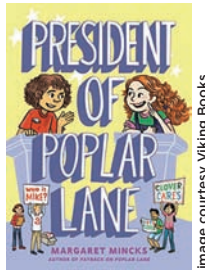




Summer is a great time to dive into a book series: two or more books with the same characters, by the same author, but with new stories. Let's take a look at some favorites.

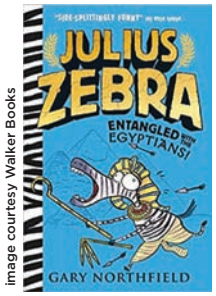
- Author Margaret Mincks will keep readers laughing with her "Poplar Lane" series. The 2020 presidential election is more than a year away, but the series' second book, "President of Poplar Lane," gets the ball rolling with the contest for class president.



- For history fans, Lauren Tarshis' "I Survived" series provides a window into some of the world's greatest moments. The 18th book, "I Survived the Battle of D-Day, 1944," introduces Paul, a French boy who helps the Allies defeat the Nazis.



- For a wildly different take on history, "Julius Zebra" books are a wacky trip to other times, with a few well-known characters, like Cleopatra, thrown in. "Julius Zebra: Entangled With the Egyptians" is Gary Northfield's newest addition to the series.



- Authors Adam Gidwitz and David Bowles team up for "The Unicorn Rescue Society," a series of four books about mythical creatures and the kids who try to save them. Book Four is called "The Chupacabras of the Rio Grande."



- Video gamers who also love to read will appreciate the "Diary of an 8-Bit Warrior" series by Cube Kid (also known as Erik Gunnar Taylor). These journals of a Villagetown kid from Minecraft chronicle his journey to becoming a warrior and defeating all kinds of challengers.



- The "Greystone Secrets" series by Margaret Peterson Haddix starts with "The Strangers," a treasure for mystery lovers. In this first book, three siblings' lives are upended when three children who have their same names, ages and birthdates are kidnapped.



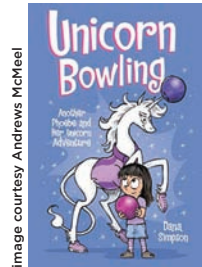
- Author Jordan Stratford places Ada Byron and Mary Shelley in 19th-century London for "The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency" books. Using brains and courage, the girls solve one mystery after another.



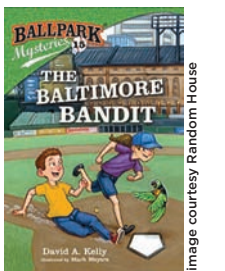
- If you're a fan of "The Last Kids on Earth" series of four books by Max Brallier, keep an eye out for "The Last Kids on Earth Survival Guide." This journal/guide/activity book lets readers join their favorite characters in surviving the monster apocalypse and more. (Bonus info: The fifth book is coming in September, along with an animated series on Netflix.)



- Who can resist a unicorn named Marigold Heavenly Nostrils? Not Phoebe, and in her seven-book series, author Dana Simpson takes "Phoebe and Her Unicorn" on some funny misadventures as she explores their deepening friendship.



- The newest book in "The Ballpark Mysteries" series by David A. Kelly is No. 15, "The Baltimore Bandit." Each of these chapter books takes place in a different baseball park.



## Resources



### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPreadingchallenge](http://bit.ly/MPreadingchallenge)

### At the library:

- "The Secret of the Old Clock" (Nancy Drew Book No. 1) by Carolyn Keene
- "The Tower Treasure" (Hardy Boys Book No. 1) by Franklin W. Dixon

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of summer reading 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,<br>BALLPARK, BOOKS,<br>CHARACTER, CREATURES,<br>FUN, GAMER, HISTORY,<br>HUMOR, JOURNAL,<br>MYSTERY, MYTHICAL,<br>READING, SERIES,<br>STORIES, SUMMER, VIDEO. | G N S M Z F R D M Y S T E R Y<br>A S S Y L T R E A D I N G G L<br>M E U T A C K S T O R I E S R<br>E R M H V I D E O C N V P K O<br>R U M I H U M O R T A U N O H<br>S T E C R S E R I E S R F O T<br>P A R A Y R O T S I H S A B U<br>C E J L K R A P L L A B F H A<br>P R A D V E N T U R E D I P C<br>Y C J A B N J O U R N A L B B |
|---|--|

## Cook's Corner

### Colorful Broccoli Salad

#### You'll need:

- 4 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- dash cayenne pepper
- 2 cups fresh broccoli florets
- 1/3 cup chopped red or orange bell pepper
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries



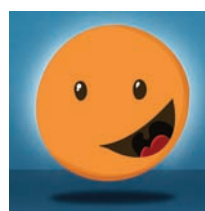
#### What to do:

1. Combine olive oil, water, lemon juice, vinegar, honey and seasonings in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Shake well.
2. In a separate bowl, mix vegetables and cranberries.
3. Add dressing and toss to coat evenly.
4. Cover and chill for 1 hour before serving. Serves 4.

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

## 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. look quickly (6) \_\_\_\_\_
2. having great power (6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. sport played on a court (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. soft place for your head (6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. wreck (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. they chew your food (4) \_\_\_\_\_
7. very large being (5) \_\_\_\_\_

|     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ST  | WS  | NN  | NT  |
| ONG | PIL | JA  | LOW |
| DE  | ROY | NCE | GIA |
| TE  | STR | GLA | IS  |

Answers: glance, strong, tennis, pillow, destroy, jaws, giant.

## Mini Jokes



**Sandi:** What do you call a Hogwarts professor who goes to the beach?  
**Sarah:** A sand-witch!

## Eco Note



A new study finds that hundreds of millions of birds die by crashing into U.S. buildings each year during their migrations. Songbirds are among the greatest victims at night because they emit chirps that signal other birds to follow and sometimes crash into the structures. City lights and glass windows that appear as clear air to the birds are also threats. Chicago is said to be the deadliest city for bird crashes.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

## For later:

What are your favorite book series? Make a list and compare it with a classmate's.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards). And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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

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