KIDS READING
ACROSS RHODE ISLAND

2019 RESOURCE GUIDE
About This Year’s Book

Sanity Jones and Tallulah Vega are best friends on Wilnick, the dilapidated space station they call home at the end of the galaxy. So naturally, when gifted scientist Sanity uses her lab skills and energy allowance to create a definitely-illegal-but-impossibly-cute three-headed kitten, she has to show Tallulah. But Princess, Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds is a bit of a handful, and it isn’t long before the kitten escapes to wreak havoc on the space station. The girls will have to turn Wilnick upside down to find her, but not before causing the whole place to evacuate! Can they save their home before it’s too late?

About the Author

Molly Brooks wrote and illustrated Sanity & Tallulah, and is the illustrator of Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared by Alison Wilgus, as well as many short comics. Her work has appeared in The Guardian, The Boston Globe, The Nashville Scene, BUST Magazine, ESPN social, Sports Illustrated online, and others. Molly lives and works in Brooklyn, where she spends her spare time watching vintage buddy-cop shows and documenting her cats.
Welcome to the 10th Year of Kids Reading Across Rhode Island!

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island is a partnership between the RI Office of Library and Information Services and the RI Center for the Book, made possible through a vibrant collaboration of librarians, teachers, and student readers from across the state.

The State House event serves as a kickoff for the annual statewide library summer reading program, which has a 2019 theme Space and the slogan “A Universe of Stories.” All summer, libraries statewide will offer free programs inspired by Sanity & Tallulah.

Get the Book

Sets of books are available for loan to schools and public libraries for discussion groups by contacting kate@ribook.org. Further reading lists, book discussion guides, the author’s website, audio interviews and other supplementary material may be found on the websites of Rhode Island Center for the Book (www.ri.book.org) and the Office of Library and Information Services (www.olis.ri.gov).
SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENT RESPONSE

Created by Wendy Kirchner, Librarian and Technology Education Coordinator, Meeting Street School and Emily Griffith, 4th Grade Teacher, Grace School

Common Core Connections and Interdisciplinary Opportunities
Reading and discussing this book will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, including the reading literature standards for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL), and the speaking and listening standards for comprehension and collaboration and for presentation and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL). The questions in this guide can also be used as writing prompts for independent work. Across disciplines, there are many opportunities to utilize the ideas in this book.

1. Using evidence from the text, describe the similarities and differences between the characters Sanity and Tallulah. Do you feel like you relate to either of these characters?
2. Dr. Vega, Tallulah’s mother, is very talented. Use evidence from the text to list her character traits and support your reasoning.
3. Using a character web, describe the family dynamic between the Vega-Davisson family.
4. Explain your reasoning for why Sanity and Tallulah snuck out of their homes on pg. 25. Is it ok that they defied their parents’ rules? Why do you think Tallulah is so happy about it?
5. Describe the relationship Sanity has with her father, the station director, Mr. Jones a.k.a. Darren. Use evidence from the text to explain.
6. Look at page 65. Make a prediction about what Tallulah’s Dad could be receiving in the shipment and tell why you think that.
7. On pages 73-75 the author uses a different color scape. How does that bring meaning to the story?
8. Look at page 90, where the station director asks for a “summary” of the problematic situation at hand. Summarize the situation to him so far.
9. On page 103, Tallulah’s brother and father are conversing. Re-read this passage: “I mean, like. Games are kinda stupid, right?” “Oh, bud, that’s no way to think.” What are the big ideas/ key points Tallulah’s brother and father are thinking in this scene?
10. Compare the similarities and differences between Sanity & Tallulah’s view of Princess, Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds vs. the adult scientists’.
How are the rumors ruining the chance for Princess, Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds to be kept safe? How do you view Princess, Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds?

11. Describe and make claims about the setting of this novel. The living quarters use space in a unique way. Compare it to your own home. How does the author use the setting to make it more urgent to find Princess, Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds?

