

Alien Book Club



39 x 7-min



4-6 yrs



2D Animation



UK/Canada Co-pro



Adventures into Books!



Five extraordinary aliens jump into classic stories to learn something about themselves in this characterful romp through a universe of books.

Don't be late for Alien Book Club! There's a universe of stories to explore with Flurb and Bookbot in the Intergalactic Library Bus.

A diverse band of little aliens visit the Alien Book Club where keeper-of-books Flurb asks them what they thought of this week's book.

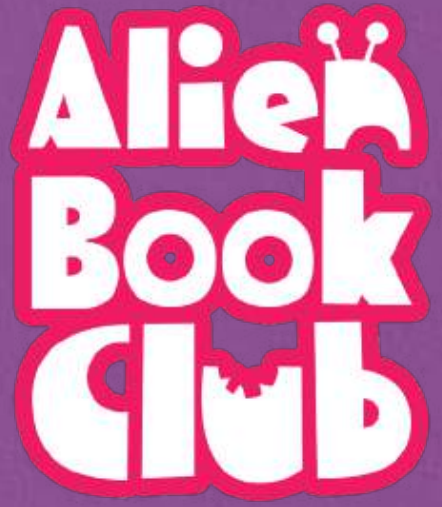
Helpful Bookbot finds the book and projects it all over the huge space-age library so that they can jump right into the story!

Helping the story's protagonists helps the little aliens, so every ABC ends with a grin. In the Intergalactic Library Bus, there's a story for everyone. Shall we begin?!

Alien
Book
Club







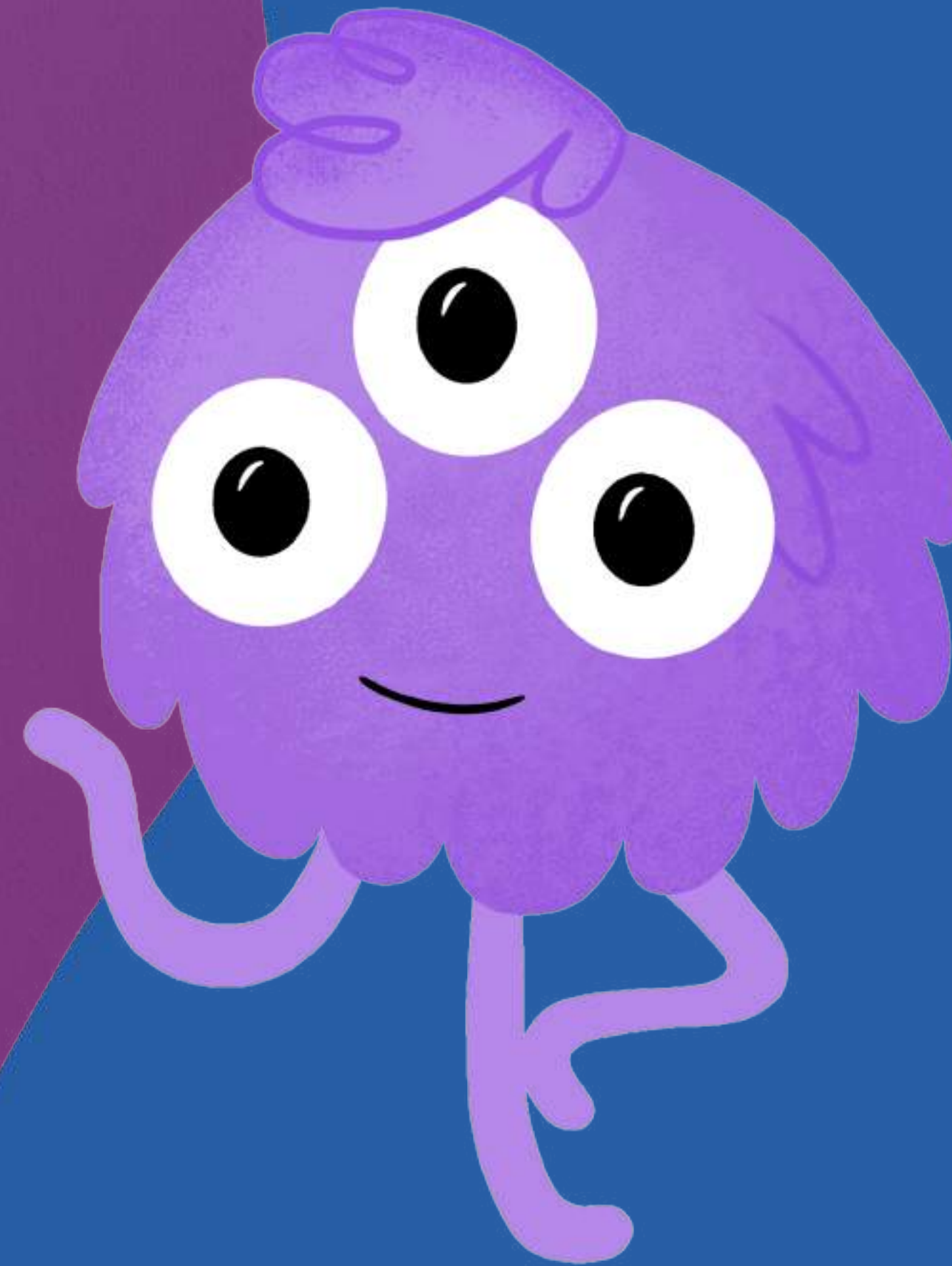
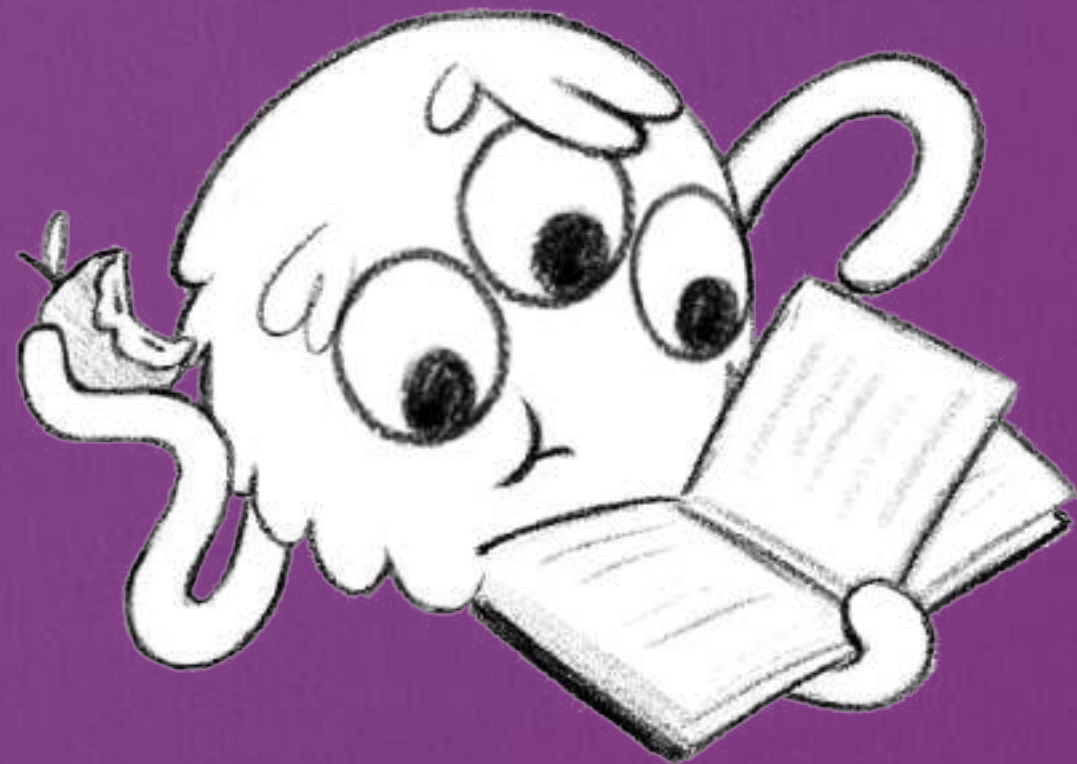
Austen

