

LILY the ROBOT

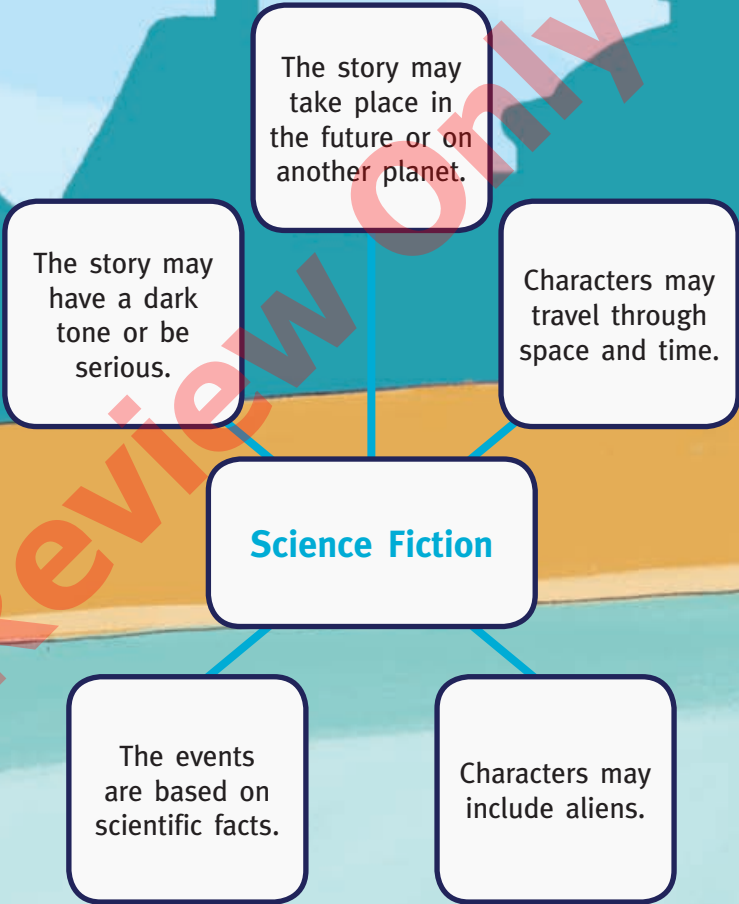
by Greg V. Wood • illustrated by Srimalie Bassani



Level	N/30
Lexile®	700L

Science Fiction

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



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A City in the Sky

It was the year 2250. Floating among the clouds ten miles above Earth's surface was Skyhigh. Skyhigh had everything the millions of people who lived there needed. There were parks, rivers, theaters, and shopping centers. The restaurants served delicious food from all over the solar system. The air was cold and thin above Earth, but Skyhigh's force shield kept things warm inside the city and held breathable oxygen in.

The Orbits were one of millions of families who had moved to Skyhigh. Mrs. Orbit was a mechanic. She helped maintain the antigravity engines that kept Skyhigh in the air. Mr. Orbit grew food in Skyhigh's vat farms.





Their two children, Sammie and Fitz, were curious kids who liked to do fun things. They enjoyed sitting on the edge of Skyhigh, peering down at the clouds that swirled above Earth. They wondered what it was like to live on Earth. Sometimes they daydreamed about what life was like on the other colonies that had settled on the moon and Mars.

Other days, Sammie and Fitz flew their rocket kites. They also enjoyed teaching their pets to read. Thanks to science, pets were very smart in 2250. Their fish, Bubbles, could read whole novels. They also had a kitten, Furball, who was just learning to read picture books.

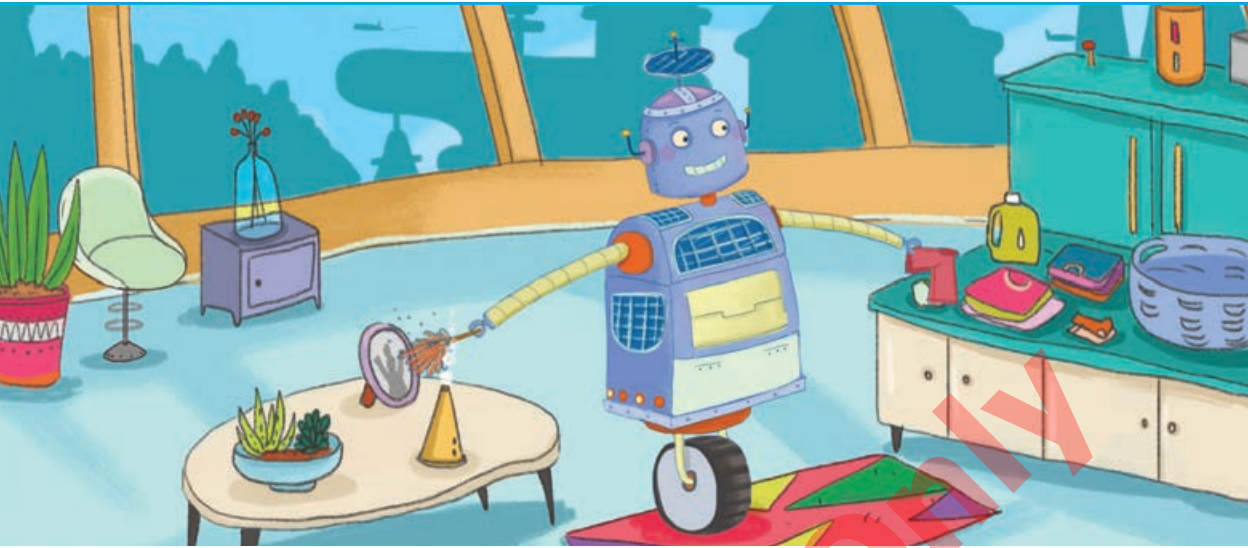
“C’mon, Fitz, we’re gonna be late!” Sammie yelled back as the door slammed behind her.

