



## Science Fiction Round-Up



If you imagine traveling far into outer space and meeting other life forms, or jumping ahead a few hundred years and tackling the unknowns of humans' future, then science fiction is for you!

Science fiction is a made-up story that uses scientific discoveries or advanced technology — either real or imaginary — as part of its plot.

This week, The Mini Page offers some old and new book suggestions for fans of sci-fi.

### 'Citizen of the Galaxy'

Robert A. Heinlein's story of a distant future was first published 60 years ago. Thorby is a young slave sold at auction on a planet he can't name. But his adventures lead him to have great power. Heinlein is considered a "grand master" of science fiction.



Image courtesy Penguin Books

### 'Ambassador'

William Alexander tells the tale of Gabe, who is recruited to be Earth's ambassador in the galaxy. In this new position, Gabe finds out that the planet is in danger, and he must use all his resources to save Earth, his family and himself.

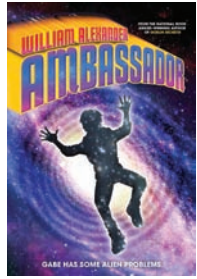


Image courtesy Margaret K. McElderry Books

### Mini Fact:

Science fiction novels were published as early as the 1600s.

### 'The Wild Robot'

For a change of perspective, Peter Brown's book tells the story of Roz the robot, who wakes up on a remote island and must adapt to her surroundings.

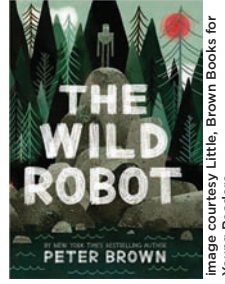


Image courtesy Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

### 'Freakling'

Lana Krumwiede's thriller introduces Taemon, an outcast from a society of people with special powers. In his new home, he finds acceptance and friendship, along with dangerous mysteries that challenge his courage.



Image courtesy Candlewick Press

### 'Masterminds'

Eli's town is perfect, but as author Gordon Korman weaves his tale, Eli and readers find out that things are not quite what they seem. Eli and his friends will make shocking discoveries about the criminals behind their hometown.



Image courtesy HarperCollins Publishers

### 'Arabella of Mars'

This story from David D. Levine is set 200 years in the past, not the future. But its science fiction plot includes a girl banished from her home on Mars and sent to London. It isn't long, though, before she sets off on a grand adventure to return to her family's colony on the red planet.



Image courtesy Tor Books

### 'MINRS'

Christopher lives on a planetoid, Perses, where ore is mined for delivery back to Earth in Kevin Sylvester's novel. When Perses is attacked, Christopher and his friends hide in the tunnels of the mines. But he must find a way to make contact with Earth and save himself and the other survivors.

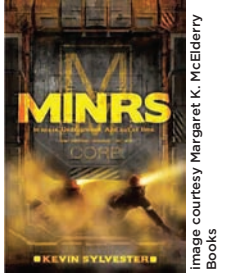


Image courtesy Margaret K. McElderry Books

### 'A Wrinkle in Time'

This sci-fi classic by Madeleine L'Engle features an unexpected visitor who takes the Murray family on a journey through space and time.



Image courtesy Farrar, Straus and Giroux

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPscifi](http://bit.ly/MPscifi)
- [bit.ly/MPscifi2](http://bit.ly/MPscifi2)
- [bit.ly/MPscifiawards](http://bit.ly/MPscifiawards)

### At the library:

- "How to Write Science Fiction" by Megan Kopp

Visit your local public library or school library and ask librarians for their science fiction recommendations! Librarians love to help you choose books.

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of science fiction are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ADVENTURE, AUTHOR,  
DISCOVERY, EARTH,  
FICTION, FUTURE,  
GALAXY, IMAGINARY,  
MARS, PERSPECTIVE,  
PLANETOID, PLOT,  
POWER, REAL, SCIENCE,  
SPACE, TECHNOLOGY,  
TIME, VISITOR.

E C A P S N O I T C I F H E X  
Z B G R G A L A X Y L I T T D  
P P F U T U R E A S D R R R I  
Y G O L O N H C E T R Y A O O  
K W A E R U T N E V D A E H T  
O R O T I S I V U L R L M T E  
Y R A N I G A M I G A E I U N  
D I S C O V E R Y O K E W A A  
E C N E I C S W P L O T R O L  
T I M E E V I T C E P S R E P

## Cook's Corner

### Green and Red Salad

#### You'll need:

- 3 cups fresh broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup chopped red pepper
- 1 cup reduced-fat shredded cheese
- 6 precooked bacon slices, heated and crumbled
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion (optional)

- 1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons sunflower seeds



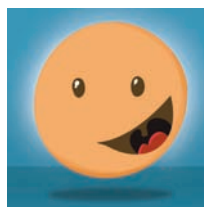
\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Combine broccoli, red pepper, cheese, bacon and onion in a medium-size bowl.
  2. In a smaller bowl, mix mayonnaise, vinegar and sugar until smooth. Pour over broccoli mixture and stir to coat well.
  3. Cover and chill for at least an hour. Sprinkle with sunflower seeds before serving.
- Serves 4.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. tennis shoes (8) \_\_\_\_\_
2. playground ride (6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. man who serves food (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. it keeps you dry in the rain (8) \_\_\_\_\_
5. not interesting (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. not very smart (7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. place to go swimming (4) \_\_\_\_\_

WAIT	AK	SAW	UM
SEE	FOOL	ING	OL
BOR	SNE	ER	BRE
PO	LLA	ISH	ERS

Answers: sneakers, seesaw, waiter, umbrella, boring, foolish, pool.

## Mini Jokes



**Warren:** What's a pickle's favorite sci-fi show?  
**Will:** "Jar Trek"!

## Eco Note



Have you ever watched waves roll in and out at the beach? We can use energy from ocean tides to supply electricity to our homes and businesses instead of burning coal and oil that contribute to global warming. **Tidal generators** (or turbines) work like wind turbines, except ocean currents, not wind, turn them. The spinning turbine is connected to another device that produces electricity. The electricity then travels through wires to a city where people need it.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

## For later:

Pick three books you'd like to read this fall. Compare your list to a classmate's.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards).

The **Mini Spy Booklets** (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) feature 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page!

Help Mini Spy and other classic characters from The Mini Page find hidden objects from a list of clues.

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