

Beyond the Book:

**Maven Takes the Lead
Girl Scout Book Club**

**Grades 2-6
Girl Scout Workbook**

girl scouts 
of greater atlanta

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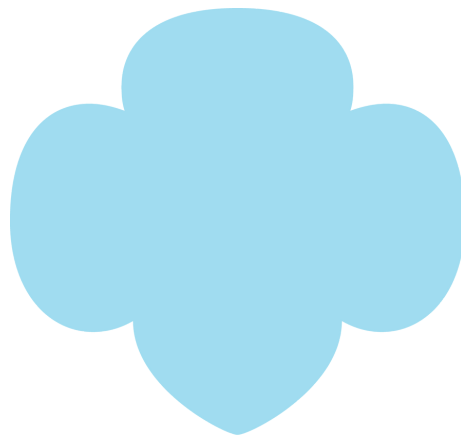
Introduction

Hey, Girl Scout!

We are so happy that you signed up to participate in the *Maven Takes the Lead* Book Club! During this time, you will not only read an amazing book by the talented writer Yamile Saied Méndez, but you will also be able to participate in some awesome art and science projects along the way. Plus there are two fun library challenges in this packet and your participation will enter you in a drawing for a special Girl Scout book box!

Enjoy the book and this companion packet.

Happy Reading!



Character Chart

Write the names and draw a picture of each character as they show up in the story. Use your imagination and the details about the characters descriptions from the story to help you draw your pictures.

Maven

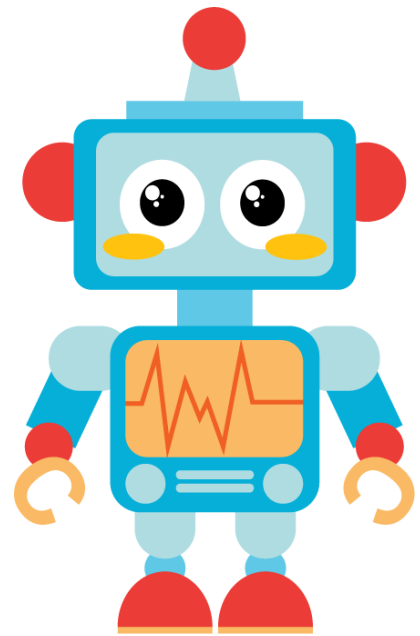
Chapters 1 and 2

Journal Time!

In Chapters 1 and 2 of *Maven Takes the Lead*, Maven is wrapping up the summer with her cousins and brother, and creating a summer camp experience with her imaginative games. What is your favorite summer activity? Use the space below to write down your thoughts or draw a picture of you participating in your favorite summertime fun.

Art Moment: Recycled Art Robot

Let's have a little art fun! It is time to make a robot out of recycled materials. Remember that Girl Scouts use their resources wisely, so make this robot completely with items that you can find around your home.



Supplies you may need:

- empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- scrap construction paper
- dried pasta noodles or beans (for decoration or buttons)
- cotton balls, q-tips
- liquid glue, or a hot glue gun (only use with adult supervision)
- old cardboard boxes
- empty cereal boxes, snack boxes, or any other food containers
- glitter, stickers and any other supplies for decoration
- empty soda or laundry detergent bottles (make sure all containers that had liquid inside are properly dried before using)
- anything else you think would be a great addition to your robot!

Make sure to show your adult all the supplies you want to use prior to putting your robot together. You want to make sure you are allowed to use the materials first!

Bonus: Have a Show and Tell with your recycle art robots. Encourage other Girl Scouts, family members, and friends to also make a recycle art robots. Pick a time to have a round of Show and Tell to display and describe your creations. This is a wonderful time to practice your public speaking skills! Go into detail about what materials you used and what your robot does. Have fun!

STEM Moment: Fun Facts about Fireflies!

Place a star next to all the facts about fireflies that you already know, and circle the facts about fireflies that are new to you.

- Fireflies are beetles and not bugs.
- Other names for fireflies are “lightning bugs” or “glow worms.”
- There 2,400 different species of fireflies worldwide.
- Adult fireflies light up. Not all species of fireflies light up.
- Some firefly species stay lit for many hours and some only light up for about twenty minutes right when the sun goes down.
- They do not live for a long time – they have a short life span
- Fireflies are the state insect of Tennessee.
- Fireflies use light to communicate with each other.
- Some fireflies synchronize their flashing with each others so they can glow together.
- Most adult fireflies are pollinators and they visit different flowers and feed off their nectar and pollen.
- Fireflies contain toxins to help them protect themselves from predators. These toxins are harmful to lizards and birds. If a firefly is threatened, they release tiny drops of blood that contain these toxins.

