



Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow

Nathan Bransford , C.S. Jennings (Illustrator)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow

Nathan Bransford , C.S. Jennings (Illustrator)

Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow Nathan Bransford , C.S. Jennings (Illustrator)

Jacob Wonderbar is used to detentions, but when a spaceship crashes near his house, he finds himself in a whole new level of trouble. After swapping a corn dog for the ship, he and his two best friends, Sarah Daisy and Dexter, take off on a madcap adventure. They accidentally cause an epic explosion, get kidnapped by a space pirate, and are marooned on planets like Numonia and Paisley, where the air smells like burp breath and revenge-hungry substitute teachers rule. And that's only the beginning . . . It turns out that there's an entire colony of space humans, and Jacob's long-lost father just might be one of them.

The first book in debut author Nathan Bransford's hilarious space adventure series has dynamite friendships, peculiar planets, and nonstop action. You'll never look at the stars the same way!

Book Details:

Format: Hardcover Publication Date: 5/12/2011 Pages: 288 Reading Level: Age 9 and Up

Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow Details

Date : Published May 12th 2011 by Dial Books

ISBN : 9780803735378

Author : Nathan Bransford , C.S. Jennings (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 281 pages

Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Humor, Fiction

 [Download Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow Nathan Bransford , C.S. Jennings (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow for online ebook

The Library Lady says

Started this and by the time Jacob and friends were off the spaceship, I was ready to put it down. I think this one goes in the category of "it's not as easy to write for kids as you think it is".

Unless you've got something new and cool to say or are such a terrific writer that you've said what's been said before in your own special way. Neither is the case here.

Kathryn says

While it's true that you usually can't judge a book by its cover, I think this one gives you a really good idea of what the book is about. Three friends, traveling through space, mostly having the time of their lives (though one looks a little nervous!). Even the author himself said that he rewrote the description of his main character after he saw the illustration. So, if the cover appeals to you, read on:

"Space travel is all fun and games until someone breaks the universe." With twelve-year-old Jacob Wonderbar's penchant for bold moves and disregarding all concern for consequences, it's doesn't take long after he and his friends Dexter and Sarah trade a corndog for a spaceship and boldly set off into the galaxy before they end up creating a cosmic space kapow that messes up the universe to such an extent that they may not be able to get back home. As they try to get their bearings in space, they encounter a dreaded space pirate Mick Cracken (who turns out to be about their age and not really that ruthless!) who wants their help in stealing an enormous diamond reported to grant wishes—wishes that could just be their ticket back to Earth! But, Jacob, Sarah and Dexter have different feelings about joining Mick and end up going their separate ways. Will their friendship be strong enough to keep them connected even across the vast reaches of space as they encounter a planet that smells like burp breath, Planet Archimedes (populated by of scientists), and Planet Paisley, the paradise of... substitute teachers!?

I fully expected to enjoy my adventure with Jacob Wonderbar. I've been reading agent-turned-author Nathan Bransford's blog for a few years now and always appreciated his humor, wisdom and style. And the premise of the book sounded like fun. So, I was only too happy to pre-order Bransford's first novel and read it straight away.

It's not a perfect novel, but it's still perfectly delightful. At times, I felt the pacing was a bit off—I enjoyed that the adventure moves along at a nice clip and I always felt compelled to turn the next page, but sometimes things felt a bit disjointed or needed more explanation. Still, most of the time Bransford does a masterful job of conveying the necessary information in a brief yet engaging and entertaining manner. And don't let all the corn dogs and burp breath planets fool you, this book has a great big heart, a lot of thoughtfulness, and some really witty and wise references. I felt an instant connection with Dexter, Jacob's well-meaning but cautious friend who comes from a very loving and well-ordered life but needs to find the courage to be his own hero and not let Jacob tackle all his battles when the going gets tough. Sarah Daisy is perhaps a bit more of a standard character (we see so many MG books these days with a boy protagonist and a smart-girl side-kick—I'm sure you can think of one right away, one involving wizard's hats and wands) but she came into her own and blossomed beyond clichés. I love how she hates her girly-sounding name

(Sarah Daisy), has a cat named Susan B. Anthony and feels her life is too crammed full of extracurricular activities (piano and Mandarin lessons, etc.) until she is forced to relax and get pampered and realized that it gets pretty boring real fast! ;-) I actually felt more of a connection with Dexter and Sarah than I did with Jacob but he is also a very strong character and there is a lot for contemporary audiences to appreciate here since he is from a bi-racial divorced family and trying to reconcile his feelings about his absent father which sometimes results in his bad behavior at school. Also, I absolutely loved the character Praiseworthy (the space ship) who reminded me a bit of C-3PO.

