

DRAGON PEARL



DECOR

To prepare for your event celebrating the arrival of *Dragon Pearl*, use the book cover and epic adventure as inspiration, and introduce the atmosphere of planetary exploration to your party. Backdrops of outlines of planets and solar systems (both familiar and creative, constructed from your imagination) will get attendees into the spirit of the journey Min takes in *Dragon Pearl*. Use ready-made galaxy backdrops or create your own scenes with butcher paper. Adorn your space with layered space ships and outlines of foxes, dragons, and tigers, all important in the *Dragon Pearl* adventures. Remember, balance the dark tones of space with colors as vibrant as this Korean-inspired space opera.

FOODS

No party is complete without snacks! Journeying through space is no small feat. Your event attendees are sure to be hungry after completing their intergalactic travel, so be sure to offer *Dragon Pearl*-inspired refreshments. Korean snacks and/or space foods can offer readers an opportunity to celebrate an out-of-this-world reading experience.

Korean sweet and savory snacks to consider offering your guests:

- Orion Choco Pies
- Nongshim Banana Kick Banana Snack
- Nongshim Tako Chips

- Ottogi Ppushu Ppushu Dduckboki
- Orion Wang Seasoned Goraebab
- Shrimp-flavored crackers

For cosmic fun, include:

- Moon pies
- Bright cookies shaped like foxes, dragons, tigers, planets, and stars
- Puffed cheeseball “asteroids”
- Fruits, veggies, and cheese cut into space shapes like rockets, moons, and stars
- “Planet pops” (cake pops) or space ice cream

ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS TO GET THE PARTY STARTED!

Use the following activities and crafts to get your partygoers into the spirit of this space odyssey.

ICE BREAKER: MEET, MINGLE, AND GUESS— TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

As a fox spirit, Min can be described as both cunning and deceptive, but she is also clever and determined. When necessary, she stretches the truth to get out of the trouble she often finds herself in. For an icebreaker activity, have attendees write three statements about themselves on large cards. Two of the statements should be true (e.g., “I like to eat broccoli,” “Red is my favorite color”) and one statement should be false (e.g., “I am a great basketball player”), but all three statements need to



be plausible. Once everyone has had a chance to write their three statements, give each attendee a sheet of stickers and instruct them to walk around the room and introduce themselves to each other. They should ask to read each other's statements and guess which one is the lie. When a player guesses the correct lie, they should get a sticker from the other player. The player who ends up with the most stickers wins a prize of your choosing.

IT'S A SPACE SPEED RACE!

Divide participants into relay teams. Provide each team with a small inflatable planet (available online for purchase—they look like beach balls). Have the team members lie on their backs on the floor next to each other in a line. The first person should lie with their head facing north, the next should lie with their head facing south, and so on, so the planet can be passed from hands to feet to hands to feet as the inflatable ball is moved from teammate to teammate. Once the planet reaches the last person, they should pass it back to the beginning. The first team to return their planet to their home galaxy wins!

MIX-IT-UP RELAY RACE!

For Min, getting around the galaxy takes a great deal of creativity and some cunning as she searches for her brother. Ask participants to “mix it up” as they get from here to there for this adrenaline-pumping relay race. First, establish marker points A and B a few feet apart for each team. Then divide attendees into small teams of 4–5 people. Next, explain the rules. Players must travel from point A to point B and back again, in turns, until the everyone on the team has participated, but there's one catch—they have to mix it up! No player on the team can travel in the same manner as their teammate. One can hop, one can crab-walk, one can leap, one can skip, one can run, and so on until you have a winner!

YOU LOOK OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Throughout Min's adventures on her home planet of Jinju, aboard the *Pale Lightning* battle cruiser, and in the Fourth Colony, she has to interact with creatures that look different from her. She and others employ shape-shifting disguises to protect themselves or accomplish their goals.

After a brief discussion about what extraterrestrials might look and dress like, divide the group into small teams. Place two similar piles, boxes, or suitcases of dress-up items on one side of the room—one per team—being sure to use *Dragon Pearl*-inspired masks (fox, tiger, and dragon faces can be made out of construction paper or found online).

The first player runs to the pile, puts all the dress-up items on top of their clothing, then runs back to their teammates. They teammates have to remove all the dress-up items and give them to the next player, who must put them all on, run back to the pile, deposit them back in the box, and run back so the next player can repeat the process.



GETTING CRAFTY

To get readers excited about *Dragon Pearl* and their introduction to Korean mythology and this epic intergalactic adventure, consider the following craft projects or stations for your event.



CREATE YOUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM

One of the most fun elements of reading *Dragon Pearl* is imagining the planets Min encounters in her adventures.