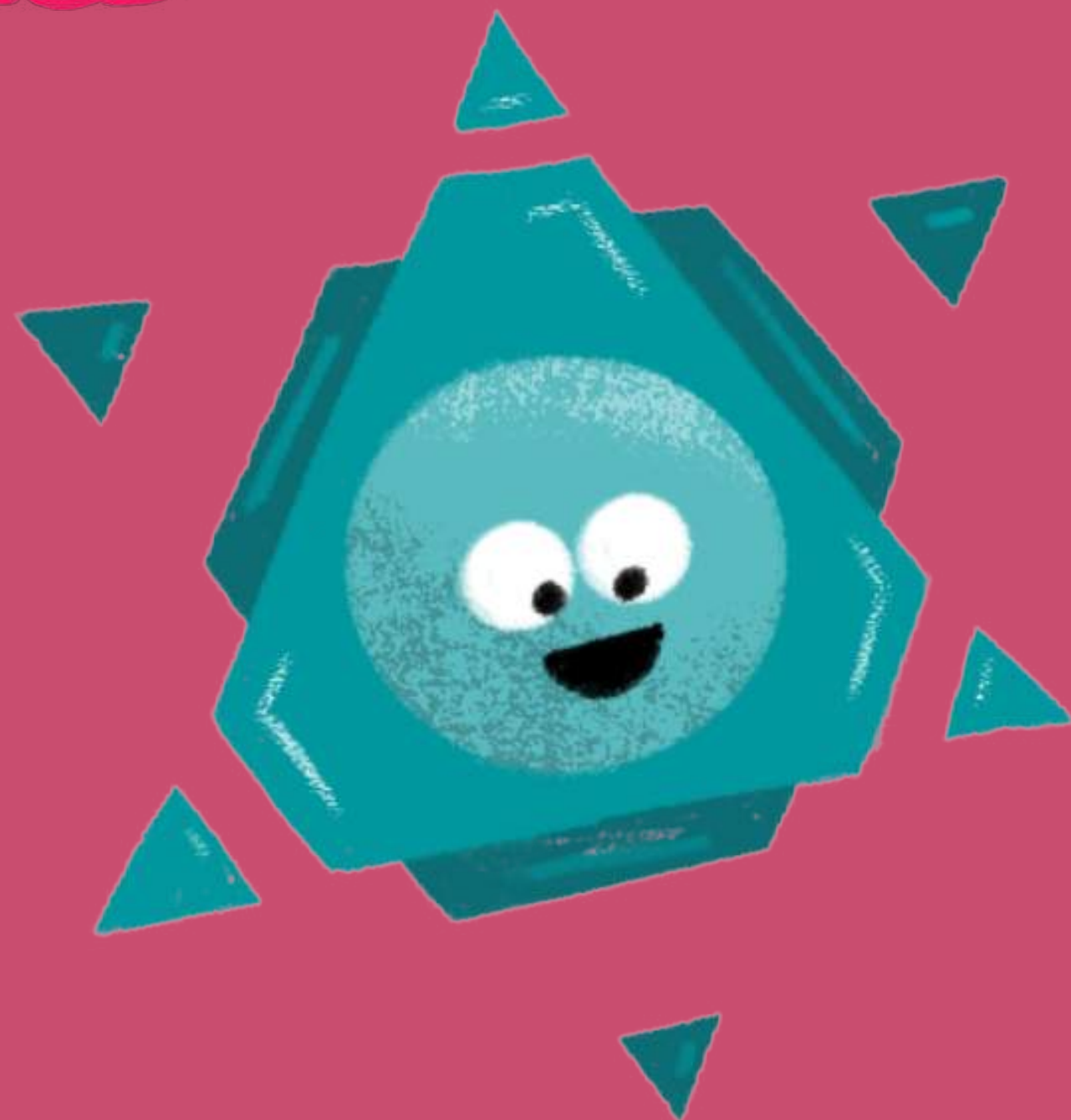
The leader of the gang.