While it did have a few minor flaws, I still give this five stars for all the other aspects that far exceeded my expectations and for the sheer enjoyment in reading it. It's a worthy contribution to the Middle Grade market and I highly recommend it for anyone interested in a humorous and lovingly crafted space adventure.

Stacy says

This is a deviation from my normal readings habits. I gave it 3 stars just to be 'fair' and show neutralism. Otherwise, I would have given it 2 stars, but for the fact that it's not a book I'd normally read, which means that I would hate it, or not enjoy it, for that reason alone, so I decided to be neutral with the rating. I only read the book because I enjoy the author's blog.

The author does a good job with characterization. Each character has his/her hangups. The universe is well thought-out. The book was funny here and there.

I hated it though. I thought the storyline dragged on too much and there were too many twists for my tastes. At some point, some of the storylines became ridiculous, but then again, I'm not the reading demographic for this book, so young children might think it's fine. I won't be reading the sequels.

Tamara says

Supports STGRB and cant handle a negative review?

>

Lyndsay says

Reading this one out loud to the kids. It's easier for me to read out loud with them, how the sentences flow and are structured. But, I don't think this will be one of our favorites. Ryan doesn't like that the main character is a goof off, but we are starting to get into the story and we'll see how everyone feels at the end!

After finishing it, we just weren't that impressed, the writing's not the greatest, story is ok. Don't know that we'll read any more of them...

Tracey Baptiste says

Um, this was fine. Because of the title I expected a lot more quirkiness, but I found some of the interactions and descriptions to fall flat. However, it was innovative, and the characters were fun. Kids would definitely like it, and I think it has equal boy and girl appeal. I don't know if I'm intrigued enough to pick up book 2, but a lot of kids would.

Heidi says

I must confess, books that turn teachers into villains irritate me to some degree. Probably since I know so many teachers who work so hard to help their kids. Plus, the substitutes I've met have been really nice. But Bransford made up for the wacky substitutes by providing a great teacher by the name of Miss Banks. I also loved the idea of a separate planet where teachers can go on vacation. Sounds great!

I wasn't really expecting the book to be all that believable. I mean, breaking the universe?! But the story moves along at a brisk pace and soon the reader doesn't really care about whether the story is believable. Jacob and his friends, Sarah and Dexter, don't just face strange planets, and space pirates, but also some severe tests of their friendship, which for kids this age is very real. So the characters can be related to, despite the wacky happenings. Recommended for those who love adventure and a fun story.

Cait says

JACOB WONDERBAR AND THE COSMIC SPACE KAPOW (henceforth called JACOB WONDERBAR) is ridiculous in the best possible way. I was fully entertained from page 1 right to the end, and often laughed out loud at the silliness.

Jacob, Dexter and Sarah are three typical fifth graders – though Jacob has a knack for getting rid of substitute teachers – until they trade a spaceship for a corndog. Then, they're fifth graders in space. What follows their initial blast off into the big, wide Milky Way Galaxy is an adventure of epic proportions that includes breaking the universe, being stolen, finding a planet full of substitute teachers and running a maze as a science experiment.

The ideas presented in JACOB WONDERBAR are absolutely crazy, but work. The story is presented in such a good voice – all three kids stand out. Jacob is the crazy trouble-maker who is a good friend and decent kid. Dexter is the loyal friend and tag-along who has a backbone deep down and manages to come into his own, while Sarah is the smarty-pants whose parents enroll her in way too many activities and she can definitely take care of herself, thank you very much! The characters mesh so well together, and are so endearing. I want to be their teacher!