“Coming!” Fitz ran out of the house. He was munching on a frozen omelet breakfast bar.

Sammie and Fitz were on their way to school. Sammie was in fifth grade, and Fitz was in fourth grade. Like most students in the year 2250, they learned many subjects by drinking juice flavored with information. Sammie’s favorite was math juice. Fitz preferred history flavors.

Their favorite teacher was Blarb. He taught physical education. Blarb was a P-238 robot powered by an atomic battery that lasts 100 years. He never got tired, even though his students did. Sometimes Blarb forgot that his students couldn’t run one mile in ten seconds like a robot.





“Did you try the yummy breakfast bars Lily made?” Fitz asked as he took his last bite.

“Not yet,” replied Sammie. “But I’m sure they’re good because Lily is the best cook.”

Sammie and Fitz’s favorite family member was the family robot, Lily. She had been taking good care of the Orbit kids since they were little, and her talents were endless. She could play **hologram** movies from her projector, as well as cook food in her **internal** oven.

Lily was indeed special because she was a SUN-7 robot and ran on **solar power**. There weren’t many solar-powered robots around anymore. Most had been replaced by more advanced models. But Lily was pretty sure that as long as she was fully functional, the Orbits would never replace her.

A few days later, on a beautiful Sunday morning, Sammie and Fitz asked their parents if they could take the family **shuttle** down to Earth's surface for a hike and a picnic.

"Sorry," their mom said. "I'm too busy to take you today. I have to work on the city's antigravity engines."

"And I have to check on the broccoli vats at the farm," said their dad.

"I can take them," Lily offered.

Mr. and Mrs. Orbit agreed to let them go down to the woods as long as they were back before it got dark.



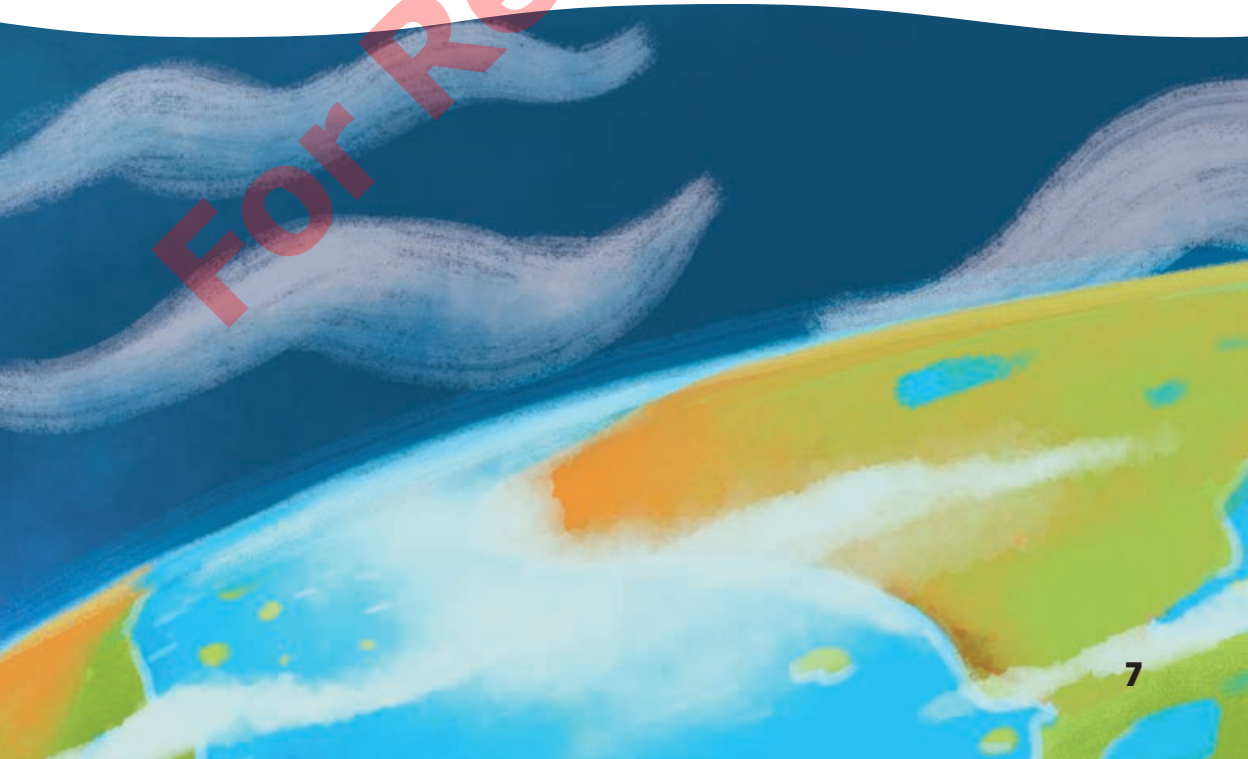
Before they left, Lily packed a picnic blanket and a lunch that she could heat up for Sammie and Fitz.