The number of fireflies are declining. What can Girl Scouts do to help improve the firefly population?

Art Break: Draw a Firefly in a Jar

Check out these fun art projects inspired by fireflies! Ask your adult to help you find these projects online:

[Make Glow-in-the-Dark Fireflies](#)



[How to Draw a Firefly in a Jar](#)



Creative Writing:

Juliette Gordon Low's Pets

Fun fact about Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts: She loved animals and had many pets! She had a golden retriever named Scout, a poodle mix named Oreo, and Penny her mini golden doodle. She also had a horse named Fire and many tropical birds.

Maven had an amazing imagination and made up wonderful stories with her sibling and cousins over the summer. Let's write a story about one or a few of Juliette Low's pets? Use pages 7 and 8 to write your story and use the cut-out pictures in the adult packet to illustrate your words.

Creative Writing: Juliette Gordon Low's Pets

Chapters 3 and 4

In chapter 3, Maven was talking about having the “scaries.” What does that mean to Maven and have you ever been in a situation where you had the scaries?

Georgia Geography

Georgia history is also Girl Scout History! Not only do Maven and her family live in Savannah, GA, that is also the birthplace of the Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low!

Fun Facts about Savannah, GA:

- Juliette Gordon Low was born in Savannah, GA. Her historic house is now a museum that allows visitors to learn about her life as well as Girl Scout history.
- Savannah was the first planned city in the USA and is the oldest city in Georgia. There are 24 squares in Savannah and they now serve as city parks.
- The Savannah River is home to many plants and animals including American Holly, Bellwort, bottle-brush buckeye, cypress trees, and birds like the Swallow-Tailed Kite.

Mini Art Break!

Color Georgia your favorite color or create a fun pattern.