What I liked most about JACOB WONDERBAR is that underneath all the humour, adventures, space pirate and crazy scientists (not to mention all the substitute teachers) – underneath all the silliness – the story touches on absent parents, over-worked kids and really is a tale about friendship, and what it can hold up against and weather. I would have no problems recommending this book to elementary school kids (and

teens!), and I think they would love it.

Qt says

Fun, funny, and fast-paced! I thoroughly enjoyed my trip with Jacob Wonderbar and friends. I really liked all the humor and seeing what the rest of the universe looks like ;-) And, I loved how things moved right along very quickly; each chapter was just the right length (and stopped in the right place) to leave me wanting to read more. The end left me wondering about a couple of things, but I see that there are more Wonderbar books which might explain some of that; I will certainly be looking for them!

Jenna St Hilaire says

It's hard to imagine young boys—and girls—not loving Bransford's Jacob Wonderbar, terror of substitute teachers and adventurer extraordinaire. Jacob has a lot of heart underneath the bluff, and his best friends are just as much fun: forceful Sarah Daisy, who believes she can do everything, and gentle Dexter, who doesn't understand how to make decisions when other people's feelings are involved. I loved Dexter.

The plot details have middle school boy written all over them: the burp breath planet, goofy space people, talking spaceships, over-enthusiastic scientists who can be distracted by a math problem to solve. Not to mention the corn dog (though I must admit that I love corn dogs) and the challenges of school. It's not a particularly challenging storyline, but it's the sort that even kids who otherwise care little for reading might enjoy—playful, funny, suspenseful, and punctuated with lively illustrations.

Fortunately for its older and female readers, it's not all young boy humor. Sarah Daisy's independence is played for light comic effect without undermining her strengths; Dexter is treated with honest sensitivity, and Jacob is allowed to be very imperfect without losing the reader's sympathy. And if Jacob's teacher doesn't warm the hearts of teachers everywhere, I don't know what will.

It wraps up cheerfully, but leaves some threads open for the sequels. And in the end, it's hard not to like a book that takes a little time to gaze at the stars.

Josh Newhouse says

very cute wacky fun elementary space odyssey thats kind of like Douglas adams crossed with The Phantom Tollbooth with a hint of Star Wars/spaceballs... one gratuitous reference to calculators spelling "boobies"...

Rick Daley says

This was a fun read. I'm a big fan of Douglas Adams, and it reminded me of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy in some of its worlds and shenanigans. At the same time, though, it was original (there were no corndogs in The Guide, but a Pan-Galactic Gargle Blaster would be ideal to wash one down, come to think of it!)

Nathan Bransford is a great writer, his story-telling style is clear and his sense of pacing is good...no dull moments. The story and characters will appeal to young boys and girls, and immature adults like me.

I'm definitely going to read the next installment when it comes out in April 2012!

Sandra Stiles says

I have been a follower of Nathan Bransford's blog, for a little over a year. When I learned he had written a book and it was in the early reviewers giveaway at LibraryThing I had to try. I was thrilled that I won a copy for review. Normally I review things pretty quickly. However, we had a read-a-thon at school and I had brought several books. Many of my students didn't have a book or had finished theirs and I ended up loaning them my books. I sat down Saturday night and started the book and finished it Sunday morning. It was wonderful. I loved the book for many reasons that I will try to explain.

Jacob Wonderbar is your typical sixth grade student. He feels his job is to distract substitute teachers from the lessons. As a teacher and a former substitute teacher I've met many kids like Jacob. Jacob meets a sub he is unable to tame or make run in terror. Mrs. Pinkerton knows who he is. He unfortunately gets sent to the principals office along with his best friends Sarah and Dexter. Things don't go well for him. His mother has been called and he is grounded. Sarah and Dexter go to Jacobs house to find out his punishment when they witness a silent explosion. They go to investigate. In the forest they discover a spacecraft and a man dressed from head to toe in silver. He offers to trade his spaceship for a corn dog. Jacob jumps at the chance to buzz around space and makes the trade. Once in the ship with his friends the ship takes off. When he overrides the ships automatic system he creates havoc in space and breaks the universe. This event leads to a run in with space cops, a pirate, a planet of scientists, the planet Numonia, where a day is one minute long and a planet full of substitute teachers who all know of Jacob Wonderbar.