Loving, naturally charismatic, and extrovert.

Headstrong, obstinate, and occasionally anxious.

His tentacles light up whenever he thinks about the number 3!





Toni

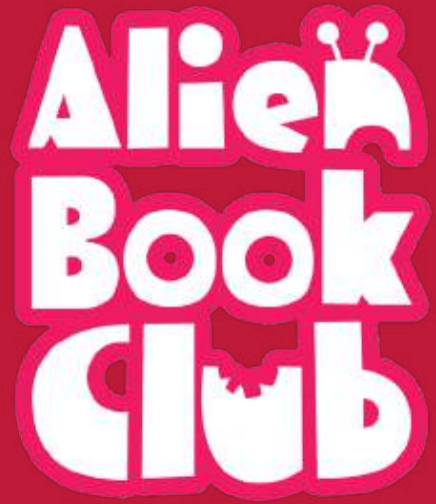
The clever, organized one.

Impatient, speedy, has ADHD, and likes to tell other people what to do.

Scientist and inventor, but never finishes her projects.

She can spin so fast she zooms around like a shooting star!





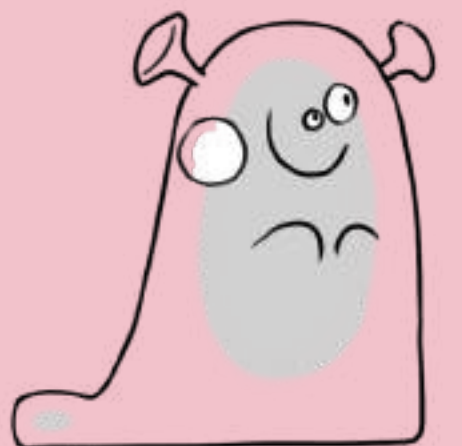
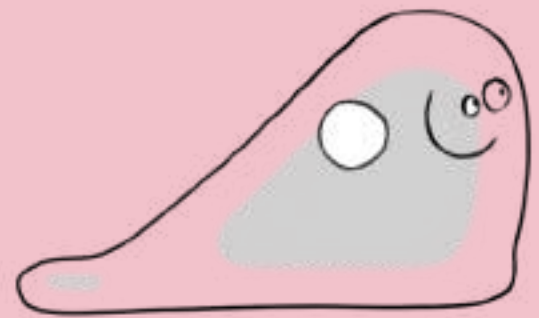
Zep

The quiet, shy one.

Young, slow, and lacking in confidence.

Heart of gold and a solid, dependable friend.

His ears extend to hear, and the spots on his body plays music to calm things down... or liven things up!





Rumi

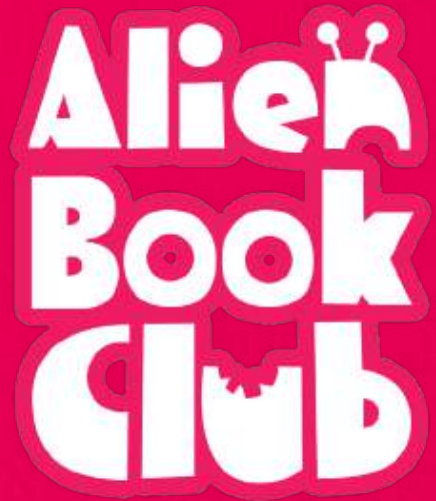
The creative one.

Dyspraxia, clumsy.

Very loving, but can be absent-minded.

Her cheeks puff out a powerful wind which can push the story on to the next page!





Shirl

The funny one.