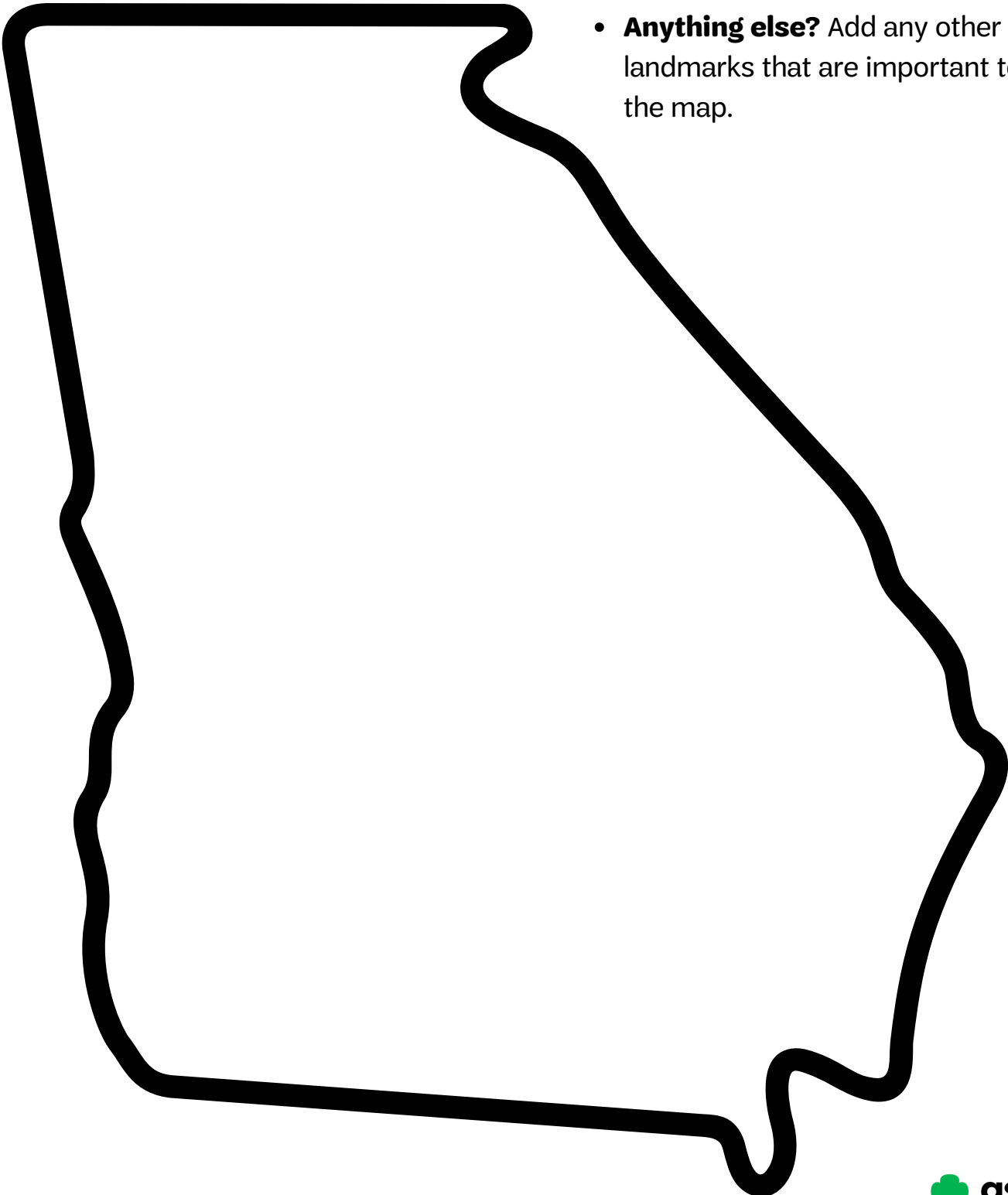


Fun Facts about Georgia:

- Atlanta is the capital of Georgia. Atlanta currently has a population of 518,107 people and 6,272,000 in the larger metro area.
- Georgia has 159 counties!
- The Okefenokee Swamp in south Georgia is the largest swamp in North America.
- Coca-Cola was invented in Atlanta, Georgia. This is also the location of the Coca-Cola museum.
- While Georgia is known as the “Peach State” because of the peaches that are grown here, Georgia is also known for its peanuts, pecans, and Vidalia onions (a sweet onion grown in soil with low sulfur).

Add these details to the blank Georgia map:

- **Cities:** Atlanta, Athens, Macon, Savannah.
- **Rivers:** the Chattahoochee River, the Savannah River, and the Chattooga River.
- **Anything else?** Add any other landmarks that are important to you to the map.



Chapter 5, 6 and 7 Journal Time!

In Chapter 5, Maven is able to see Gemma again after a long summer apart. She misses her best friend. Who is your best friend? What makes your friendship special? What do you do that makes you a good friend?

Chapter 5, 6 and 7 Journal Time!

Maven asked: “Why were robots even a part of life? Who had come up with the first idea for them, after all?” With the help or supervision from your adult, research the history of robotics. Also discuss many of the robots that you use in our daily life or the robots that help our communities. Use the space below to take notes or draw pictures from your research and conversations.

Your Local Library

Maven's father is a librarian, which means that she not only knows how to find awesome books to help her with her robotics project, she also knows about the other amazing things and opportunities that libraries offer.

