



# The STEM Club Goes Exploring

*Lois Melbourne*

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## **The STEM Club Goes Exploring** Lois Melbourne

In *The STEM Club Goes Exploring*, students explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. While interviewing STEM professionals, the students prepare to make career presentations during their school's Favorites Day.

Join STEM Club members Fran, Sara, Nixie, Winston, Patti, Betik, Jenny, Jesse, and their teacher Mr. Day, as they make field trips to a video game company, a veterinary clinic, a hospital, and even a mine, to learn more about career opportunities for professionals in STEM fields.

Author Lois Melbourne, of the My Future Story series, inspires readers to identify their passions, explore them, and shape their own future stories.

## **The STEM Club Goes Exploring Details**

Date : Published June 15th 2016 by Greenleaf Book Group Press

ISBN : 9781626343030

Author : Lois Melbourne

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# From Reader Review **The STEM Club Goes Exploring** for online ebook

## **Suzanne says**

STEM has been a hot topic lately, and it is nice to see more titles that address this area. The subject matter in combination with the graphic format should capture the attention of many young readers. The approach is reminiscent of a Magic School Bus adventure, minus the transforming bus and Ms. Frizzle's flamboyant personality. In this instance we have a male teacher who is in charge of the STEM Club. He drives the kids around in a minivan (that does not transform into anything else), as they visit various places where they can research STEM careers. Once they are done with the interviews, they will edit together a video to share with the school.

There are many positives about this book. Besides the timely topic, there are diverse backgrounds among the students and the people they interview, as well as a mix of male and female characters. The careers that they go on location to investigate are not discussed in isolation. Other STEM-related jobs are also pointed out by each expert, such as the veterinary student who talks about classmates who plan to work on creating healthy pet food and supplements, or the geologist who points out that an astronaut who walked on the moon and collected samples was also a geologist. Fields as different as physical therapy and video game design are all covered, based on the interests of each student in the club. And the process of creating the video is a STEM activity in itself - with kids planning, filming, and editing.

Overall it is an entertaining read and an easy introduction into the idea of STEM careers (and the education that prepares for them). This book would be a helpful addition to elementary school libraries or classrooms.

I read an e-book provided by the publisher through NetGalley.

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## **Vicky says**

There's a lot of potential in this book and, in fact, the glossary of careers at the end is very useful. The colorful illustrations are also good.

That said, however, I found the narrative style to be very stilted and didactic. There was very little personality to the children as they interviewed professionals in various STEM fields. The purpose is very obviously to give children career information, and it's definitely an efficient way to do so, but as a story, it's just...blah.

The author does do a good job of portraying both boys and girls in the STEM club, and men and women in the various careers. Also plenty of people of color. Kudos for that.

Possible Objectionable Material:

Nothing comes to mind.

Who Might Like This Book:

Readers, probably grades 2-5, who want information more than they want a story.

This review also posted at <http://biblioquacious.blogspot.com/20...>

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### **Beth says**

The STEM Club goes Exploring by Lois Melbourne is an informative and enjoyable way to introduce children between the ages of 9-12 to possible careers. This is accomplished through the story of a STEM club field trip. Each student on the field trip is researching and conducting interviews with adults who work in various fields. The students are planning on making a video presentation about their field trip. Some of the career possibilities explored are software development, veterinary medicine, geology, engineering and medicine with a discussion of what type of education is involved. Other career fields are also presented such as air traffic control, physical therapist, dieticians, chemical engineering, and many others. Throughout the book the reader can begin to understand the importance of Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math in making career choices.

The book is well done packed with information that is presented in an entertaining fashion. This book would make a great addition to a child's personal library or a school library. It is a great way to open their minds to all that may be available to them as jobs in the future.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and Greenleaf Book Group in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **M. says**

What a great book to get children thinking about their interests and futures. I won it in a contest and I was very impressed.

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### **Cyndi Winsor says**

Great book that highlights STEM careers for kids based on things that interest them. I wish this had been around when I was growing up. Fortunately, I found my way into a technology field anyway. :) Great graphics and a fun read!