12. Which persons seem to play the villains in this story? Are they really villains or just trapped in the circumstance?

13. On page 128 Tallulah says “We don’t waste any mischief…” What does she mean by that and how does that help you understand how her character shapes the events in this story?

14. The space station has to switch the power of the medically necessary systems to the local generators. Why did they need to do this? What other parts of the ship were they concerned about getting light and heat?

15. Sanity has to change the power source. Why does she need to do this? Do you think you could be brave and calm enough to save the space station? Why or why not?

16. Hank, Tallulah’s dad, is some kind of hero and has a metal leg. What can you tell by the author’s tiny details about him that could lead to a very interesting back story?

17. What type of pet would you create if you could?

18. Molly Brooks used different sized panels. Looking back through the book, do you see a pattern? Does the size or coloring help you understand the story?

19. Did you like the ending? Why or why not? What might you have changed?

20. This is a series. Using your imagination describe what Sanity and Tallulah’s next adventure might be.

**VOCABULARY CHALLENGE**

*Which of the following terms are real and which are the invention of the author?*

Malfunction - fail to operate normally.

Prognosis - forecast the recovery of something gone terribly wrong.

Diagnostics - tools to identify a problem.

Contaminants - things that corrupt, or infect.

Vermin - small animals that are difficult to control and cause problems.

Duct Weasel - small slender active carnivorous mammals that are sneaky and destructive. Found in air ducts that flow through space vehicles or space stations.
Prohibited - forbidden or against the rules by an authority such as a space commander.
Contraband items that are not allowed to be transported.
Sensory buoys - floating circular objects about the size of a soccer ball that take continuous videos in space and transmit them to an authority.
Preflight - inspection of an aircraft before a flight.
Biohazard - a biological agent or condition that is a hazard to humans or the environment.
Alternator - an electric generator for producing alternating current.
Insulation degraded - a material that is able to insulate against cold but that is falling apart.
Fume hood - a mechanical device that comes down from the ceiling to trap a smoke, vapor, or gas, especially when these are irritating or offensive.
Ammonia pippers - a condensed stick that holds a pungent colorless gaseous alkaline compound of nitrogen and hydrogen, NH₃, that is very soluble in water and can easily be condensed to a liquid by cold and pressure.

BOOKS ON RELATED THEMES

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION
Compiled by Diane M. Walsh, School Librarian of Barns and Winsor Hill Schools, Johnston

Ambassador by William Alexander
Gabe gets asked by an alien Envoy to become the ambassador for the earth. After he accepts, he’s whisked away to a galactic meeting and finds out someone is out to kill him while at the same time, back on earth, his parents are faced with deportation. Can he successfully deal with both “alien” problems?

Beep and Bob: Too Much Space by Jonathan Roth
Bob attends Astro Elementary, a school near Saturn for the best and bravest kids on earth. He didn’t want to go there and doesn’t really belong. It was an accident. But then he finds courage with the help of his new best friend, Beep, who happens to be an alien.

Cleopatra in Space by Mike Maihack
Young Cleopatra gets zapped to the future and finds out that she’s destined to save the galaxy from evil rule—all while having to go to a special school to learn regular subjects (boring!) and combat training (yes!) and deal with homework and avoiding detention!

Countdown Conspiracy by Katie Slivensky
Miranda can’t believe she’s one of 6 kids from around the world chosen to
train for the Mars mission. Only, when the training base is attacked after receiving a threatening message, it becomes clear that she is the target and no one knows why. She may also be the only one who can solve the mystery and save the mission.

**Every Soul a Star** by Wendy Mass
Thousands gather at an isolated campground to view a rare total eclipse of the sun. Among them are 3 middle schoolers, each having their own unique story. This experience will help Ally, Bree, and Jack discover their own place in the universe.

**Galaxy Games** by Greg R. Fishbone
For a fee, you can get to name a star. So Ty Soto’s cousins do this for his 11th birthday. Only the star is moving and heading for a crash landing on earth! Ty’s world is turned upside down and all he wants to do is play basketball! Meanwhile alien girl and captain of a Galaxy Games Team is searching for new talent so as to win the biggest sporting event in the universe. Hmm...maybe they can work together?