Here are some of the amazing things that can be found in libraries!

- **Books, books, and more books!** Libraries allow you to read and check out amazing books from around the world and often written in many different languages. You can also have access to audiobooks, movies, and sometimes toys and other learning materials.
- **Internet access:** Libraries offer high-speed Wi-Fi and access to computers.
- **Digital resources:** Libraries provide access to digital resources including streaming services and language learning apps.
- **Meeting rooms and community spaces:** Many libraries allow people to reserve or rent rooms for free or for a low cost. Library meeting rooms are great spaces for Girl Scout meetings just like Maven and her troop!
- **Educational activities:** Many libraries provide educational opportunities. Cardholders have access to classes for learning new languages, crafting, and story times.
- **Ancestry Resources:** Some libraries offer access to online resources that allow you to learn more about your family lineage. Brownies, this would be a great resource to earn your Family Story badge!
- **And so much more!** Many libraries offer both in-person and virtual resources. Make sure to check in with your local library to learn more about everything that they provide.



Library Challenge

Challenge 1: Library Card

Sign up for your library card!

This summer, Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta is encouraging as many Girl Scouts in our council to sign up for their local library card. If you do not have one, make a plan with your adult to visit the library. When you have your library card and check out a few books, take a picture with your new library card and have your adult send it to us.

