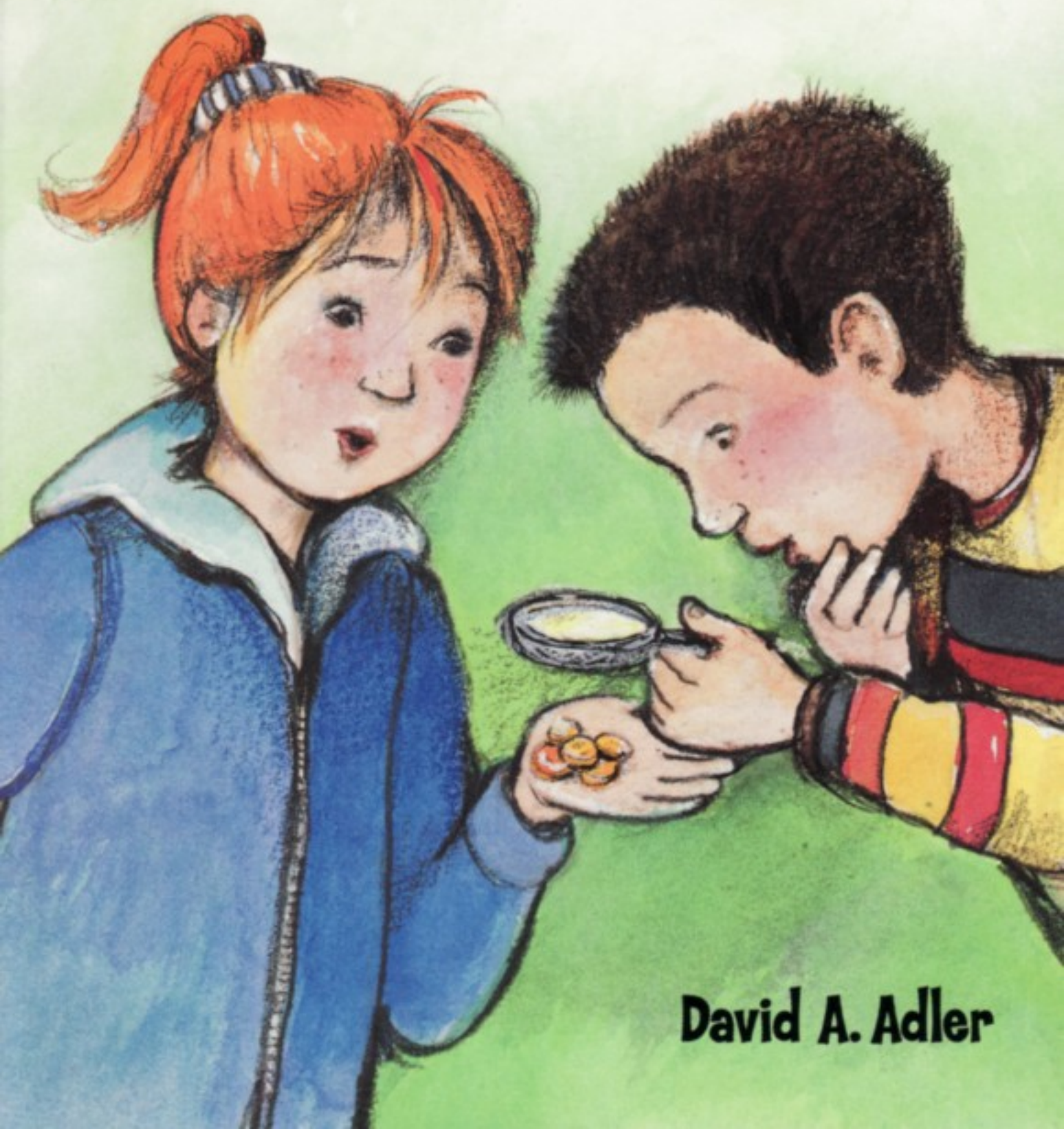




Cam Jansen

The Mystery of the Gold Coins



David A. Adler

Chapter One

Cam Jansen and her friend Eric Shelton were carrying their science fair projects to school. Cam had made a box camera. Eric's project was a big, heavy wooden sundial.

Cam looked at Eric. His face was turning red.

"I think we should stop here and rest," Cam said.

"No. I can go a little farther."

Eric took a few more steps. Then the sundial started to slip from his hands.

“O.K.,” Eric said. “We can rest now if you want to.”

They were standing close to a bus stop. Eric put the sundial down quickly, before it could fall. Then he sat on the bus stop bench. Cam sat next to him. She put the black cloth bag she was holding on her lap. The camera was inside the bag.

“You didn’t have to make your sundial so big,” Cam said.



“I made it big so we could put it in the garden after the science fair. My mother said she’ll plant ivy around it.”

Eric looked at the cloth bag Cam was holding and asked, “What are you going to do with your camera?”

“I’ll keep it, of course.”

“Why? Your mental camera takes better pictures than any real camera. And your mental camera never needs film.”

Cam’s mental camera is her memory. She can look at a scene and remember every detail. It’s as if she had a photograph of the scene stored in her mind.

Whenever Cam wants to remember something, she looks at it carefully and says, “*Click*.” Cam says “*Click*” is the sound her mental camera makes when it takes a picture.

When Cam was younger, people called her Jennifer—that’s her real name—and “Red,” because she has red hair. But when



Can **Cam** use her
photographic memory
to crack the **case?**

Can Cam zoom in on this crime?

When Cam's box camera disappears from the science fair, she and Eric decide to go after the thief themselves. Then they discover that valuable gold coins are missing from a coin shop. Cam is sure that the two crimes are related. Will Cam be able to use her amazing photographic memory to catch the thief red-handed?

"Cam Jansen and her camera mind are in top form."

—Kirkus Reviews

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