

Water Vapour

It was Neel's first day at a new school. Because of an unknown ailment that even doctors couldn't detect, he had to skip a couple of years. And now that he was joining school, it was after skipping the first standard altogether. He was too nervous with all the unfamiliarity around. He always was given the good boy stars in prep school. But he hadn't left the house for two years because of the illness. He was nervous. He ended up standing in the school assembly in the wrong line of the wrong class. It didn't help his low self-confidence one bit, that blunder. He was finally escorted to his classroom by this kind, giant Prefect from the assembly. He had never seen a Prefect badge before. He read that as perfect. Was this giant senior perfect? He smiled and was really sweet.

He entered a classroom filled with curious classmates. Strangers he hadn't met before. The teacher was nice, but she seemed strict. She asked the students to sing for Neel. They greeted him with a horrid song called 'Come ye new boy, come, welcome.' Neel was too embarrassed, and couldn't wait for the song to end.

The classes were finally over. They were made to stand in a queue and leave one by one. While standing in the queue he noticed something in the next classroom that made his heart skip a beat. A poster on water vapour. Water vapour. That's what he read it as. Neel hadn't ever heard this word before. It sounded like music. Vapoooooooooooooor. Water vapoooooooooooooor. Even the image drawn on the chart was beautiful. '*Gaseous*'. Neel knew instantly that he wanted to learn all about water vapour. He had to. He needed to. He was too excited! He came home and checked all his books. No water vapour. It was disappointing. What if they had already taught about this in class 1 and he had missed it all? They next day he went back to the window to peak into the next classroom. It was class 3B. Thank god! He had to end up in that classroom somehow. He knew nothing of this water vapour and he would never know if he didn't go to class 3B. But what if he got into 3A? It almost made him anxious, even this hypothetical situation. He would miss out on daydreaming into that beautiful poster. Vapoooooooooooooor. He worked hard for his exams and waited and waited till he was in the third standard. And 3B it was! He was terribly happy. Nothing could go wrong and this was perfect. But Neel's old ailment came back. He had to start missing classes. He didn't get to know about water vapour. He never would.