Sammie, Fitz, and Lily piled into the shuttle and strapped in. They edged away from Skyhigh. There was a brief shimmer of light as Lily piloted the shuttle through the force shield.

Sammie and Fitz looked back at the city through the shuttle's expansive windows.

"That's our house!" Fitz said, pointing at their dome on the edge of the city's platform.

Their house got smaller and smaller as they flew toward Earth.

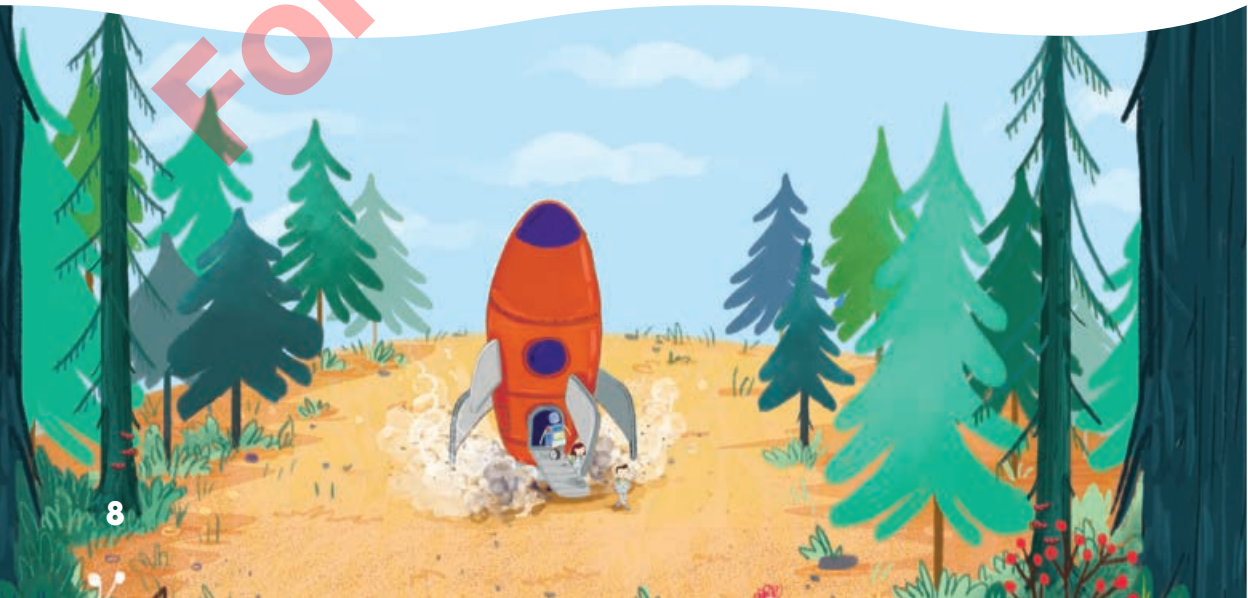


Into the Woods

Below them were green meadows, streams that looked like blue ribbons, and a deep blue lake. They spotted a clearing on the edge of a pine forest and decided to land there.

The shuttle's landing rotors kicked up clouds of dust, pine needles, and wildflower **pollen** as Lily brought the shuttle to a soft landing.

Sammie and Fitz raced down the ramp. They began sneezing almost right away. Lily figured they would be fine once the dust and plant bits settled, but just in case, she brought tissues. In Skyhigh, there was no dust or pollen in order to keep the air pure and people allergy-free. So when they did venture down to Earth, they came prepared.





Fitz suggested they take a hike before lunch. Lily found a map of the trail within her stored information and displayed it with her hologram projector. As long as they stayed on the trail, they would be safe.

Streams wound along the shady paths, and the air was filled with sweet scents and birdsong. Everything was cool and damp in the shade of the towering trees.