**Holly Farb and the Princess of the Galaxy** by Gareth Wronski
In a case of mistaken identity, Holly Farb is kidnapped. This leads to an incredible space adventure that has Holly making new friends and discovering her bravery as well as her smarts.

**The Jamie Drake Equation** by Christopher Edge
Jamie’s Dad is away a lot on space missions. He’s on the space station when something happens and he’s lost. Jamie is convinced his Dad will find his way and things will be ok. He meets an astronomer and there’s a kind of accident that allows him to get some possible alien data on his cell phone. Can this help his Dad?

**Neil Armstrong Was My Uncle and Other Lies Michael McGinty Told Me** by Nan Marino
It’s July 1969 and everyone’s anticipating the Walk on the Moon, even in Long Island, Tammy’s home. Only her best friend has moved and, feeling the loss, she becomes a bully to the new foster kid, McGinty, without realizing how lies are how he deals with his own losses.

**Pi in the Sky** by Wendy Mass
Joss has 6 older brothers who help his Dad rule the Cosmos and he’s ok with that, content with delivering pies, bowling, and hanging out with his pal, Kal and such. That is, until Earth disappears and he finds it’s his job, with an assist from outspoken Annika, to bring it back!

**Voyage of the Dogs** by Greg Van Eekhout
Special team of dogs assist astronauts but something goes wrong at the space station and they must work as a team to save the mission and themselves.
BEGINNER READER BOOKS
Compiled by Babs Wells, Greenville Public Library

Buzz Beaker and the Outer Space Trip by Cari Meister
Buzz dreams of going into outer space. One night his dreams come true, with his dog Raggs by his side, he sneaks onto a space ship.

Clara and Clem in Outer Space by Ethan Long
When Clara and Clem build a rocket out of blocks, they have no idea where the robot and their imagination will take them!

Fly Guy Presents: Space by Tedd Arnold
During a visit to a space museum Fly Guy and Buzz learn all about planets and space!

Space Cows by Eric Seltzer
Rhyming words reveal the day to day lives of cow space explorers and how they keep busy!

Space Heroes by Eric Seltzer
Meet four amazing women – astronauts, scientists and mathematicians who helped make space travel a reality.

The Stellar Story of Space by Patricia Lakin
Blast off into a galaxy full of fun with this fact – tastic series about the history of space flight!

NON-FICTION
Compiled by Anne McLaughlin, Head of Youth Services, West Warwick Public Library

Astronomers took a closer look to find out there’s much more in outer space than they once believed.

Brick by Brick Space by Warren Elsmore
Ideas for building amazing space projects out of LEGO bricks

Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover by Markus Motum
The mission of the little robotic spacecraft that explored Mars.

Daring Dozen: The Twelve Who Walked on the Moon by Suzanne Slade
The brave Apollo astronauts who first walked on the moon 50 years ago.

Draw Aliens and Space Objects in 4 Easy Steps: Then Write a Story by Stephanie LaBaff
Create your own outer space art and stories.

Exploring Space: From Galileo to the Mars Rover and Beyond by Martin Jenkins
An examination of the past, present and future of humans in space

Find the Constellations by H.A. Rey
Includes the mythology of the constellations, seasonal viewing of stars and star characteristics.

**Go for Liftoff: How to Train Like an Astronaut** by Dave Williams
This former astronaut describes what it takes to be an astronaut.

**How to be a Space Explorer: Your Out-of-this-World Adventure** by Allison Lassieur
Do you have what it takes to be part of a space crew?

**How Will People Travel to Mars?** by Emily Mahoney
Past missions and current projects exploring Mars.

**International Space Station: The Science Lab in Space** by John Hamilton
The history and mission of the International Space Station with out-of-this-world photos.

