

Early★Reader

Picnic Planet

Spacey Stacey and her friends have gone to Picnic Planet for the day. They're all ready to eat scrummy food but disaster strikes when space bunnies steal their picnic!

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Maverick

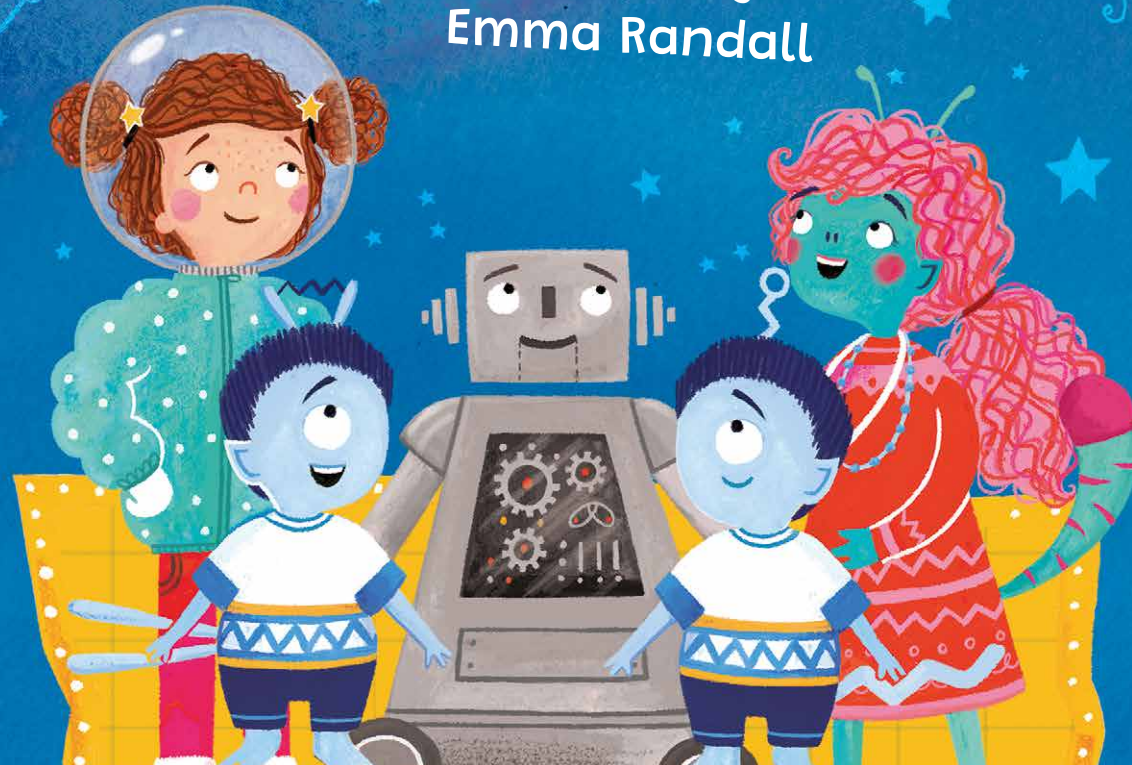
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By Alice Hemming

Illustrated by
Emma Randall



'Picnic Planet'

An original concept by Alice Hemming
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Chapter 1

“No nibbling yet – we’re nearly there,” said Timble.

They landed on Picnic Planet.

“It’s perfect weather,” said Stacey, parking the spaceship.

“Picnic Planet here we come!”

Spacey Stacey drove the spaceship skillfully through the stars. Her four friends sat behind her, with the picnic hamper between them. The smell of freshly baked bread was mouthwatering.

Zip and Zap lifted the lid of the hamper to take a peek at all the goodies. In the middle was a giant, orange carrot jelly from the Space Place.



They piled out into the car park and gazed around. The sky was clear, the grass was blue and all three suns blazed above them.

“Where is everyone?” asked Timble. “Picnic Planet is normally packed on a beautiful day like this.”

“Maybe the space bunnies put people off,” said Moondoodle, pointing to the signs. “Warning: Space Bunnies’ and ‘Do not feed.’”

“Who’s scared of a bunch of bunnies?” laughed Zip.

“Anyway, we’re not the only people here,” said



Zap. Three familiar spaceships were landing on the other side of the car park.

“Oh no, it’s Astro Pete and his friends,” said Timble.

“Be nice,” said Stacey. She waved and smiled.

“Would you like to join us?” she shouted.

“No thanks,” said Pete.

“No way,” said Jill. “Our chocolate cake is too good to share.”

“Phew,” said Timble, and set off to find a picnic spot on the other side of the field.



“Look at the way the suns are sparkling on those treetops,” said Moondoodle. “I’m going to go to the top of the hill and paint the view.”

“What about the food?” said Zip and Zap.

“I’ll only be a couple of minutes,” said Moondoodle.



Chapter 2

Stacey put up a purple parasol and spread a red checked picnic blanket beneath it. They opened the hamper and laid out the tasty treats on colourful plates. Starmite sandwiches, crunchy vegetable sticks, spaceman pie, pizza and fizzy pop.

“This looks like a proper feast,” said Timble.

“Moondoodle will miss lunch if she takes too long,” said Zip, grabbing a handful of crisps.