Adventurous, brave, and always wants to help. But hot tempered!

Loves happy endings but doesn't always do good listening. Can rush into things.

She has a super stomp which can make buildings (and books) shake!





Flurb

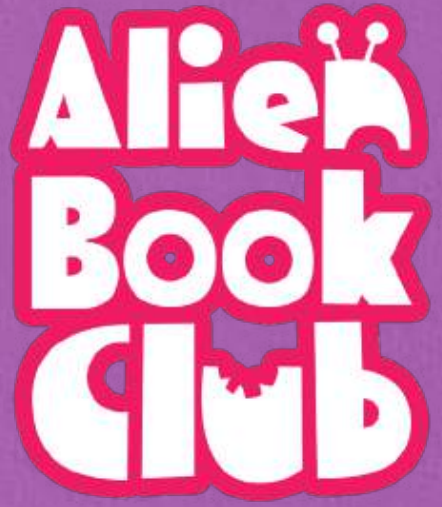
Super-sized keeper of books.

Nurturing, parental and wise.

Patient, but can get tired out.

Soft, slow, and thoughtful.





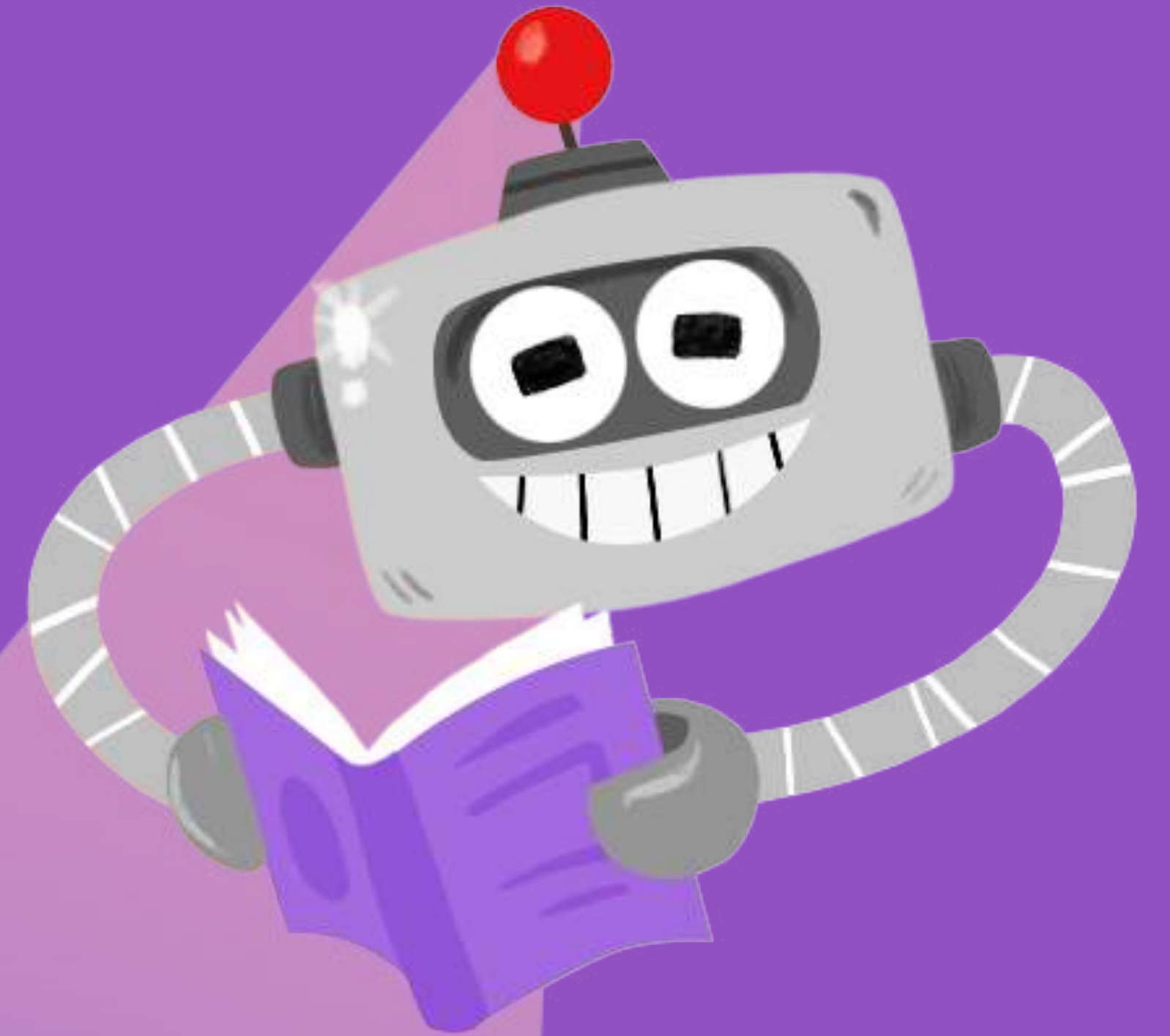
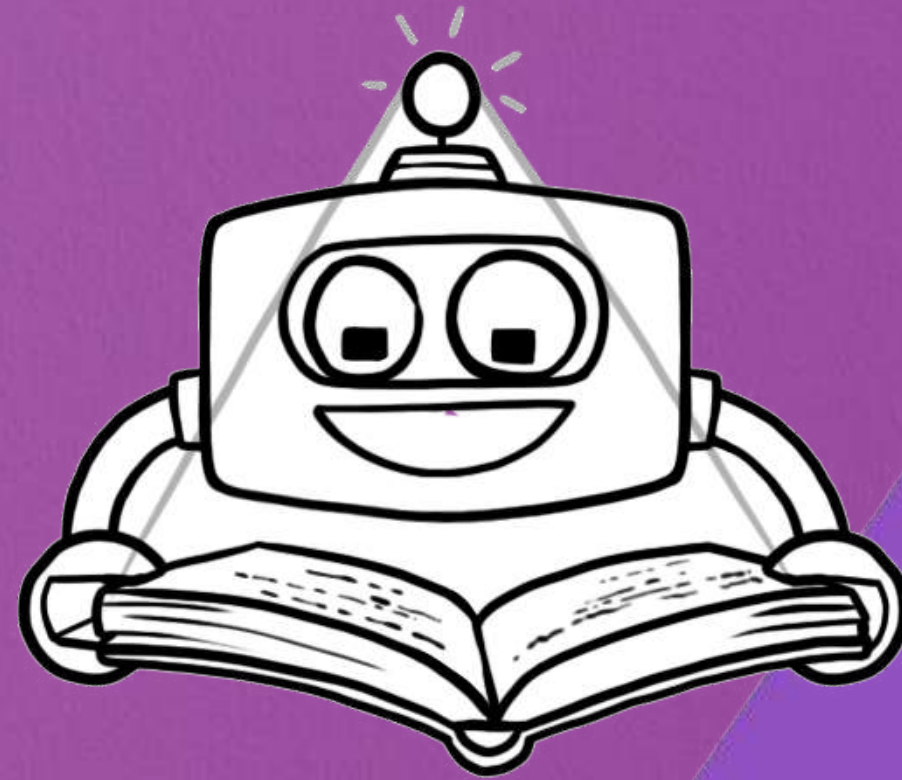
Bookbot