**Kid Scientists: True Tales of Childhood From Science Superstars** by David Stabler
Even the most brilliant scientists like Albert Einstein and Katherine Johnson had regular-kid problems.

**My Journey to the Stars** by Scott Kelly
The NASA astronaut describes the journey from his childhood to living in space

**The Science of Spacecraft: the Cosmic Truth About Rockets, Satellites and Probes** by Alex Woolf
The past, present and future of how spacecraft are built, how they work, and what they do.

**Space Aliens: Learn to Draw More Than 20 Out-of-this-World Characters** by Dave Garbot
Learn how to draw original cartoons of unearthly creatures.

**Space Adventurer’s Guide: Your Passport to the Coolest Things to See and Do in the Universe** by Peter McMahon
The latest science and exclusive accounts from experts

**Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon** by Catherine Thimmest
Stories of the people worked behind the scenes of the moon landing.

**Voyager’s Greatest Hits: the Epic Trek to Interstellar Space** by Alexandra Siy
Since the 1970’s two unmanned probes have explored Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune with greetings from Earth.

**POETRY**
**Cats are Cats** compiled by Nancy Larrick, illustrated by Ed Young
The personalities and habits of various cats are presented in poetry and captured by Young’s charcoal and pastel illustrations.
**I Like You, If You Like Me** selected and edited by Myra Cohn Livingston
Ninety poems by both contemporary and traditional poets explore thoughts and feelings about friendship.

**Imaginary Animals: Poetry and Art for Young People**
edited by Charles Sullivan
Double page spreads juxtapose art work and poetry about both imaginary (such as the Loch Ness monster and the sphinx) and real animals, with variety in the style of art and the mood of the poems.

**Out of This World: Poems and Facts about Space** by Amy Sklansky, illustrated by Stacey Schuett
These twenty poems about space exploration, planets, and stars are creative and fun, with the facts being presented in a sidebar.

**Very Best (almost) Friends: Poems of Friendship** collected by Paul Janeczko, illustrated by Christine Davenier
These poems look at both the ups and downs, and humor, of friendship. The poems are more mature than the book’s format would suggest.

**BIOGRAPHIES**

*Compiled by Lee-Ann Galli, North Kingstown Free Library*

**Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science** by Diane Stanley
A hundred years before the dawn of the digital age, Ada Lovelace envisioned the computer-driven world we know today. And in demonstrating how the machine would be coded, she wrote the first computer program. She would go down in history as Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer.

**Annie Jump Cannon, Astronomer** by Carole Gerber
A picture-book biography of a trailblazer in the field of astronomy, presents insight into the challenges of women interested in science during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Caroline’s Comets: A True Story** by Emily Arnold
Caroline Herschel discovered fourteen nebulae and two galaxies, was the first woman to discover a comet, and became the first woman officially employed as a scientist—by no less than the King of England!

**Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy** by Richard Michelson
The story of how one boy followed his dreams to become one of the most beloved figures of our time.

**Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling
Explores the previously uncelebrated but pivotal contributions of NASA’s African American women mathematicians to America’s space program, describing how Jim Crow laws segregated them despite their ground-
breaking successes. Includes biographies on Dorothy Jackson Vaughan, Mary Winston Jackson, Katherine Colman Goble Johnson, and Dr. Christine Mann Darden.

**Mae Among the Stars** by Roda Ahmed
When young Mae Jemison is asked by her teacher what she wants to be when she grows up, African American Mae tells her mostly white classmates that she wants to be an astronaut, a dream that her parents wholeheartedly support. Mae’s curiosity, intelligence, and determination, matched with her parents’ encouraging words, paved the way for her incredible success at NASA as the first African American woman to travel in space.

**Margaret and the Moon** by Dean Robbins
Introduces the woman mathematician whose childhood love of numbers led to her prestigious education and contributions at NASA while explaining how her handwritten codes proved essential throughout numerous space missions.

