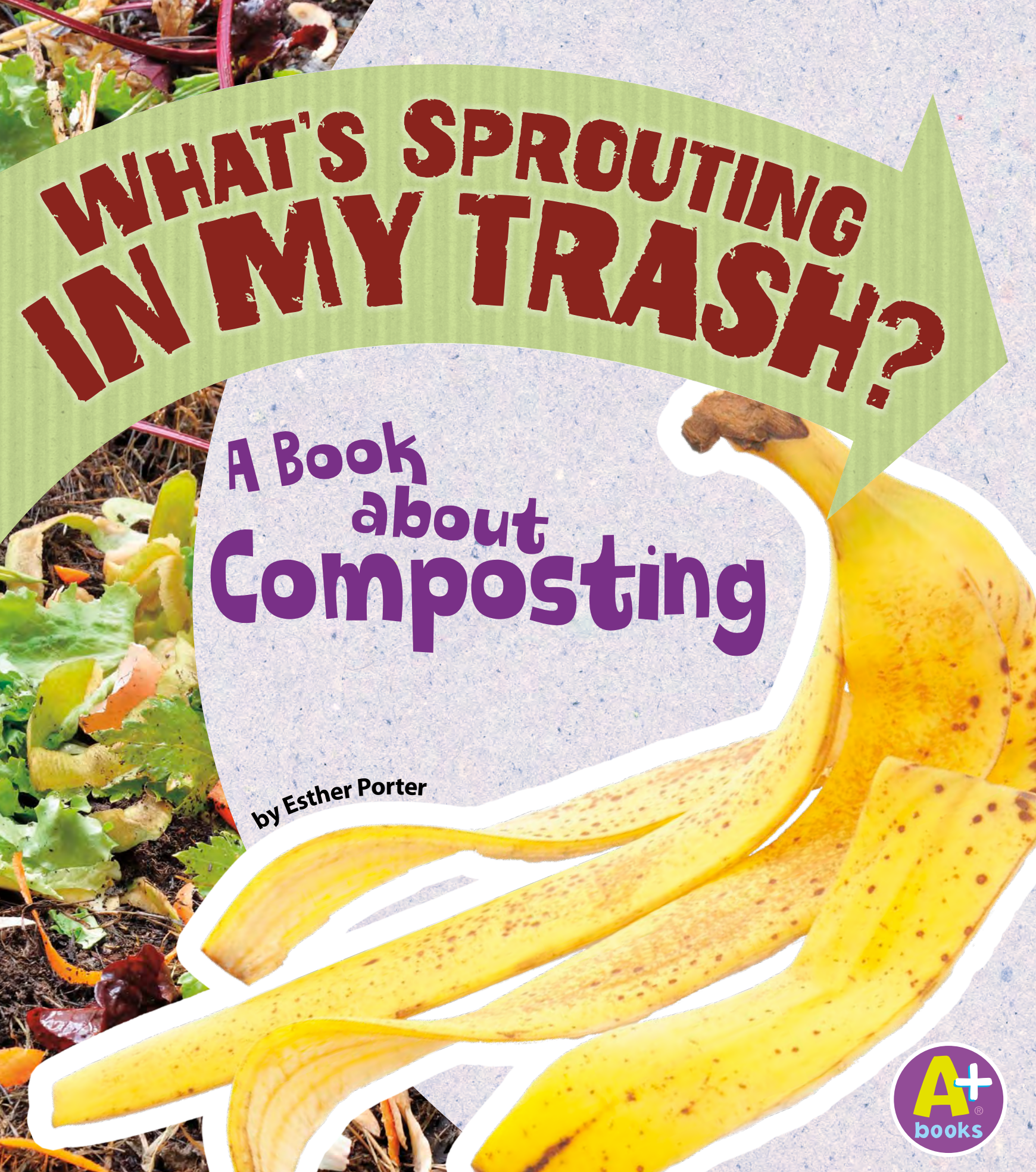




WHAT'S SPROUTING IN MY TRASH?