Flurb's assistant.

Non-verbal, but emotes clearly.

Has a special bond with Flurb.

Projects the story into the Library.





Format

★ TITLES

The aliens arrive at the Intergalactic Library Bus, dropped off by their grown-up in a variety of unique and colourful spaceships.

★ GAMES

After being welcomed by Flurb and starting to play, one little alien experiences a social or emotional problem related to their play, demeanour, or interactions.

★ SETTLE DOWN

Flurb calms the alien down and asks the group how they felt about this week's book.

★ ENTER THE STORY

Bookbot finds the book on the intergalactic library bus shelves and projects the book around everyone. The little aliens 'jump' into the story, and enter the story-world itself...

★ HELPING

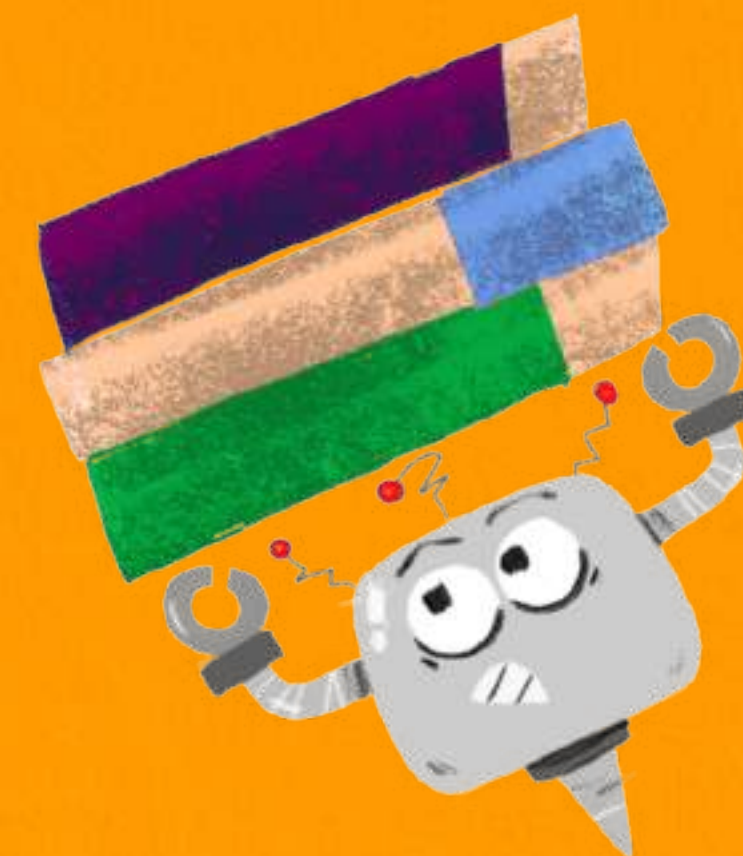
The little aliens helps the story's protagonist, learning something new along the way.

