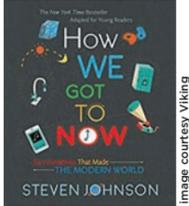


Warm Up to Reading

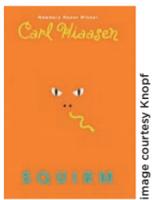


Winter vacation is full of festivities and fun, but sometimes it's nice to escape into a good story or learn something new. Check out The Mini Page's winter reading suggestions.

• **"How We Got to Now"** by Steven Johnson explains six big ideas that launched many of the advances we take for granted today, such as glass, time and light.



• Carl Hiaasen's **"Squirm"** introduces Billy, who lives with his mom and sister in Florida, but flies to Montana to track down his long-lost dad. Humor and environmental themes take readers along for an adventure-filled ride.



• **"Someone Like Me"** is Julissa Arce's autobiographical story of being an illegal immigrant from Taxco, Mexico, who excelled in the United States and in 2014 became a naturalized American citizen.

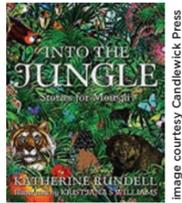
• **"Origami and Haiku,"** published by The British Museum, offers instructions for folding origami figures, along with beautiful artwork from Japanese artists and haiku poems to accompany them.



Mini Fact:

Check out Barnes & Noble's top 100 kids' books here: bit.ly/MPTopbooks

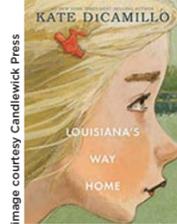
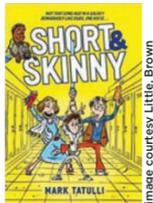
• **"Into the Jungle: Stories for Mowgli"** by Katherine Rundell expands Rudyard Kipling's beloved "Jungle Book" with deeper stories about Baloo, Bagheera, Kaa and other favorite characters.



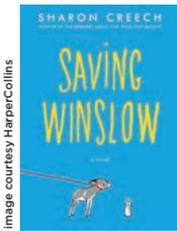
• **"Discovery Globe"** by Leon Gray is more than a book; it's a kit with which you can build your own globe! Then, using the enclosed "World Explorer's Guide," you can find out all about our world by following icons and answering questions.

• **"The Day the War Came"** is a moving story of a refugee, or a person who is escaping war. Author Nicola Davies and illustrator Rebecca Cobb show us how a little girl survives the war coming to her city but can't escape the pain it leaves her with — until other children reach out.

• It's the summer of 1977, and eighth-grader Mark Tatulli is **"Short & Skinny"** in this new graphic memoir. He's the victim of bullying and has a mad crush on Lisa Gorman, but when "Star Wars" opens, his real passions come to life.

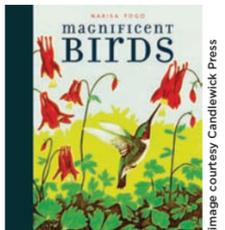


• Award-winning author Kate DiCamillo is back with **"Louisiana's Way Home,"** about a little girl and her grandmother setting out on a not-so-well-planned journey that leads to many new discoveries.



• Louie's "mission" in **"Saving Winslow"** is to save the "pitiful, motherless donkey" his dad brings home from a neighbor's farm. Author Sharon Creech presents a short but powerful story about love and caring.

• The treasure inside **"Magnificent Birds"** is Narisa Togo's colorful artwork, depicting 14 different species of birds. An introduction to each includes its Latin name, its range and other facts.



• **"The Skies Above My Eyes"** by Charlotte Guillain and illustrated by Yuval Zommer is an unusual fold-out book that challenges readers to look closely from the sidewalk all the way up through layers of the atmosphere to outer space.



Resources



On the Web:
• bit.ly/MPEpic

At the library:
• **"Who Was Dr. Seuss?"** by Janet B. Pascal

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of winter reading are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:



ADVANCES, ART, CARING, CHALLENGE, CHARACTER, DISCOVERY, ENVIRONMENT, GLOBE, GRAPHIC, HAIKU, HUMOR, IDEA, IMMIGRANT, JOURNEY, MEMOIR, ORIGAMI, POEMS, READING, REFUGEE, WAR, WINTER.

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

Cook's Corner

Frozen Citrus Pies

You'll need:

- 16 graham cracker squares (8 rectangles)
- 2 tablespoons light butter, melted
- 1 (14-ounce) can fat-free sweetened condensed milk

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Process graham crackers in food processor until finely ground. Add melted butter and process until blended.
2. Line 8 muffin cups with paper liners. Spoon graham cracker mixture into bottom of each cup (about 1 1/2 tablespoons per cup). Press down to form a firm crust. Bake for 8 minutes or until crisp.
3. In large bowl, whisk together condensed milk, 1/2 cup orange juice and 2 teaspoons orange zest. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon mixture into prepared crusts and freeze until firm, about 1 hour. Serves 8.

- juice and zest of 2 oranges
- 1 (8-ounce) tub frozen light nondairy whipped topping, thawed according to directions



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

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

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. Amazon robot helper (5) _____
2. you have one on each hand (5) _____
3. box material (9) _____
4. extends an arm (7) _____
5. squash (5) _____
6. Muppet frog (6) _____
7. add (4) _____

| | | | |
|----|------|-----|-----|
| RD | MB | KER | BOA |
| CA | CRU | SH | THU |
| GA | CHES | IN | ALE |
| RD | XA | MIT | REA |

Answers: Alexa, thumb, cardboard, carboard, reaches, crush, kermi, gain.

Mini Jokes



Ryan: What has a spine, but no bones?
Reed: A book!

Eco Note



During the winter, the top layer of the ocean near the North Pole freezes solid. Every summer, some of this ice melts — but not all of it. Some stays frozen all the time, even through the summer. However, the ice remaining at the end of summer has been getting smaller and smaller. Sea ice is an important part of how ocean currents move heat from the equator to the poles and move the cold water from the poles back to the equator. All life in the ocean depends on this energy circulation. All life on land also depends on life in the oceans. So sea ice is an important measure of our planet's health.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

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



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