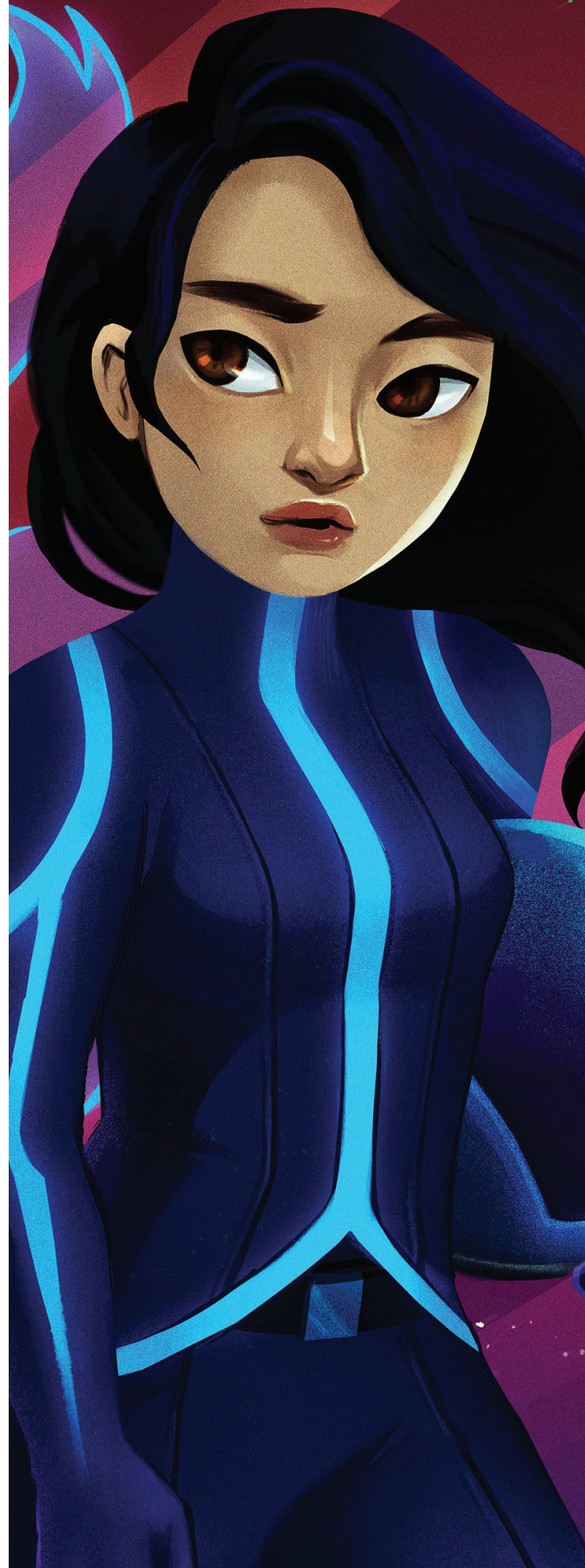
After putting readers in groups, preview and share images of our solar system, and then encourage them to design and create their own planets, including naming them. Be sure to offer participants art supplies including paints, fishing wire, and a variety of styrofoam, rubber, or papier-mâché balls of various sizes, and let the world-building begin!

GALAXY SLIME

After dividing readers into small groups, give each group a different slime recipe found online at a site like <https://www.homesciencetools.com/article/how-to-make-slime/> (consider having supplies marked and premeasured for ease of creation). Slime types could include Simple Slime, Super Slime, Glooze Slime, and Quicksand Slime. Working together, *Dragon Pearl* readers can create sparkly slime as stretchy as the galaxy. Be sure to offer containers so groups can divide up their creation and take it home.