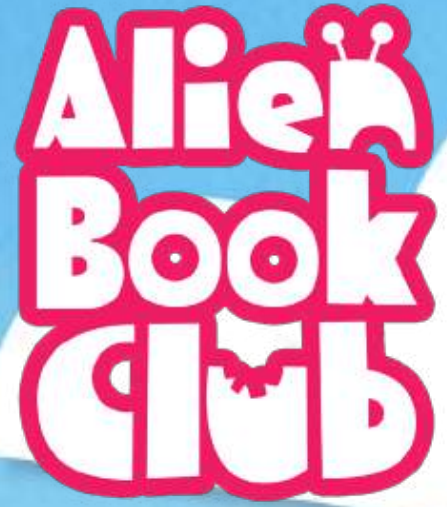
★ FINISH THE STORY

They return to the Library where there are grins all round!

★ GAMES & CREDITS

Bookbot puts the book away as Flurb initiates a game or activity before home-time. All the little aliens are collected again and zoom home through the stars.





Springboard #1

All episodes are based on a work of literature in the public domain. There are gazillions of them and we will select the story by considering the heritage, suitability for the audience, and application to the emotional or social problem we are illustrating.

Share the Treasure

Book: Treasure Island

Learning Point: It's not nice to be greedy!

All the little Aliens are having a treasure hunt in the library - looking for shiny gold bookmarks which Bookbot has hidden. Shirl gets carried away and wants them all for herself.

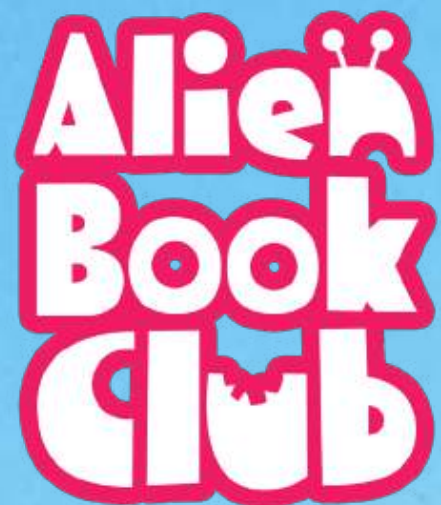
Flurb asks them what they thought of Treasure Island. They all felt sorry for Jim Hawkins and agree Long John Silver was mean. So into the story they go, to show Long John Silver that sharing is caring.

Shirl realises why all the little aliens were cross with her when she tried to keep the shiny bookmarks for herself.

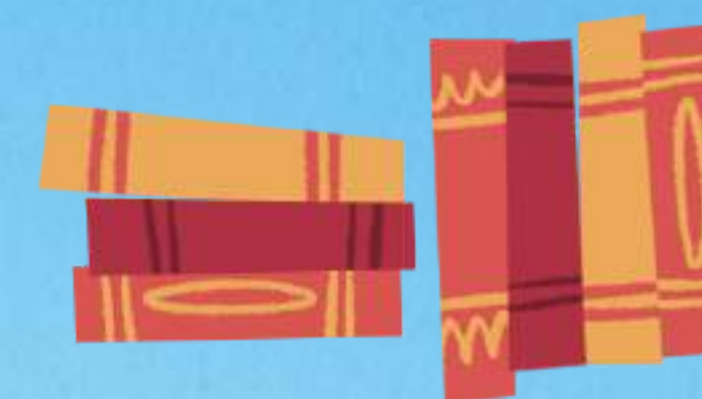
Back in the library Shirl shares the bookmarks equally out amongst all her friends.







Springboard #2 #3



Little Aliens In Winter

Book: Little Women

Learning Point: Charity begins at home

Zep has brought in a special cuddly to sit with him today. Rumi takes a shine to it, but Zep won't share. Flurb asks them what they thought of today's book - Little Women. They really want to live all together like the March girls, in a big house!

They jump into the story and find a table overflowing with beautiful food. They sit down and are about to eat when Rumi sees snow through the window and remembers there are people in the town who are going hungry. Zep doesn't want to listen: look at all this food!

Jo March enters the room dressed for snow. "Come on little aliens," she cries, "We have hungry people to feed!" The little aliens look to Zep, who sinks in his chair. Jo continues, "We don't need all this, there's enough for everyone!". With that, Zep helps the other aliens carry the food out into the snow.

Returning to the library Zep decides there's enough love in his cuddly to share it with Rumi, even if just for today.

Shirl's Wish

Book: Five Children and It

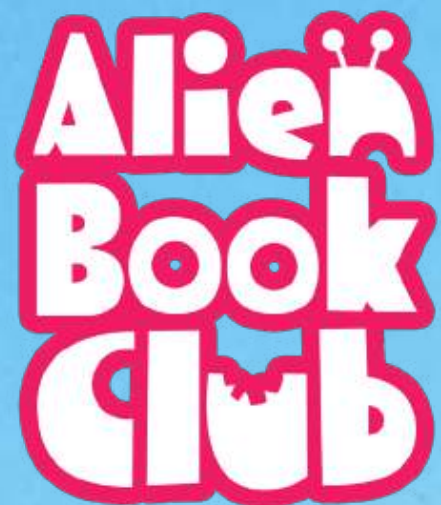
Learning Point: Think before you act

Toni helps Bookbot retrieve today's book by flying higher than he's ever flown before, to the very top shelf! Shirl is incredibly jealous and stomps her feet - why can't she fly?