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### **Paul Franco says**

A school club takes field trips to look at disparate jobs in the STEM professions. After a brief intro, Nixie—great name—is seen interviewing her uncle, who has a software company. This is told in sharp cartoon-like drawings in bright colors, which works perfectly. Winston's cousin is going to veterinarian school, but not to be a vet; instead he wants to be an animal medicine researcher. Someone else wants to design pet food. The book is full of jobs that most people would never think of (try to find the surprised looking bunny on that page). There's interviews with a geologist,

doctor, mechanical engineer, and chemical, molecular (nano), and electrical engineers.

It's the kids in the club who handle the video and sound as well as the interviewing; they're kinda young, but I guess being in this particular club helps.

Ends with glossary of careers.

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### **Cathy says**

I found this to be a fun way for children to explore STEM fields. In it students from the STEM CLUB create a video with the students interviewing people they know in STEM fields about their jobs. One girl interviews her uncle who is an entrepreneur and has a company which produces apps. Another student interviews a cousin who is in veterinary school and works in a vet's office while another interviews the doctor who helped her grandfather after he had a heart attack. Each interviewee talks about the large number of people with other skills who are needed to help them do their job.

The dialogue is natural and informative. There is a very good Glossary of Careers at the end which covers those dealt with in the book

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### **Kend says**

Another fantastic find; I run a Makerspace Monday program in our small rural library and I'm always looking to pair up the activities with a carefully chosen book or two, and it's hard to find age-appropriate books for my younger attendees. Lois Melbourne has struck a high note with *The STEM Club Goes Exploring* that will prove both useful as well as entertaining for my first through third grade kiddos, and the glossary of terms at the back may prove handy as a resource for those looking to place themselves within the world of STEM "explorers" at play on the page.

It's also worth mentioning that this book is highly attractive and a pleasure to hold in the hand. The colors are crisp, the pages glossy and a nice weight, and the binding durable enough to hold up to the kind of hard wear-and-tear so commonly levied against library books. I'll be integrating this into our library collection as well as looking for a second copy to keep with our Makerspace.

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### **Wayne McCoy says**

'The STEM Club Goes Exploring' by Lois Melbourne seemed like a promising idea: a book showing possible careers to kids on a field trip.

The STEM club goes on a field trip and sees a number of careers involving STEM skills: a video game company, a veterinary clinic, a hospital and a mine. They talk to grownups and learn about these careers. At the end of the book is a pretty decent glossary of terms.

Since the U.S. government declared our deficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math(aka STEM) a few years ago, the push has been on to add more education for kids. I'm not opposed to that. Not all jobs are for all people, but exposing kids to career options is a good thing. Unfortunately, this book comes across as kind of bland. The kids are a diverse group, but they come across as generic and indistinct. The

careers featured are interesting to kids, I suppose, but the book didn't seem to be very inspiring. Instead, it seems to be the kind of thing an ambitious parent would force their kid to read.

I received a review copy of this ebook from Greenleaf Book Group and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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### **Anusha Narasimhan says**

This is an informative and entertaining book for children. Kids will get to know about different career options in STEM. The information is encapsulated in the form of a story where students take a trip to different locations and interview professionals about career options in their field.

The illustrations are good. The glossary at the end is helpful. It is great to see diversity in the people being interviewed. I'll recommend this book for primary and middle school kids.

Note: I received a free copy of the book from the publisher. This review is my personal opinion and has not been influenced anyway by anyone.

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### **Dilsh Wijesinghe says**

An Advanced Review Copy Provided By The Publisher Via NetGalley In Exchange For An Honest Review.

Wow!!! I Really Explored Some New STEM Careers From This Children Book. Great Educational Storybook. Interesting!!! Excellent Illustrations!!! Those cute graphic pictures are able to attract the reader's mind to the book.

Forward this Picture

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### **Monica Fastenau says**

Read the full review here: <http://newberyandbeyond.com/arc-stem-...>

I'm a big fan of encouraging kids to get into STEM fields, especially girls and people of color who are statistically underrepresented in these more technical fields. Because of that, I'm really rooting for the success of this book.