DESIGN A STARSHIP OR STARFLEET

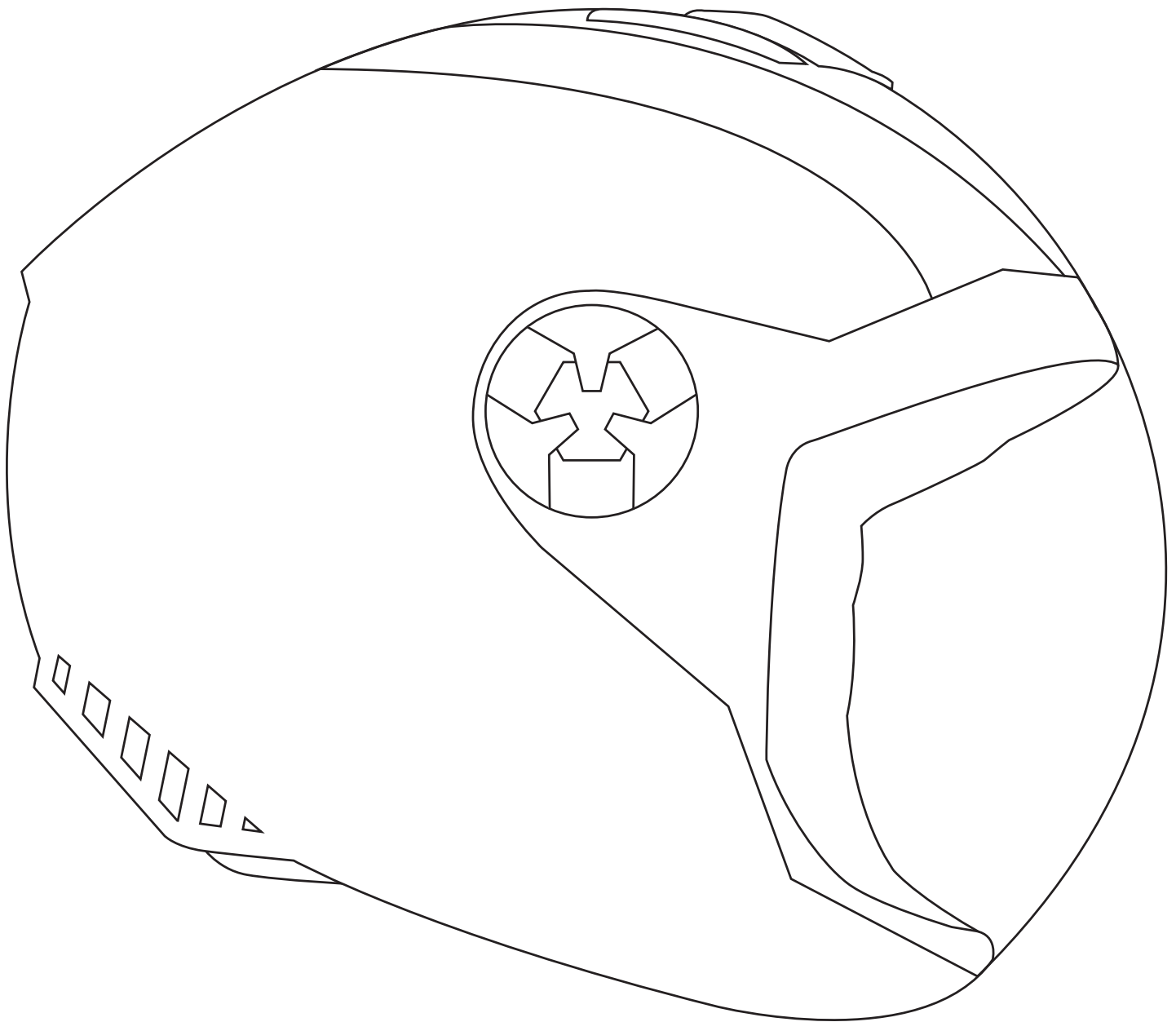
Throughout *Dragon Pearl*, readers get glimpses of the *Pale Lightning* and *Red Azalea*, two of the ships Min travels on during her adventures. Either working independently or in small groups, let partygoers design an original starship. Be sure to provide graph paper, large drawing paper, or butcher paper for their designs. Remind readers that ships are named (for good luck), so a creative moniker is needed, too. When the illustrations are completed, invite a representative from each group to present their vessel to the larger group.





DESIGN YOUR OWN SPACE HELMET EMBLEM

Like Min and her fellow space travelers, it's essential to have the right gear. Use the following space to decorate your own space helmet, being sure to incorporate symbols or short slogans that are meaningful to you.





SPACE—IS IT FACT OR FICTION?

1. One thousand Earths could fit inside the sun—and the sun is considered an average-size star.

FACT or **FICTION**

2. For years, it was believed that Earth was the only planet in our solar system with liquid water. More recently, NASA revealed its strongest evidence yet that there is intermittent running water on Mars, too.

FACT or **FICTION**

3. Comets are leftovers from the creation of our solar system about 4.5 billion years ago—they consist of sand, ice, and carbon dioxide.

FACT or **FICTION**

4. You wouldn't be able to walk on Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune because they have no liquid surface.

FACT or **FICTION**

5. If you could fly a plane to Pluto, the trip would take more than 80 years.

FACT or **FICTION**

6. Space junk is any human-made object orbiting Earth that no longer serves a useful purpose. Scientists estimate there are about 500,000 pieces of space junk today, including fragments from rockets and satellites, and everyday items like spanners dropped during construction of the International Space Station.

FACT or **FICTION**

7. An asteroid about the size of a car enters Earth's atmosphere roughly once a year—but it burns up before it reaches us.

FACT or **FICTION**

8. The highest mountain known to man is on Mars and is called Olympus Mons. Measuring a whopping 15.5 miles in height, it is three times as tall as Mount Everest!

FACT or **FICTION**

9. There are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. That's at least a billion trillion!

FACT or **FICTION**

10. The sunset on Mars appears orange.

FACT or **FICTION**