



Фотоконкурс таблиц Д.И.Менделеева, посвященный Международному году Периодической таблицы химических элементов
Работа призеров III степени – Kira Efremova (Windmill Hill Primary School, Cheshire, United Kingdom) и Olga Efremova (University of Hull, Cheshire, United Kingdom)

Naming story - Alternative version¹

By Kira Efremova



Long, long, long ago there was a city. In the city there lived all the elements of the periodic table.

The chief element, Hydrogen, announced “Together we will make new names for the humans!”

The crowd roared in delight. Oxygen came up onto the stage and argued against Hydrogen's proposal.

“How?” exclaimed Oxygen, as he tended to react fast. “How will we make names for the humans?” Everybody agreed with Oxygen.

¹ *Comment from Olga Efremova:* The periodic table blanket on the picture is made by me in 2018 and dedicated to the year of the Periodic Table. It uses techniques of quilting and patchwork and machine embroidery for the element symbols. I use this quilted blanket to teach two my daughters about chemical elements and periodicity. To remember where different elements are located and how their symbols look like, I have shown them that many words can be spelled out using element symbols. This game inspired my 10-year-old daughter Kira (the girl on the picture), who likes science and fantasy stories, to write a fairy-tale below.

Selenium even shouted “What will we do?”. “How will we do it?” agreed all other elements.

Hydrogen shouted into the megaphone. “Silence! Please, silence” All of them went silent, so quiet you could hear a pin drop. “I have sent Helium to make a name generator” Hydrogen muttered angrily. And at this very moment Helium went on the stage and announced “The name generator is finished.” Everyone went hurrah.

Helium told everyone “The name generator makes names from your symbols by grouping them. I'm in one of them. So here they are 1st group is me, Oxygen, and Lithium - we make the name HOLi, 2nd group is Chlorine, Oxygen and Yttrium that makes the name “ChLOY” (pronounced Chloe), 3rd group is Potassium, Iodine, and Radium making the name “KIRa”, 4th group is Aluminium, Iodine, Sulphur, Tantalum and Iridium making AlISTaIr, the 5th group is Selenium, Lithium and Sodium it makes SeLiNa. But I'm sure there are 30 more new elements I've heard exist. We ought to find them to make more names! We will go and find them in the morning! So, go and get a good night sleep!”

At sunset, the elements packed their bags for the next day. In the morning Hydrogen woke up everyone:

“Sunrise already” moaned Helium “It's felt like 5 minutes!” - he was the laziest one.

As the elements were having their breakfast, Tungsten and Potassium (the Wagon Keepers) gathered Nitrogen and Sulphur and gave them each carriage to go in front, 14 horses and 7 double-decker wagons to bring lost elements. He also ordered their neighbours, Carbon and Phosphorous, to accompany them. All the horses, wagons, wagon keepers, bags with all things they needed - not forgetting the elements - all went to the city square.

“In 5 minutes we will be looking for new elements and we will bring them here to live again! Around 500 years ago these elements lived with us but sadly they were kicked out.” said Hydrogen sadly.

The city clapped for the short, but inspirational speech. As soon as the 5 minutes were up Nitrogen and Sulphur said the goodbyes to their families and friends and set off in 2 directions – Nitrogen went to North and Sulphur went to South hoping to find the lost elements.

As the day passed, Nitrogen saw a house. “Oh look! There is a house, elements might be living there!”

Carbon knocked on the brown, wooden door of the battered, spooky house. There was a creak as the door opened and the element Lanthanum answered it.

“Can you come with us?” asked Carbon and Nitrogen together.

“Why?” asked Lanthanum.

“We are going to give you a new home and you can take your family with you!”

“All right then” said Lanthanum. She and all her 14 children climbed up onto the wagons and off they went back to the city.

Meanwhile, Sulphur found the whole family of Actinium somewhere in mountains and brought them.

“You can go to your rooms” said Oxygen nicely “It is 6th level for Lanthanum family and 7th level for Actinium Family. There will be fresh clothes and a mug of hot chocolate.”.

“Thank you!” said Lanthanum and Actinium and they climbed up followed by Hydrogen. They soon became the part of the big family of the elements and showed how to make many more human words, such as DySCoVeRY and PLaY.