



# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
The 2021  
Calendar

Issue 52, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

## Gather 'Round a Book



photo by Pressmaster | Dreamstime.com

Wow! It's been a roller coaster of a year! One thing we can always count on, even during stressful times, is a good book.

As we get ready to greet the new year, The Mini Page takes a look at some fun and inspiring books.

Check them out!

• Author Tia Martina uses verse to draw readers into "When the World Went Quiet." This story of wild animals exploring the newly quiet cities and neighborhoods as people stayed home during the COVID-19 pandemic is illustrated by Kelly Ulrich.

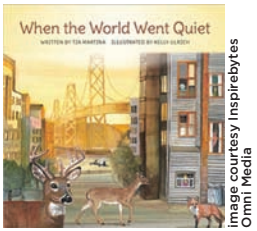


image courtesy Inspirebytes  
Ommi Media

• "Kids Fight Plastic" offers 52 missions — one for each week of the year! — that kids can jump into to save our planet's oceans. Written by Martin Dorey and illustrated by Tim Wesson, this guide gives readers "2-minute missions" that could change the planet's future.



• Author Kayla Miller brings her main character, Olive, to life in the graphic novel "Act." When Olive finds out that some kids can't go on the school field trip, she sets out to change things in a big way.



image courtesy HMH Books for Young Readers

• Two great authors, James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, worked together on "Becoming Muhammad Ali." The biography of the boxer called "The Greatest" is illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile and uses both prose and verse to tell Ali's life story.

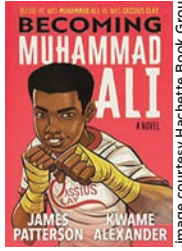


image courtesy Hachette Book Group

• Have you ever met someone who is a nail polish namer? How about a snake milker? "Incredible Jobs You've (Probably) Never Heard Of" by Natalie Labarre is full of crazy and wonderful careers that will make you say, "No way!"

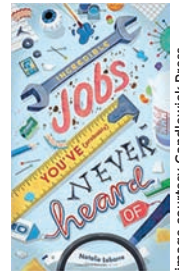


image courtesy Candlewick Press

• Author Saadia Faruqi tells the tale of Mimi and Sakina, two girls thrown together for a summer at Mimi's grandparents' home in Karachi, Pakistan. "A Thousand Questions" follows the girls as they develop a friendship that helps them both.

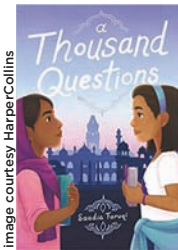


image courtesy HarperCollins

• One thing that makes us all different — and all the same — is DNA. In "Grow: Secrets of Our DNA," author Nicola Davies explains our genetic code with the help of illustrations by Emily Sutton.

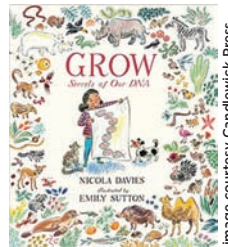


image courtesy Candlewick Press

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### Mini Idea:

Try out this winter reading challenge: [bit.ly/MPreaders](http://bit.ly/MPreaders)

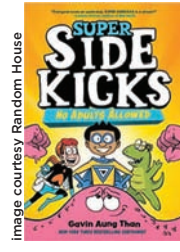


image courtesy Random House

• It's pretty great to be a superhero's sidekick — but not *that* great. So Junior Justice decides to make a team of his own in "Super Sidekicks: No Adults Allowed" by Gavin Aung Than. Set in Australia, this graphic novel scores high marks for entertainment.

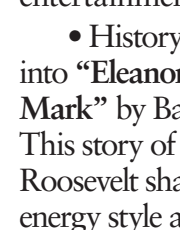


image courtesy Scholastic Press

• History buffs will dive into "Eleanor Makes Her Mark" by Barbara Kerley. This story of first lady Eleanor Roosevelt shares her high-energy style and desire to help others, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.



image courtesy Candlewick Press

• This year, many have marched and protested for their rights and beliefs. In "Love Is Powerful" by Heather Dean Brewer, a little girl's experience of marching in the 2017 Women's March reminds us that even young kids can stand up for their beliefs. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham.

• If you're a lover of words, check out "Alphamaniacs" by Paul Fleischman to get your brain waves revved up! Clever illustrations by Melissa Sweet round out the good words.

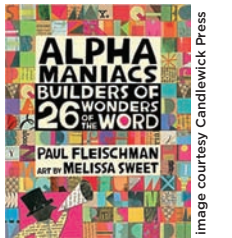


image courtesy Candlewick Press

## Resources



### On the Web:

• [bit.ly/MPALA](http://bit.ly/MPALA)

### At the library:

• "No Reading Allowed: The WORST Read-Aloud Book Ever" by Raj Haldar and Chris Carpenter

## Try 'n' Find

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



AUTHOR, BIOGRAPHY, BOOK, COVID, FUN, GRAPHIC, HISTORY, ILLUSTRATION, INSPIRE, MARCH, MISSION, NOVEL, PLASTIC, POEM, READ, STORY, STRESS, TALE, WINTER, YEAR.

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

## Cook's Corner

### Good Luck Black-eyed Peas\*

#### You'll need:

- 1 (15-ounce) can black-eyed peas
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

- 1 tablespoon bacon grease
- 1/4 teaspoon sugar



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

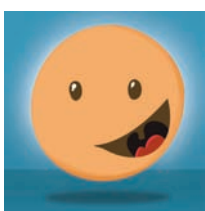
#### What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients in a large pot.
2. Stir and simmer over medium heat for about 5 minutes.
3. Serves 2.

\* Black-eyed peas are thought to bring good luck when eaten on New Year's Day!

## 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. take without asking (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Italian "pie" (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. main door (8) \_\_\_\_\_
4. amazing (10) \_\_\_\_\_
5. find for the first time (8) \_\_\_\_\_
6. actor Asher (5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. like night and day (8) \_\_\_\_\_

ZA	DISC	AN	INC
OSI	GEL	ST	ANCE
ENTR	EAL	OPP	REDI
TE	BLE	OVER	PIZ

Answers: steal, pizza, entrance, incredible, discover, Angel, opposites.

## Mini Jokes



**Wendy:** Where does a librarian sleep?  
**William:** Between the covers!

## Eco Note



Dumped batteries from personal electronics and other devices are causing hundreds of fires a year at recycling and waste sites in the United Kingdom, officials say. The Environmental Services Association warns that battery types such as lithium-ion and nickel-metal hydride can explode or ignite when damaged, and can spark fires in nearby material if not disposed of properly.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

## For later:

Do you read favorite books again and again? Which are your most-loved? Share your list with a friend.

**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 **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.

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