A Book about Composting

by Esther Porter



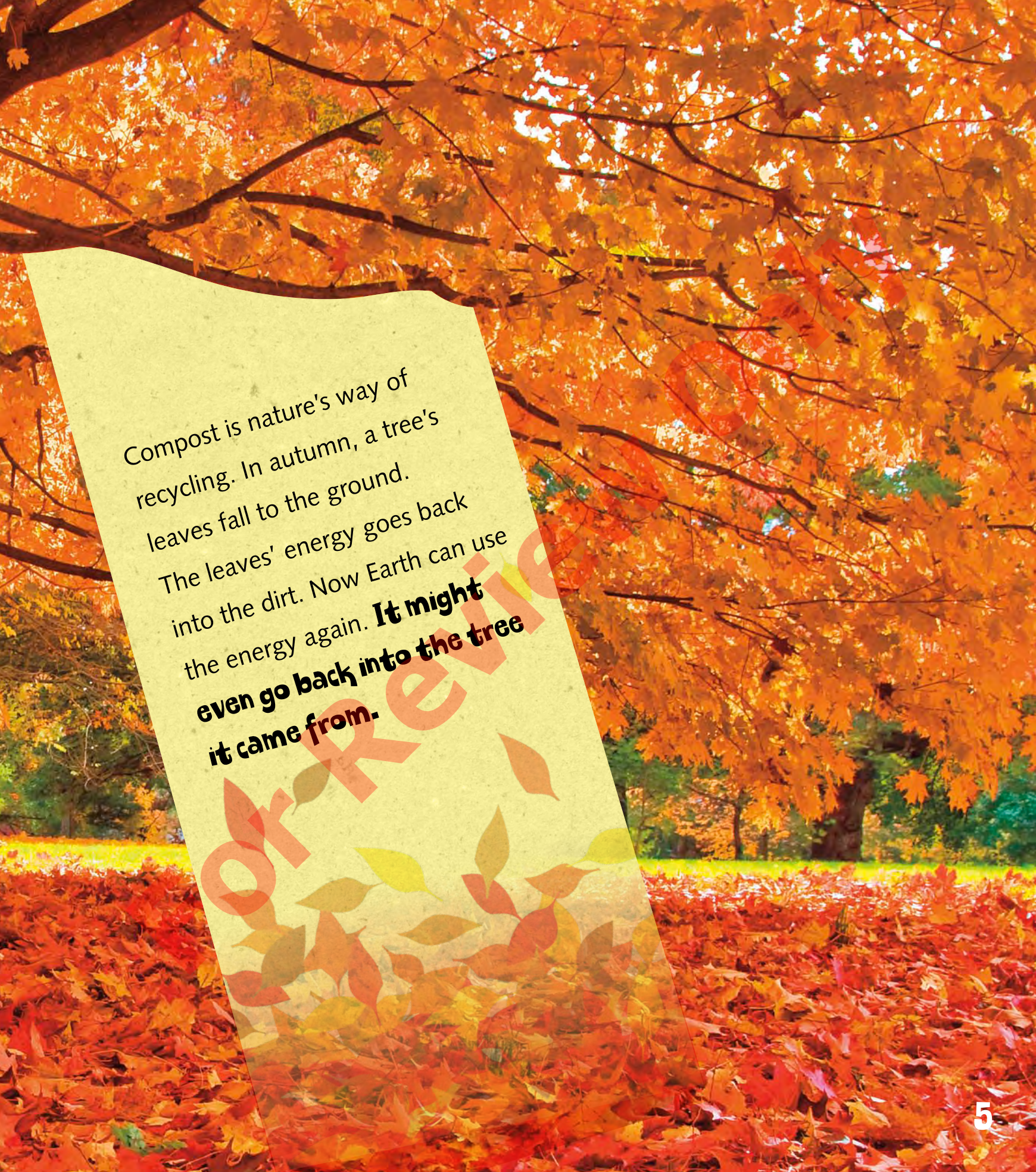


A young boy with dark skin and short hair, wearing a bright red t-shirt and dark blue shorts, is walking on a concrete path. He is holding a large blue recycling bin with both hands. The background shows a house with brown siding and a dark door, and some green grass in the foreground. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "For Review" is diagonally across the image.

Do you like to recycle? Earth does too! In fact, nature has taught us a great deal about recycling. Earth knows how to renew itself naturally.

