

The illustration depicts a night scene at a park. In the foreground, a young boy with black hair and a red shirt looks surprised, holding a blue remote control with a glowing yellow ball. In the background, a grey, furry creature with a blue horn and a red, spiked chest piece stands on a log, with its arms raised. To the left, a red and white roller coaster car is visible. The background features a dark city skyline under a full moon, with a winged dragon flying in the upper right. A large, dark, spiky creature with red eyes looms in the top left corner.

Mark and the Molecule Maker

Written by Scott Sussman
Illustrated by Yves Margarita



A portion of proceeds from the sale of Mark and the Molecule Maker will be donated to First Book, a nonprofit organization that provides new books for children in need. Learn more about their work at www.firstbook.org



Mark and the Molecule Maker

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ISBN 978-0-9829506-1-6

Library of Congress Control Number: 2012946594

Printed in China by Kings Time Printing Press, Ltd.

The display type is set in Ozymandias.

Cover type is set in Gilligan's Island.

Second Printing, June 2016

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Mark ^{and the} MOLECULE Maker

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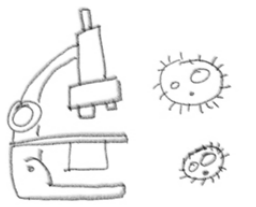
Meet Mark.



His father is an inventor.

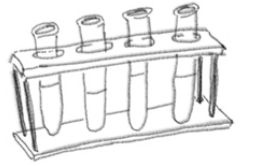


Mark's parents were sleeping while Mark lay wide-awake, tossing and turning in bed. He got up, paced back and forth, and then went downstairs for a glass of water.



He had opened the refrigerator and was reaching for the water bottle when he heard a crash. It had come from his father's laboratory. He shut the refrigerator and then hurried down the hall.





Mark put his ear against the laboratory door. He heard humming sounds, buzzes and an occasional crack. Though he knew it was against his father's rules, he turned the knob, opened the door and, for the first time ever, entered the lab alone.



He felt a rush of excitement but also a shadow of doubt as he gazed upon the gadgets, levers, wires, computers and other fiddle-faddle. There were shelves of glass jars with strange insects and exotic flowers. Liquids bubbled in tubes, machines whirred and clocks ticked.

TESTING AREA-KEEP CLEAR

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There was a remote control on top of the table. He had never seen it before. It was labeled, Molecule Maker. It had various buttons, each a different color, and one red switch on the side.



Mark picked up the Molecule Maker. He pressed the purple button. The Molecule Maker started rattling and became hot in his hand. Then a ray of light shot out and suddenly he was face to face with a fantastic creature.

$$E \sqrt{\frac{\frac{2}{3} + \frac{7^2}{5}}{25 - 75^{*3}}}$$





SMASH

Just like that, the creature leaped through the window, shattering the glass, and then smashed through the fence and dashed into the street.

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