

This month's pick is a graphic novel about two best friends - Sanity and Talullah - who live on the space station Wilnick. Other than the fact that they spend their time inventing mutant creatures, their lives are probably a lot like yours!

Sanity and Talullah's parents give them a lot of freedom, which sometimes means room to get in trouble. However, it can also mean room to learn from their mistakes and to take on leadership roles.

As you read, you might think and talk about ways in which your young girl can take on more independence and responsibility, and the ways in which the grown-ups in her life can better support her.

On the following pages, you will find some suggestions for how your book club meeting might go. Feel free to use whichever of these questions and tips works for your club, and substitute as you wish. The best book discussions develop organically as people listen closely and respond to each other.

Munch 'n' Chat, 20-30 minutes

Before girls and grown-ups arrive, the hosts might consider whether nametags might be helpful. If any of the people in attendance might not know each other, think about what you can do to put people at ease, and set a warm tone. Leave a little time for a "soft start" during which people can arrive, snack, and catch up or meet each other.

Ice-Breaker, 10-15 minutes

Everyone pair up with someone other than your girl or grown-up. If possible, try to pair with someone you don't know very well. Pairs take turns asking each other an icebreaker question. You could make up your own icebreaker or use one of our silly suggestions.

What is the place - real or imaginary - that you'd most love to visit?

If you were going to give a speech, who would you want to introduce you, and why?

After pairs have giggled over the question, take a few minutes for anyone who wants to share their answer with the group.

Book Discussion, 30 minutes or so

You might decide to start the discussion with every member saying her favorite part of the book before reading discussion questions. Some groups might have time to get to all of these questions, but many groups will pick one or two questions and spend the whole meeting discussing those. Feel free to come up with your own discussion questions, or bring up any ideas that came up while you were reading. Again, whenever possible let girls drive the conversation.

- What do you notice about the girls' lives and families that is similar to your own? How are they different?
- In what ways do the girls have independence on the space station?
- How does their independence get them into trouble? How does being independent give them the tools to solve problems?
- What are some times in the book when big things are asked of Sanity and Talullah?
- What are some times when they ask for help?
- What do you think about the part when Sanity stays behind to help save the space station? Should they have found another solution?
- Have Sanity and Talullah changed or learned anything by the end of the book? See if you can show evidence in the story.

Leadership Goals, 15 minutes

Sanity and Talullah have a lot of freedom to pursue things that they're interested in and, although they do cause problems, they also develop expertise and creative problem-solving. With your grown-ups, talk about one way in which you could have more independence and responsibility at home. Could you make a plan to try this out?

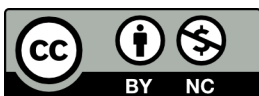
Closing, 5 minutes

Before everyone goes off their separate ways, make sure you've chosen a date for your March meeting. Happy reading!

Further Reading

If you really loved this book, and you'd like to read more books like it, here are some suggestions. If there are other books you would like to recommend, we'd love to hear them! Please share them on our **Girls Leadership Book Club Facebook Group** bit.ly/GLbookFB so our community can keep growing our list of great titles.

The *Lumberjanes* series by Noelle Stevenson and others - Graphic novel series about a group of girls at summer camp who use magic and friendship to fight a source of evil.



© 2019 by Girls Leadership.

This work is made available under a Creative Commons [Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 \(International\) License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).