**Starstruck: The Cosmic Journey of Neil deGrasse Tyson** by Kathleen Krull
A picture-book biography on science superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson, the groundbreaking American astrophysicist whose work has inspired a generation of young scientists and astronomers to reach for the stars!

**Yvonne Brill and Satellite Propulsion** by Ellen Labreque
The 21st Century Junior Library Women Innovators series highlights the contributions of women to STEM fields. Yvonne Brill and Satellite Propulsion examines the life of this important woman and her contributions to rocket science.

**PICTURE BOOKS**
Compiled by Tina Ladika, South Kingstown Public Library

**8 Little Planets** by Chris Ferrie
Set to the tune of “8 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed,” this adorable board book will get little ones excited about the solar system!

**A Big Mooncake for Little Star** by Grace Lin
This whimsical origin story reimagines the moon as a Big Moon Cake, which despite her Mama’s requests, Little Star begins nibbling at each night. Gorgeous illustrations depict the story and the phases of the moon.

**Blackout** by John Rocco
One hot summer night in the city, all the power goes out. Up on the roof to escape the heat, a family finds the light of stars….along with so many neighbors it’s like a block party!

**Blue Sky, White Stars** by Sarvinder Naberhaus
A stirring poetic tribute to the beauty and wonder of America’s symbols,
history, and landscape.

**Dream Animals: a Bedtime Journey** by Emily Winfield Martin
Furry, finned, and feathered friends await the night, when they carry dreamers on adventures in Dreamland.

**Goodnight Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown
In this classic bedtime story, a little bunny bids goodnight to all the objects in his room before falling asleep.

**Goodnight Yoga: a Pose-by-Pose Bedtime Story** by Mariam Gates
Both a bedtime story and a series of simple poses for following the natural world as it comes to rest at day’s end.

**Hedgie Blasts Off!** by Jan Brett
When the spectacular, sparkling explosions at a popular tourist sight slow down, Hedgie the Hedgehog is the only one capable of flying to the tiny planet Mikkop to see what is wrong.

**Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth** by Oliver Jeffers
In this quirky salutation from Earth, the chronicler gives a tour of the planet and introduces those who call it home.

**Interstellar Cinderella** by Deborah Underwood
In this outer-space adaptation of the fairy tale, Cinderella dreams of becoming a mechanic!

**It’s Only Stanley** by Jon Agee
Young readers will want to guess the strange noises that keep awakening the Wimbledon family one night in this rhyming, humorous story.

**Kitten’s First Full Moon** by Kevin Henkes
A simple, charming story about a naïve little kitten who mistakes a round, shining moon for a bowl of milk.

**Life on Mars** by Jon Agee
A sneaky, silly picture book follows a space explorer determined to find life on Mars.

**Mae Among the Stars** by Roda Ahmed
Inspired by the life of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel in space, this great read-aloud will inspire children to dream big!

**Many Moons** by Rémi Courgeon
Beautiful, bright illustrations show young children the different phases of the moon.

**Mousetronaut/Mousetronaut Goes to Mars** by Mark. E. Kelly
Inspired by a true story, follow the adventures of Mike the “Mice-tronaut” in space!

**Night of the Moon: a Muslim Holiday Story** by Hena Khan
Told with lush illustrations, 7-year-old Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating Ramadan with her family and friends.

**Night World** by Mordicai Gerstein
Beginning with a beautiful black-and-white palette, the shadows of the Night World come to life for a boy and his cat Sylvie.

**Ocean Meets Sky** by Fan Brothers
A little boy builds a ship to honor his grandfather and sets sail for a magical place where the ocean meets the sky.

**Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me** by Eric Carle
Monica wants the moon to play with, so her Papa sets out on an adventure to get it! Foldout pages literally unfold the magical story.

**Pete the Cat: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star** by James Dean
Join Pete the Cat as he stars in the classic nighttime song “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star!”

**Red Knit Cap Girl** by Naoko Stoop
Follow Red Knit Cap Girl and White Bunny through an enchanted forest on their quest to talk to the moon.