They jump into the story world and meet a grumpy old creature in a sand pit who asks them what wish they'd like most of all. All the aliens have different ideas of what's important and argue for who should have their wish granted - until Shirl yells over all of them: "I want to FLY!..."

The sand pit creature begrudgingly casts his spell, warning that it can't last forever, and Shirl starts to rise off the ground! She has a fantastic time whizzing around. So much so that Zep and Austen want to be able to fly too - but Flurb leans in and reminds them of what happens in the book! Just then, Shirl starts to fall from the sky! Quick as a flash Toni and Rumi fly up to catch her, and gently lower her down.

They leave the storyworld with Shirl vowing to be careful what she wishes for from now on!



Springboard #4 #5



Austen's Doldrums

Book: Pollyanna

Learning Point: Look for the positive

Austen is grumpy. His mum couldn't take him to the bubble pool this week. "Everything's gone wrong!" he flumps. "But look at where you are now," suggests Flurb. Well, Austen may be in the best library in the galaxy, but he can't shake off the doldrums.

They jump into this week's story and meet Pollyanna. Her excitement is infectious - to everyone but Austen. He looks around, and asks why she's so happy when "her room's so small, and you've got nothing to play with?". She shows everyone around her small attic room - the view from her window transforms into rolling hills with a silly farmer chasing ducks around; she casts shadows on the floor that enact a small play of their own... Austen, with his excellent tentacles, creates his own heroic shadow puppet character and has a blast!

Back in the library Flurb asks how Austen's feeling. He's realised that even if things don't go to plan you can always find things to be glad about. "Especially with these!" he cries, waving his tentacles in the air!

The Balloon Race

Book: Around the World in 80 Days

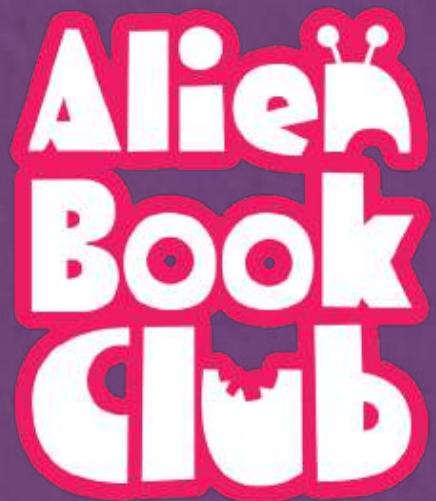
Learning Point: Slow down to enjoy every moment

Shirl organises a race inside the library. But her rules are hard: no one can fly, and the route involves several big obstacles. Of course, Shirl wins, whizzing round her course. But at the finish line she looks back and sees her friends helping each other over the obstacles, and she feels a bit sad.

When Flurb sits them down to talk about today's book, Shirl says she loved the balloon race, and how determined Phileas Fogg was - but she reckons she could have raced even faster. They jump into the story and join Phileas Fogg and Parsepartout in their balloon! When they pass over some amazing pyramids Shirl agrees with Fogg that they haven't time to stop and explore: she's all about winning!

The others disagree and, distracted, they crash into the top of a pyramid! Whilst Fogg mends the balloon, Parsepartout leads the aliens inside. Shirl is torn - does she help Fogg or go have fun? Rumi and Zep convince her to join them and have fun.

Back in the library Shirl wants to re-run the race, "but this time we all need to cross the finish line together, no matter what".



A Team with a Mission!

On the early-years gap

In the UK, almost a million children do not have a single book of their own at home. (literacytrust.org.uk)

In Ontario, around one in five children aged 4 and 5 show delays in vocabulary development — the foundation reading is built on. ([Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services](#))

On reading at school age

One in four Canadian children misses reading goals by Grade 3, and children who aren't reading proficiently by then rarely catch up. (buildcanada.com)

On reading for fun

Just half of Canadian kids aged 6–8 read books for fun frequently — a number that drops to one in four by their early teens. ([Scholastic Canada Kids & Family Reading Report](#))

On the long-term impact

According to the OECD, the UK now has the lowest rates of literacy of any developed nation. 16.4% of adults in England, or 7.1 million people, can be described as having 'very poor literacy skills'. ([statistics from literacycapital.com](#))

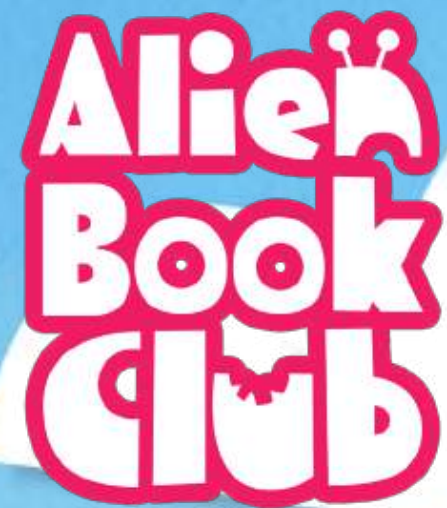
ALIEN BOOK CLUB engages and excites young children and their grownups about reading and sharing stories as well as encouraging trips to the library.

As the little aliens engage with the story - asking and answering questions, and inferring what might happen next - they model these skills to our young viewers, who will be asked the same kind of questions by their grown ups, and in educational settings.

