



# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
Fun summer foods

Issue 21, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

## Have a Reading Summer



photo by Michael Newman

During the last couple of months, many students, families and teachers have had to learn a whole new way of doing "school." Adults have been challenged with lost jobs or suddenly working at home.

The Mini Page offers some ideas for books that will let readers escape, just for a little while. Summer is a great time to make a great escape! Read on!

• Author Sara Pennypacker and illustrator Jon Klassen introduce readers to a boy, Peter, and his beloved pet fox in "Pax." But when Peter has to move far away, Pax must remain behind. Even in the face of danger, Peter's love for Pax overcomes his fear.



image courtesy Balzer + Bray

• "Wink" is a new novel by cartoonist, writer and illustrator Rob Harrell. Ross is a seventh-grader whose new "normal" includes a rare eye cancer, making him stand out in the most uncomfortable of ways. But as he endures his treatments, he learns a lot about friendship.

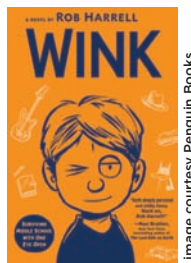


image courtesy Penguin Books

• Readers who dive into "Escape This Book! Tombs of Egypt" will have a blast finding their way out of a series of adventures in this interactive book by Bill Doyle, and illustrated by Sarah Sax.

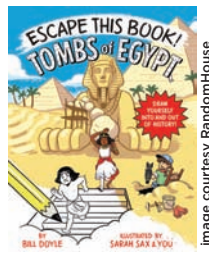


image courtesy RandomHouse

• If you've been working hard to wash your hands and keep your distance from others, you'll appreciate "The Bacteria Book" by Steve Mould. There's more inside than bacteria, with up-close looks at viruses, fungi and other tiny building blocks of our world.

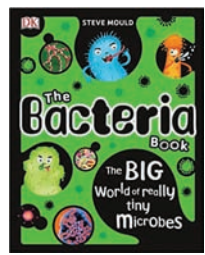


image courtesy DK Children

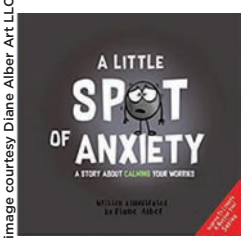
• Your kitchen at home may be your science lab right now, so "Awesome Kitchen Science Experiments for Kids: 50 STEAM Projects You Can Eat!" could be helpful.



image courtesy Rockridge Press

Author Megan Olivia Hall packs this book with chapter after chapter of fun.

• All the changes we've been experiencing may make kids and adults feel anxious, or worried. Check out "A Little SPOT of Anxiety: A Story About Calming Your Worries" by Diane Alber.



This short read helps us identify anxiety and learn how to settle it down.

• Readers looking for a laugh will appreciate "Bernice Buttman, Model Citizen" by Niki Lenz. Bernice is working hard to stop being a bully, and readers have all the fun while sharing her journey.

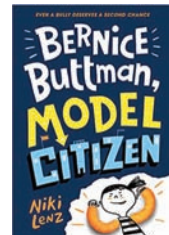


image courtesy Random House

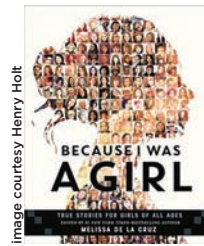


image courtesy Henry Holt

• "Because I Was a Girl" by Melissa de la Cruz shares the girlhood stories of a wide-ranging collection of women who are pioneers or high-achievers in their fields.

• One of the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic is empathy: the ability to share another person's feelings. "What Is Empathy? A Bullying Storybook for Kids" by Amanda Morin offers situations where readers can see conflicts from both sides, then learn to show kindness for others.

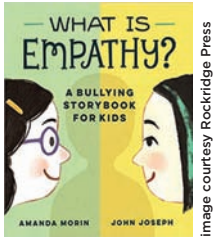


image courtesy Rockridge Press

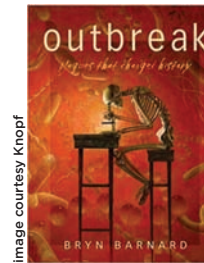


image courtesy Knopf

• We know that this pandemic is not the first of its kind. "Outbreak! Plagues That Changed History" by Bryn Barnard gives readers a deeper and longer view of the illnesses people have faced, from yellow fever to smallpox.

• Want to entertain your family while you're all stuck at home? "A Whole Lotta Knock-Knock Jokes" by Mike and Heather Spohr will get everyone giggling.

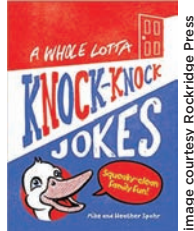


image courtesy Rockridge Press

## Resources



**On the Web:**  
• bit.ly/MPreadingchallenge

**At the library:**  
• "Kid Authors: True Tales of Childhood From Famous Writers" by David Stabler and Doogie Horner

## Try 'n' Find

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

ADVENTURE, ANXIOUS, AUTHOR, BOOKS, EMPATHY, ESCAPE, FUN, HOME, ILLUSTRATOR, INTERACTIVE, JOKE, KITCHEN, LAUGH, NORMAL, PANDEMIC, READING, SCHOOL, SCIENCE, SUMMER, WOMEN.

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



## Cook's Corner

### Lemon Dill Cucumbers

#### You'll need:

- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

- 1/2 teaspoon dill
- dash of pepper
- 2 medium to large cucumbers, peeled and sliced



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

#### What to do:

1. Combine vinegar, sugar, lemon juice and spices in a medium bowl.
2. Add cucumbers and toss with liquid mixture.
3. Chill for 2 hours and serve. Serves 4.

## Mini Jokes



**Ryan:** Why didn't the burglar break into the library?  
**Renee:** He was afraid he'd get a long sentence!

## Eco Note



Thousands of migrating swallows and swifts were found dead across parts of Greece during the first week of April after they were killed by freak high winds and downpours. Others were found gravely injured. Ornithologists blamed currents that blew the birds from northern Africa into the strong winds from the north of the Aegean Sea, especially around the Greek Islands.  
adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

## For later:

Will you read any of these books this summer? Compare your choices with your brothers and sisters.

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



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1. A place with collections of books that are not for sale (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. A short, often funny, tale; a report about things that happen (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. To select after careful thinking; to decide between (6-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. An unusual, exciting and sometimes dangerous experience (9-letter adj)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Julia goes to the \_\_\_\_\_ every Monday with two friends.
2. Gigi's teacher read a \_\_\_\_\_ about a dancing elephant.
3. Martin plans to \_\_\_\_\_ a large book with many pages.
4. Lee's favorite book had an \_\_\_\_\_ with a flying cow.

## ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Library, Story, Choose, Adventure.

The **NEW Mini Spy Booklets** volumes 4 and 5! Features 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page! Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are still available! Help Mini Spy and other classic characters from The Mini Page find hidden objects from a list of clues. The 8.5x11-inch booklet is just \$4, plus \$1 shipping and handling. Visit **MiniPageBooks.com**, or call **844-426-1256** for more information. Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106.