**Stars** by Mary Lyn Ray
Explore the wonder of stars - whether they are in the night sky, on a plant, or in your pocket!

**Stella’s Starliner** by Rosemary Wells
A sensitive and uplifting story about a girl named Stella, her silver trailer home “The Starliner,” and the meaning of family, friendship and home.

**The Stuff of Stars** by Marion Dane Bauer
Mesmerizing illustrations and poetic text portray the beginning of the universe and of life itself.

**What If…** by Samantha Berger
Stunning mixed-media illustrations and lyrical text tell this imaginative tale about a young creative who is determined to express herself!

**Zathura** by Chris Van Allsburg
Left on their own for an evening, two boisterous brothers find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious space adventure board game.

**SPANISH BOOKS**


Buenas noches, Luna / por Margaret Wise Brown (Picture Book)

Camino a las estrellas : mi recorrido de Girl Scout a ingeniera astronautica / por Sylvia Acevedo (Biography)
Cuentos de buenas noches para niñas rebeldes: 100 historias de mujeres extraordinarias / por Elena Favilli y Francesca Cavallo (Biography)
The hummingbird sings and dances: Latin American lullabies and nursery rhymes / musical selection and illustrations by Mariana Ruiz Johnson (J 300, Kit)
A Lola le encantan los cuentos / por Anna McQuinn (Picture Book)
La primera luna llena de gatita / por Kevin Henkes (Picture Book)
Mamá the alien / por René Colato Láínez (Picture Book)
Papá, por favor, bájame la luna = Papa, please get the moon for me / por Eric Carle (Picture Book)

**ACTIVITIES**

*Jess George, Head Children’s Librarian, East Greenwich Free Library*

Build a space station
Use Legos, cardboard boxes, art supplies, milk cartons, etc. to design a space station.
Or
Use a program like Tinkercad or Minecraft to digitally design a space station.

What do the different parts of the space station do? What would people need to survive in space?

Design your ideal pet - Using art supplies, design and name a pet of your own creation inspired by Princess Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds.

Watch astronauts in space – Look up videos on YouTube of astronauts performing everyday activities like eating and washing their hair. What kind of difficulties do they face? Do you think you’d like to live on a space station?

Hungry? After watching astronauts trying to eat in space, make a space-inspired snack. Using skewers, cut fruit, and marshmallows, create edible spaceships.

Watch the stars - Visit an observatory or use a telescope (many libraries have telescopes that you can borrow!) to explore the night sky.

**Nebula in a Jar**

*What you will need:* A Clear Glass Jar with a Lid, Tempera Paint (colors like pink, blue, and purple work well), Cotton Balls, Silver Glitter, A Spoon

Add water to your jar so it is about 1/3 of the way full. Add several drops of one of your paint colors to the jar and mix with spoon or put the lid on to shake and mix. Add glitter to the jar. Pull cotton balls apart and drop them into the paint and water mixture. Push the cotton balls down with spoon. Continue this layering process, adding water, paint (one color per layer), glitter, and cotton balls, pressing down the cotton balls with a spoon until you reach the top. Screw the lid on the jar and display!
TO FIND OUT ABOUT KIDS READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND PROGRAMS IN YOUR AREA, GO TO RIBOOK.ORG.

This booklet presents resources the Kids Reading Across Rhode Island committee has gathered to enrich and expand this reading.

ABOUT RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR THE BOOK
Rhode Island Center for the Book is a statewide organization devoted to promoting personal and community enrichment by celebrating the art and heritage of reading, writing, making, and sharing books. The Center was founded in 2003 as the state affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
The Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) is the state library agency for Rhode Island. OLIS supports and strengthens library and information services in the state to ensure that all residents will benefit from free and convenient access to library and information resources and services. OLIS supports children’s library services statewide by facilitating reading promotion and educational activities, through support for children’s library services, and through collaboration with other state agencies and non-profit organizations, including school/public library cooperation. www.olis.ri.gov

Program design by Amy Barrett