



## About the Authors

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### Introduction

This guide provides information about the authors as well as their thoughts on writing Miller & Levine Biology. Ken Miller and Joe Levine, the authors of the Miller & Levine Biology program, introduce their backgrounds and their love of teaching biology. They also explain their thoughts on writing the program and reflect on their writing partnership. In addition, they introduce author resources for recent biology advances and discoveries.

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### Ken Miller Welcome

“Hi. I’m Ken Miller one of the authors of the program and I’d like to welcome you.

What you’ll find in the pages of our new book, and the resources of our program is the passion that Joe Levine and I share not just for biology, but for education.

We want to be your partners in science education. And we have poured that commitment into the approach that we have taken, the subject matter we have chosen, and above all the way that we have explained it to your students.

We think that what you’ll find is a resource that will open the world of biology to your students, and will get them genuinely excited and genuinely turned on about biology, the science of life. Welcome aboard.”

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### Ken Miller Biography

Ken Miller earned his PhD at the University of Colorado. He is currently a professor of biology at Brown University, where he teaches courses in general and cell biology. Ken’s research specialty is the structure of biological membranes. He has published more than seventy research papers in journals such as *CELL*, *Nature*, and *Scientific American*. He also authored two trade books: *Finding Darwin’s God* and *Only a Theory*.



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## Joe Levine Biography

Joe Levine earned his PhD at Harvard University. His research has been published in scientific journals ranging from *Science* to *Scientific American*, as well as in several academic books. He has taught introductory biology, ecology, marine biology, neurobiology, and coral reef biology at Boston College and the Boston University Marine Biology Program.

Also a broadcast journalist, Joe has dedicated himself to improving the public understanding of science. He has written for magazines such as *Smithsonian*, *GEO*, and *Natural History*. He has produced radio segments for National Public Radio and has acted as a scientific advisor for public broadcasting at WGBH in Boston. At WGBH, he has worked on NOVA and other PBS series.



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## Joe Levine About Biology

"Biology is something that to me is filled with both a sense of wonder, and delight, and enjoyment, and a real grounded sense of practicality. Biology is the study of living systems. Including the ecosystems that provide for us clean air, clean water, fertile soil, and all the things we need to survive both as individuals and societies.

And it is biological science in all of its different guises that's giving us enough of an understanding of these systems to find new ways of interacting with them. To provide these resources on a sustainable basis. So biology from stem cells all the way up to the biosphere is exciting and important. And that is what really engages me about teaching."

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## Joe Levine About Writing Miller & Levine Biology

"Every now and then somebody will ask me, 'Tell me the truth. Did you guys really write this book?' And I look them straight in the eye, and I say 'Yes we did; Ken Miller and I wrote every word that is in this textbook.' We have worked for more hours than either we, or our families, would actually care to tell you about, to get this right.

The reason we do that is because we started out in the process of writing these biology programs because we firmly believe that biology is the most exciting discipline in the sciences, and that there has never been a more exciting time, or a more important time, to study biology than right now.

We wanted to try and convey some of that passion and relevance to students, and we can't do that with ghost writers and we couldn't do it with editors. We argue with editors all the time. We're constantly jockeying back and forth, trying to find the best way to get the information across in a manner that is accurate, and yet conveys our personal experience and personal excitement about the subject with a clear, understandable, approach that is backed up by sound pedagogy, but, yes, Ken and I wrote every single chapter in this book."

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**Ken Miller  
About  
Partnership  
History**

"People sometimes ask me why our books are called Miller & Levine and not Levine & Miller, and the answer is a coin flip.

Quite frankly, I've been happy to be a part of this program for more than two decades, but the person who really deserves credit for it is Joe Levine who first talked me in to sitting down with him and planning out the project of trying to open the wonders of the science of biology to high school students."

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**Ken Miller  
"The Elephant  
Book"**

"It took us almost seven years to put together our first manuscript, and to see it published, when the so-called Elephant book first came out in the early 1990s. Joe and I were both scientists and educators but we had absolutely no idea whether our approach, and our unique way of telling the story of biology, would be accepted by teachers and students. To our amazement and our absolute delight, that Elephant book (as it was called) took off, and very quickly became the largest-selling and most widely used high school biology textbook in the country.

The Elephant book had a long life throughout the 1990s. It was reprinted and rewritten a total of five editions. Towards the end of its life, Joe and I simply decided we couldn't simply keep revising within the framework. The time had come to take a blank sheet of paper, start over, and write an entirely new book."

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**Ken Miller  
"The Dragonfly  
Book"**

"That book became known as the Dragonfly book. The Dragonfly book, as well, has gone through revision, after revision, after revision. For almost a decade it has been the most widely used high school biology textbook in the United States, and it has literally introduced millions of students to the wonders of biology.

Well the news is that, a few years ago, Joe Levine and I decided that the time had come again, and that time was to tear up the table of contents, take a clean sheet of paper, and start all over again; to rethink our assumptions to how biology should be presented and what should be presented."

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**Ken Miller  
"The Macaw  
Book"**

"We have new things to talk about, we have new and spectacular transitional fossils that document the epic of evolution, we have entirely new phenomena such as RNA interference, and we have whole new fields of research, such as stem cell studies, to explain to students and to bring them up-to-speed in terms of what's going on in biology.

Joe Levine and I have been able to adapt, and to look ahead, as we have written these books, and to be the partners of tens of thousands

of teachers and literally millions of students and we hope that our new program will extend that partnership and continue to open the wonders of science to your students and to their lives.”

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**Joe Levine  
About Author  
Updates**

“One of the things that Ken and I are very excited about for our new biology program is the author updates that are going to be posted on this Web site.

Because I don’t know how many times that it has happened, that Ken and I have just sent a chapter out in final form, the very last time to the publisher for printing and the next there’s been a headline development in the area that we just finished writing about.

This way by bringing you author updates on a regular basis we will be able to keep this program alive and current and constantly moving just like the discipline it covers.

So chances are that if there is big headline news about an area of biology, within a brief period of time there will be an update on our Web site which show you what the science is behind this new development and explains how this new science, how these new discoveries fit into your existing curriculum and relate to the material that is already in the book.”

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**Web  
Resources**

Visit Ken and Joe’s personal Web site, [www.millerandlevine.com](http://www.millerandlevine.com), to stay up to date on biology discoveries. View their recent speeches and see their scheduled appearances. Also follow Miller and Levine online at Twitter (<http://twitter.com/millerandlevine>).

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**Review**

This guide provided biographical information about the authors, including how involved they both are in teaching, researching, and writing about biology. Ken Miller and Joe Levine discussed their involvement in the writing and design of the Miller & Levine series. They wrote every word of text for the series.

The authors discussed how the 2010 version of the series is written in the tradition of the past versions, but it is a totally new and innovative version of the series. Offered as premium content, biology updates for teachers and students are provided via Biology.com PLUS.