Have your adult fill out the form linked in the Adult Guide, upload your picture with your new library card, and be entered to win a special book box with a few fun book-related surprises.

Challenge 2: Book Recommendations

If you already have your library card, please participate in the 2025 GSGATL Book Review Challenge. Share the title, author, and a short book review (1 to 2 sentences) about why other Girl Scouts should read your favorite book. All reviews will be shared in a book recommendation list, so all Girl Scouts will continue to read amazing books! Plus, all Girl Scouts who submit a book recommendations will be entered to win a special book box with fun surprises!

Have your adult fill out the form linked in the Adult Guide, upload your picture of your favorite book, and be entered to win a special book box with a few fun book-related surprises.

Bonus Challenge:

Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors after you visit your local library. Ask them if they have a library card. If they don't, educate them about the amazing free resources that they have access to if they have a card. If they do have a library card, ask what library resources they use regularly.



Let's Make Lemonade!

In chapter 7, Maven was having a conversation with her mother about her feelings about the robotics team. Maven's mother gave her some lemonade as they talked.

It is time to make some delicious lemonade for you to enjoy!

Simple Lemonade Recipe

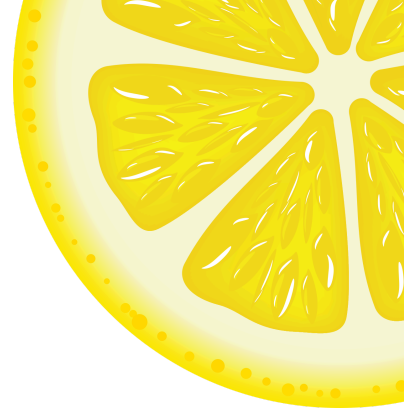
Lemonade is fun and easy to make. All you need is lemon juice (squeezed from fresh lemons or bottled).

The recipe is 1:3. This means “one to three” or one part lemon juice to 3 parts water. For example, if you use 1 cup of lemon juice, you need to add 3 cups of water.

Steps:

1. Add 1 cup of lemon juice to a pitcher.
2. Add 3 cups of water to the pitcher.
3. Make a simple syrup. To do this, add 1 cup of sugar to one cup of water in a medium sized pot on medium heat. Stir continuously on the stove until the sugar dissolves. Add to pitcher.
4. Place in refrigerator to cool or add in a glass over ice.
5. Enjoy!

Let's Make Lemonade!



Fruit Infused Lemonade

Lemonade is delicious, but adding additional fruit flavors to this popular drink can make it amazing!

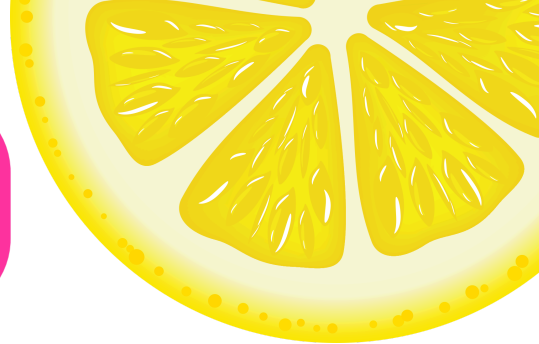
What you need: granulated sugar, fresh or frozen fruit (peaches, cherries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, work the best, but have fun and try a new flavor!). Watermelon lemonade? Kiwi lemonade? Give it a try!

Steps to making fruit infused simple syrup:

1. In a medium sauce pan and on medium heat, add equal parts sugar to equal parts fruit. For example, use 1 cup of chopped strawberries to one cup of sugar in the pot on medium heat. If you use 2 cups of chopped mangos, than use 2 cups of granulated sugar.
2. Stir until the sugar melts and the fruit begins to dissolve. You may need to add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup to 1 full cup of water to help all the ingredients mix together.
3. Make sure to continue to stir! Do not walk away from the stove! You do not want your mixture to burn. You want the end result to be thick but in liquid form.
4. Run the mixture through a sieve or a strainer. This will allow you to remove pulp and seeds. If you enjoy a thicker lemonade, skip this step.
5. In a glass or cup, add a few ice cubes (optional), and fill your glass up about 75% with your simple lemonade. Add 1 tablespoon of your fruit infused simple syrup. Add an additional tablespoon for a stronger fruit taste. Stir and enjoy!



Let's Make Lemonade!