I laughed at Jacob's antics. I was actually picturing one of my students as Jacob. All teachers have a Jacob in their classroom. They are usually one of the more intelligent, lively students. I loved the character Sarah. She reminded me of some of my international students. Their parents have them in tutoring before and after school. If a special program is offered, no matter what the subject matter their child goes into it. They have expressed a desire to just have a little free time for themselves. They have turned out to be some of my biggest readers. It is their form of escape. Dexter is that kid that seems to always be picked on and needing rescued. But, let someone go after his best friend or something he really loves or wants and look out. I recently had a student who has said very little all year that wasn't associate with the lesson, stand up to another student about something he was extremely passionate about. The other teacher in the room and I stood and looked in awe. It gave me hope that kids like Dexter will survive in the world because they have their passion hidden inside of them. This is a book I didn't want to end. I want to find out more about Dexter's dad and what adventures he has before him. I know that there are one or two more books coming in this series and I can't wait to read and review them. This is one of those books of which I will need to purchase several copies because they will not be on my shelves for long and will be read until they fall apart. Well done Nathan and I wish you much success with your future books.!

Ann says

I've been a fan of Nathan Bransford's Blog for years now (funny, helpful, kind, informative). So, I was thrilled to learn that he'd written a book and I couldn't wait to get a copy!

I was not disappointed!

"Jacob Wonderbar" is fun, funny, and clever, as well as touching, sweet, and thoughtful. For the first few chapters I was concerned that the characters were going to be too similar to characters that tend to populate most MG books. But, it became clear very soon that such was not the case! Jacob, and his two best friends, Sarah (Daisy) and Dexter are well rounded, and not at all flat, character "types".

The plot is loads of fun! I don't want to give anything away, but I was expecting the book to be mostly about, well, Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapow. And it was, but it's just as much about Sarah and Dexter and testing the friendship of the trio. It just all happens to occur in space!

The book moves along at an incredibly speedy pace! Focusing on one major event to the next. But with so few words, Bransford was still able to convey great images and emotions and connections with the characters. The supporting characters and places were just as memorable and interesting as the main characters.

Really, my only "complaint" is also a compliment: Sometimes I wanted more. It's not that I was ever really confused by anything, only that I was enjoying the book so much, and liked the characters so much, that I felt there were a few scenes which I wanted to last longer in order to really soak up the emotions and everything.

I wasn't sure (in a good way) how the book would end. And plot twists surprised me (in a good way) throughout the book. I'd definitely recommend this book! And I'm already eager for the next installment!!

Review pending :)

Ah... didn't win one in the giveaway... bummer...

Well, I certainly have no qualms about purchasing one and supporting Nathan though! :D

Yay! I've been reading Nathan's blog for about a year and a half now, 'met' him a few times at a couple conferences, and he seems like a great guy (and a hilarious writer!) I'm so pleased for him and his debut novel. I am so anxious to read it!

Sara says

Jacob and his two best friends, Sarah and Dexter, are outside in their neighborhood one day when a spaceship lands nearby. The spaceship soon becomes theirs, and almost immediately after they set foot inside, it blasts off for a trip around the universe. They accidentally set off a chain of events that makes them wonder whether they'll ever be able to return to Earth and have a crazy adventure moving from one planet to the next, all the while trying to figure out how to get home.

The first chapter seemed a little silly, albeit fun, but once the space adventure began, it was quite entertaining. The story kept a nice brisk pace and there were lots of fun details provided about the different planets: one was populated with nothing but crazy scientists, another had "days" that lasted only one minute before a minute of night fell, and - my personal favorite - the planet populated only by substitute teachers, all of whom remembered Jacob from his antics in class under their watch. There was a lot of humor in this book, and although none of it made me howl with laughter, I had a lot of fun reading this. I felt like the book only got better as it went on.

Aside from the humor, the main characters were all quite likable and had strong friendships. There didn't seem to be excess words describing their emotions or deep feelings, but it was perfectly balanced between internal and external character development and action.

Although this book is aimed at younger readers, it was such an entertaining story that I feel like most people would find it amusing while the target audience would love it. The story had a definite "end" to it, which I loved, but there were enough loose threads that I'll look forward to picking up the next book in the series to find out what adventures the characters will have next time around!