**If we watch closely,
we can learn too.**

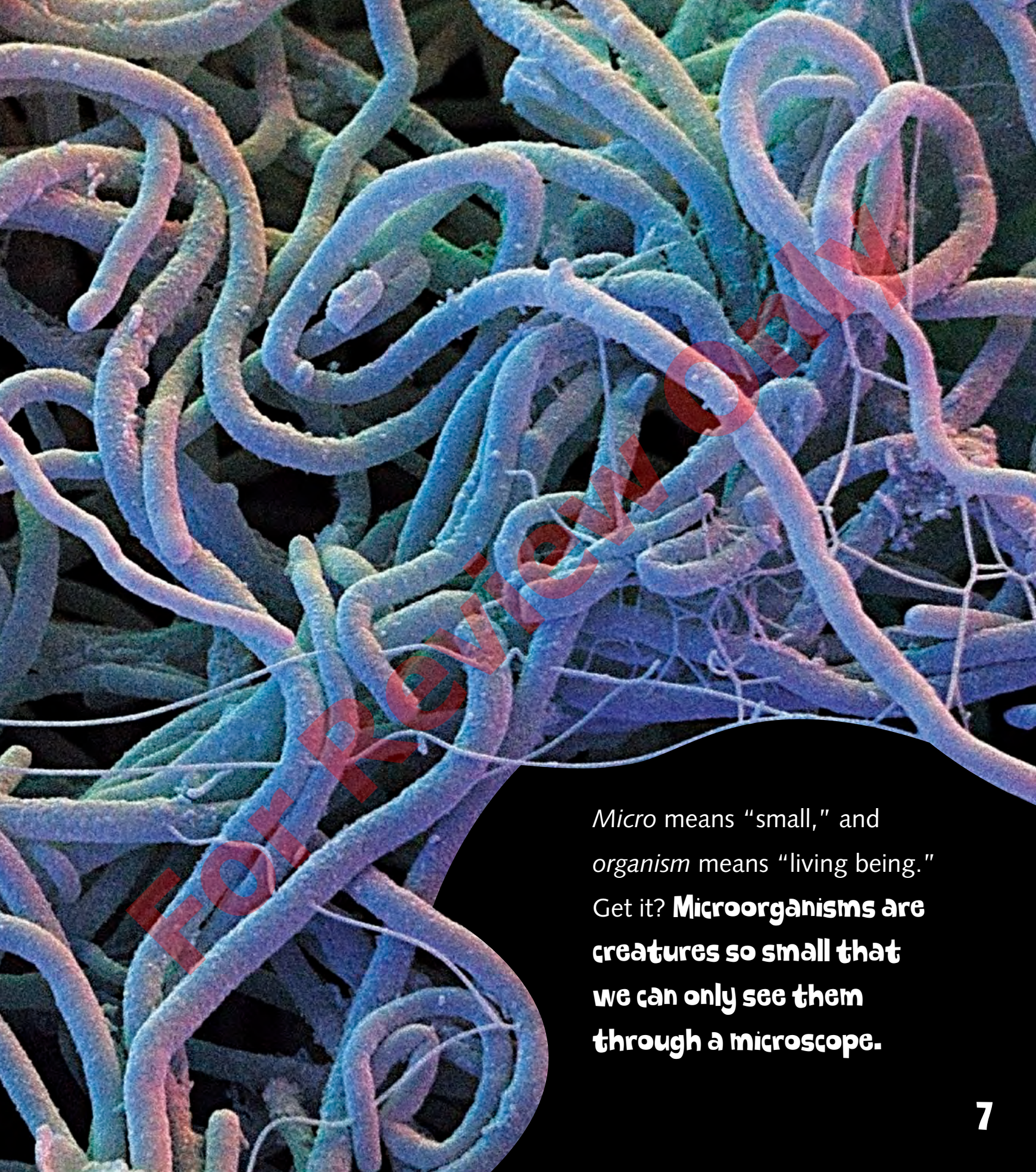




Compost is nature's way of recycling. In autumn, a tree's leaves fall to the ground. The leaves' energy goes back into the dirt. Now Earth can use the energy again. **It might even go back into the tree it came from.**

Nature never loses energy,
thanks to a few little
helpers in the ground called
microorganisms. *Micro-what?*
Microorganisms!





Micro means “small,” and *organism* means “living being.” Get it? **Microorganisms are creatures so small that we can only see them through a microscope.**

Composting in a Jar

Want to see how compost works? Make compost in a jar! Like a compost pile or bin, compost in a jar turns scraps and clippings into perfect compost. Here's how to make your own:

You will need:

- large clear plastic or glass jar
- food scraps (fruit peels, bread)
- leaves
- grass clippings
- garden soil (not potting soil)

Instructions:

Place 2 inches (5 centimeters) of soil in the bottom of a plastic or glass jar. Moisten for best results. Place food scraps, leaves, and grass clippings on top of the soil in several, repeating layers. Leave the jar open and place on a windowsill or other location where it will not be disturbed.



Check the jar daily. What changes do you see?
Add a little water every week. Mix it by stirring.
When your compost is broken down into dark,
rich soil, add it to a garden or planter.