Time-Lapsed Fruit Infused Lemonade

Do you want to try to add additional fruit flavor to your lemonade without making a simple syrup? Let's try to use time to add additional flavor to lemonade and see if it works.

Steps:

1. Make a pitcher of lemonade. Use the simple recipe from the previous page.
2. Add one cup of chopped fruit. You can use any fruit that you would like: strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, watermelon, etc.
3. Place the pitcher in the refrigerator and set a timer for one hour.
4. Using the chart below, after one hour, take a small cup and try your lemonade. Can you taste the flavor of the fruit that you added? Add your rating to the box under "1 hour."
5. Repeat step for "3 hours," "6 hours," and "overnight."

Bonus Discussion:

Make lemonade using the same fruit for both the "Fruit Infused Lemonade" and the "Time-Lapsed Fruit Infused Lemonade." Which method produced a stronger fruit taste?

Did the fruit flavor get stronger over time? Did the color of the lemonade change over time?

1 Hour

3 Hours

6 Hours

Overnight



Let's Make Lemonade!

Color-Changing Lemonade

It is easy to purchase food coloring from the store, but it is much more fun to make food coloring from vegetables! You can make color-changing lemonade using the recipe below.

What you need:

- 1 red cabbage
- 1 glass of lemonade

Steps:

1. Prepare lemonade using the "Simple Lemonade Recipe" on page 17.
2. Cut 1 cup worth of red cabbage.
3. Add red cabbage and 2 cups of water in a pot over medium heat. Bring to a boil.
4. Drain the red cabbage through a sieve and save the liquid.
5. Allow the liquid to cool.
6. Add one tablespoon to a glass of lemonade.

What color is your lemonade?

Herb-Infused Lemonade:

Substitute rosemary, basil, or lavender in a simple syrup the same way you could use fruit to make a simple syrup. Herb and floral infused lemonades are delicious. Give it a try!

Use Your Resources Wisely!

Don't throw away your extra red cabbage water! Use it to make watercolor and paint a beautiful piece of art!

- Use the beautiful purple color liquid as a watercolor. You will just need a paint brush and a piece of paper.
- You can also make other colors using the red cabbage water. In smaller cups, add a small teaspoon of lemon juice. In another cup, add a teaspoon of baking soda. In a third cup, add a teaspoon of laundry powder. What new colors did you make?

Chapters 8 and 9

Journal Time!

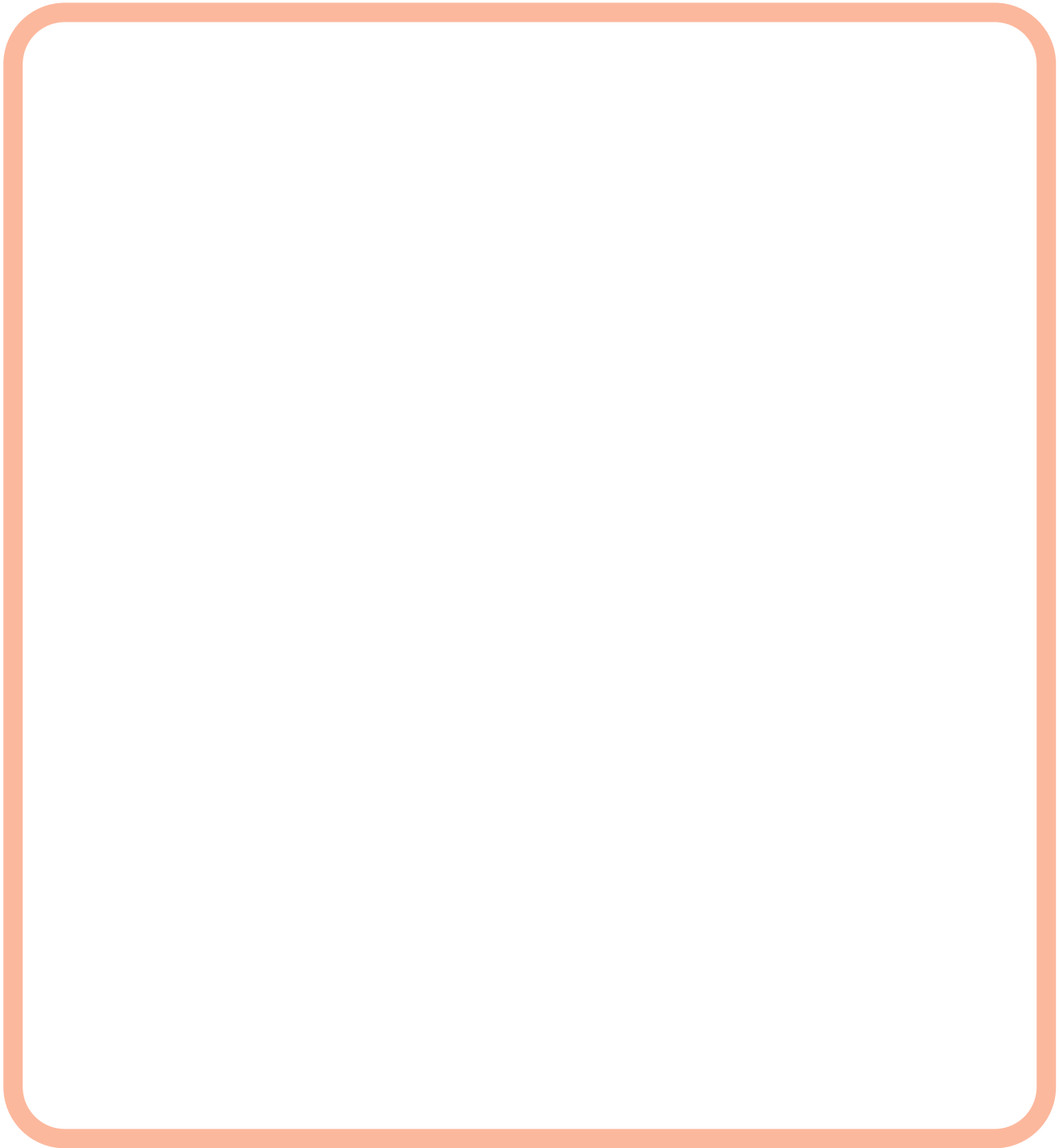
After chapter 9, what are your feelings about Dominic? How do you think he makes Maven feel? Have you ever dealt with a difficult person on a school project? How did you handle the situation? Or, have you ever been in a situation where you were struggling to figure something out? How did you react? What did you do? What was the end result?

