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barney s boring seaside vacation suddenly becomes more interesting when the cottage next door is occupied by three exotic neighbors who are addicted to a game they call interstellar pig

a teenager becomes interested in a strange board game called interstellar pig the obsession of his new and unusual neighbors and he soon stumbles into a nightmare when he discovers that the game is real

barney s stuck at a boring after school job earning money to repay his parents after their beach house is destroyed in a battle with aliens of course they don t believe that aliens did the damage no one in fact realizes that sixteen year old barney saved the world by outsmarting the visitors at their violent game saved the world by outsmarting the visitors at their violent game interstellar pig no one but the aliens and for them the game is far from over barney is about to become the unwilling partner of a chatty intestinal parasite the potential snack of giant man eating crabs and the competitor of a stinger happy seven foot wasp woman life just got a lot more interesting

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provides articles covering children s literature from around the world as well as biographical and critical reviews of authors including avi c s lewis j k rowling and anno mitsumasa

who had birds called death wigs and spinach how do you spell the noise of a door slamming whose working title was the chronic argonauts henry eliot author editor and insatiable bookworm has ransacked the libraries and archives of world literature compiling hundreds of bookish lists this eclectic gallimaufry showcases his favourites we witness the tragic ends of the ancient greek tragedians learn the name of george orwell s pet cockerel and rummage through joan didion s travelling bag we consider the history of literary fart jokes orbit the shakespearean moons of uranus and meet several pigs with wings from the sublime to the ridiculous and everything in between eliot s lists recommendations and nuggets of trivia will delight inspire and surprise anyone who loves reading beautifully presented with supplementary maps and illustrations henry eliot s book of bookish lists is the essential gift for book lovers

at the close of the nineteenth century american youths developed a growing interest in electricity and its applications machines and gadgetry when authors and publishers recognized the extent of this interest in technology they sought to create reading materials that would meet this market need the result was science fiction written especially for young adults while critics tended to neglect young adult science fiction for decades they gradually came to recognize its practical and cultural value science fiction inspired many young adults to study science and engineering and helped foster technological innovation at the same time these works also explored cultural and social concerns more commonly associated with serious literature nor was young adult science fiction a peculiarly american phenomenon authors in other countries likewise wrote science fiction for young adult readers this book examines young adult science fiction in the u s and several other countries and explores issues central to the genre the first part of the book treats the larger

contexts of young adult science fiction and includes chapters on its history and development included are discussions of science fiction for young adults in the u s and in canada great britain germany and australia these chapters are written by expert contributors and chart the history of young adult science fiction from the nineteenth century to the present the second section of the book considers topics of special interest to young adult science fiction some of the chapters look at particular forms and expressions of science fiction such as films and comic books others treat particular topics such as the portrayal of women in robert heinlein s works and representations of war in young adult science fiction yet another chapter studies the young adult science fiction novel as a coming of age story and thus helps distinguish the genre from science fiction written for adult readers all chapters reflect current research and the volume concludes with extensive bibliographies

a guide to classic literary works that identifies the common themes and characteristics of more than four hundred classic fiction works and offers suggestions on how to improve teen and adult readers interest in the works

the book focuses on individuals writing in the 90s but also includes 12 classic authors e g mark twain louisa may alcott j r r tolkien who are still widely read by teens it also covers some authors known primarily for adult literature e g stephen king and some who write mainly for middle readers but are also popular among young adults e g betsy byars an affordable alternative to multivolume publications this book makes a great collection development tool and resource for author studies it will also help readers find other books by and about their favorite writers

contemporary young adult literature is a relatively new genre this guide provides an overview of the burgeoning field focusing primarily on fiction each of the 32 chapters is devoted to a theme of special significance to young adults and provides brief critical discussions of several related literary works chapters close with lists of fiction for further reading an appendix groups works according to additional themes and a selected bibliography cites relevant critical studies

organized into eighteen thematic chapters offers more than nineteen hundred annotated listings of recommended titles for young adults

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