We want to ensure that children see reading, storytelling and discussing stories as an active pursuit, showing them how to engage with the process of reading stories - taking our steer from the [EYFS literacy curriculum](#) that: **"It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading."**

Our little aliens, just like real life kids, (and our own team), come in all shapes and sizes and reflect the range of abilities and experiences found in neurodiverse children.

It's really important to us that the stories the little aliens engage with are representative of all cultures and peoples and so we will be seeking a diverse writing team to bring those stories to life.



BEAKUS

About Us



Beakus is an animation and motion design studio founded by experienced producer/ director Steve Smith. Based in Lewes, near Brighton (UK), Beakus is a member of Animation UK.

Since 2010 we've crafted beautiful, compelling, and powerful animation for a wide range of clients that include NGO's, brands, broadcasters, and start-ups.

Our work has won awards and been featured at animation festivals. We are also a kids TV series IP generator having three full series in our folio - Olobob Top for CBeebies, Yakka Dee! (140 x 5'), Big Lizard (52 x 7'). Beakus also co- produces and provides service work for other producers and broadcasters.

www.beakus.com

Big Bad Boo Studios is an award-winning, creative-led animation and production studio, originating, developing, producing, and distributing impactful kids content. Our shows, books and games are entertaining, educational, and multicultural. Our programs have broadcast in over 100 countries and 40 languages. With studios, facilities and teams in Canada, the United States, and Austria, we are proud to work with a roster of international broadcasters and local partners alike. Our animation facility in beautiful Yaletown offers a full range of animation production services for clients and original shows alike.

Big Bad Boo is currently producing climate-change series Galapagos X season 2 with TVO Kids, CBC Kids, and several international partners. We are in development on multiple projects including neuro-inclusivity bridge series Billy & the Boingo Band.

www.bigbadboo.com

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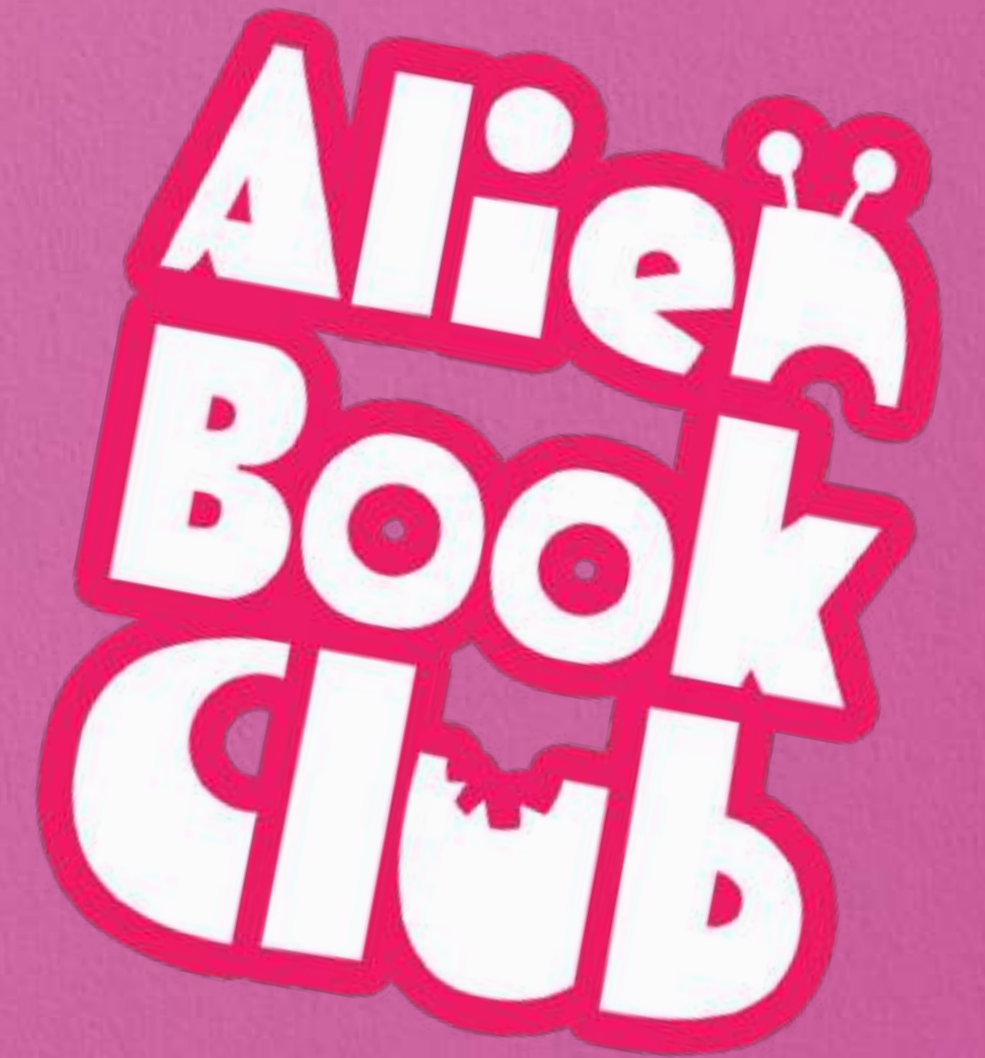
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