If you had a chance to speak to Maven in this moment about her frustration, what would you tell her?

Chapters 9 and 10

Recycled Art Robot

Let's take an art break! Use the shapes on the cut-out pages in the adult packet and create a new robot. Make sure to add a background, or name your robot.
Optional: Make your robot on a separate piece of paper.



Chapters 12 and 13

Art Break: Collage

During this point of the story, Maven's Girl Scout troop takes a trip to the aquarium. While it was not the best time for Maven, she was at the largest aquarium in the USA - the Georgia Aquarium! There are so many amazing things to see at the aquarium, including animals and fish that are found in different parts of the world, and several species that are native to Georgia.

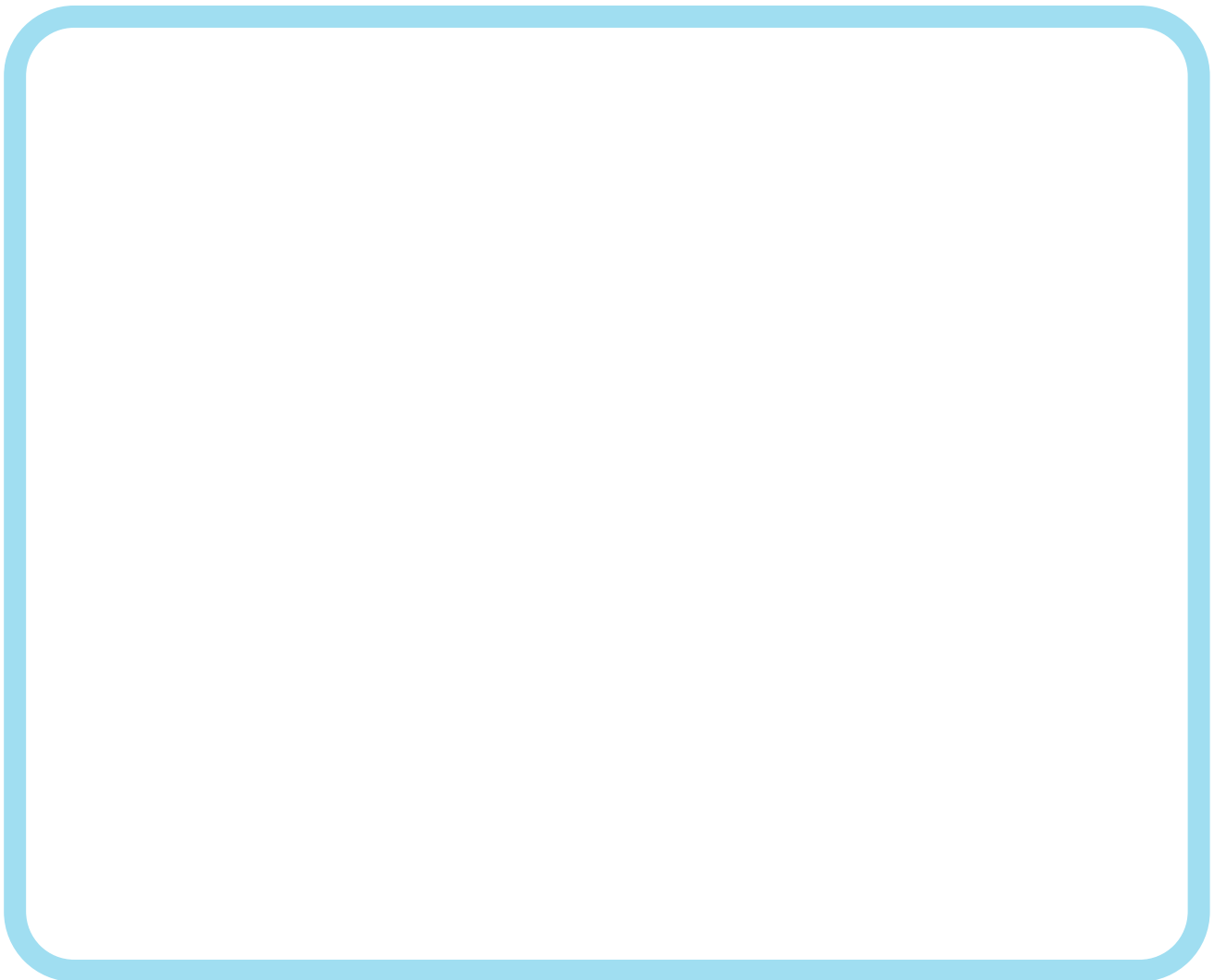
On a separate sheet of paper, cut out the photos in the adult packet labeled "Georgia Aquatic Collage Cut-Outs" and make a fun collage! Add additional animals or fish, or coral, seashells, and seaweed.



Chapter 14 and 15

In these chapters , Maven continues to deal with conflict with the boys in her class about the robotics competition. On page 135, it was discussed that “someone had to have the vision before something was able to come to life.” Do you know any visionaries and inventors that created things you use? In the adult guide, there is information about some amazing women in STEM. Are you familiar with these women? Do you know of others?

In the space below, draw a picture of yourself in the future. Maybe you are an inventor, engineer or another role in STEM. Maybe it is something completely different. Have fun and add details!



Chapters 16, 17, and 18

Homophone Fun!

Homophones are two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, or spelling. For example see and sea, buy and bye, or new and knew.

Maven mentioned a mechanical crane in Chapter 18. “I was inspired by a crane that was cutting a tree in my neighbors yard. The end of the mechanical arm had pincers, and the pincers in the other arm held the cut limb in place so it wouldn’t fall on the house or someone.”

Use the cut-out page in the adult packet titled “Homophone Fun.” Cut out the pictures of both cranes. On pages 25 and 26, illustrate a fun picture and write a fun story about the mechanical crane and a bird crane.

Chapters 16, 17, and 18

Homophone Fun!

Chapter 19

Art Break!

After Maven reconciled with her brother, they started to play. He said that he was a “pirate alien firefly.” That is a fun character! In the space below, draw a picture of a pirate alien firefly.

Chapters 20 and 21

Journal Time!

Towards the end of the book, Maven begins to have different ideas about her strengths and what skills she brings to a group project. What did Maven learn about what it means to be a leader?

Chapters 24 and 24

Journal Time!

Fluffy and Cheese are happy you made it to the end of the book!



“Being cool was being comfortable being yourself and loving what you love.” On the boxes below, write things that you love. This can include music artists, food, and hobbies.

The End!

What was your favorite scene from *Maven Takes the Lead*? In the space below, draw a new cover illustrating your favorite scene from the book. Make sure to include the name of the author and the Girl Scout name with a trefoil.