The STEM Club Goes Exploring is a cute exploration of different STEM-related careers, from veterinary science to geology. I love the illustrations, too. My one complaint is that it reads a bit young, but it's definitely not a picture book—possibly suited for elementary school kids. A fun, quick read to help your young kids get interested in STEM fields.

\*Note: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says**

The STEM Club Goes Exploring has an admirable aim that it almost accomplishes perfectly. Aimed at kids ages 9-12, it explains and briefly explores some of the careers students in (S)cience, (T)echnology, (E)ngineering and (M)ath have open to them. Confession Time: I didn't realize a good quarter of the ones discussed fell under the STEM umbrella. Pretty cool! Lois Melborne does a fantastic job of making clear the sheer variety of jobs available. The section on what goes in to making an app was extremely interesting. It perfectly illustrated that not only does it take a team to pull off something, but that all parts are equally important.

The illustrations are nice, and reminded me strongly of The Magic School Bus. There's definitely a nice diversity of characters, and it doesn't feel like one gets more 'air-time' than the other. In fact, the author goes out of her way to throw some stereotypes on their head. For example, having one of the girls proclaiming her love of math and how she thinks about it all the time. However, though the illustrations are nice, the positioning and size of the text could use some work. The small, dense blocks of text are very easy for the eye to skim over instead of really reading. It's not a friendly format for small screens if you're considering pulling this up on a tablet/phone for the kids to read. Even pulled up on a large computer screen, it still isn't optimal, as the text is really tiny.

Overall, The Stem Club Goes Exploring is a nice book packed with lots of interesting information. It just, funnily enough, has a few design flaws that keep it from being perfect. It would be a great book to have in a classroom library, waiting rooms, and places like that. It is great at opening up the mind to the possibilities they have in front of them for those who prefer STEM subjects.

Disclaimer, I received a copy of this book free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Pop Bop says**

An Accessible and Entertaining Early Introduction to STEM Careers

Back in 1961, when I was a middle grader, every kid in our school got a set of pamphlets and a paperback book about "Career Opportunities" that had been produced by and freely distributed by the New York Life Insurance Company. That was the Sputnik era and the pamphlets included - engineer, aeronautical engineer, farmer, lawyer, pharmacist, secretary, nurse, social worker, and doctor. You can make jokes about 1950's and 60's priorities, but that book was a real eye opener and kids studied it like it was the latest Sears catalogue.

Memories of that career guide came rushing back as I read this book. Now, of course, the presentation is brighter and punchier, but the message and intent are the same. There are lots of neat careers out there in the STEM world, and they all relate directly to the things you know, like, and are good at.

The pages are full color cartoon style drawings of the kids from the STEM club traveling around and interviewing people about their careers. The text averages about half of each page and is inserted in sidebars or as narrative captions. This allows for the presentation of basic career information in a snappy and high

energy style, and it illustrates the action/adventure/gizmo elements of some of the jobs. (My New York Life book was about as visually inviting as a digital camera manual.)

Some jobs get a longer treatment, (software engineer, app designer, geologist, animal scientist/researcher, marine biologist, mechanical engineer, health care provider), and some get passing treatment, (air traffic controller, city planner, zoologist), but there's certainly something for everyone.

It's never too early to dream and it's always a good idea to get kids thinking about STEM careers, and this seemed to me to be a good, timely, well-intentioned, and generally useful introductory guide. A nice choice for your budding engineer.

(Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

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### **Diane says**

I received this book through the Goodreads Giveaway program on July 20, 2016. I was so excited!

This is a really great book for young students who are interested in learning about careers. It is presented in an easy to read format through a field trip video taping scenario. Students interview adults, and each other, to learn about careers that are centered around science, technology, engineering and mathematics. They delve into fields of study that branch off in several directions.

Lois Melbourne has written in 'child friendly' language without speaking down to them in the process. I especially appreciated her explanation of what would happen if they changed their mind during the educational pursuit in their chosen field. Additionally, she included a glossary at the end of the book.

I'm looking forward the rest of the book in the series. 'Kids Go To Work Day' is bound to be a success too!

Thank you!

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