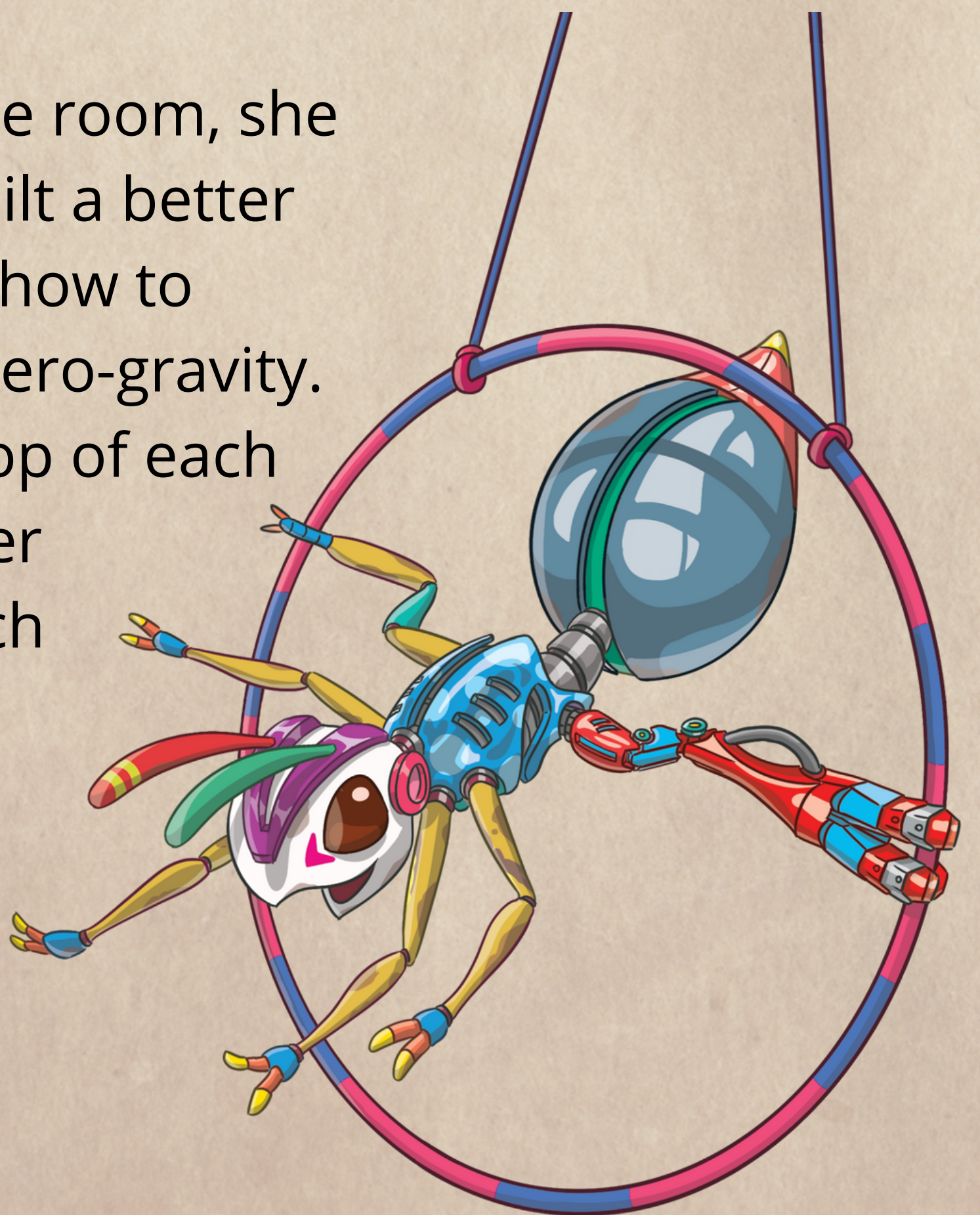


Tales from Solaris: Sable

Solaris is known for many things—such as its researchers, its many inventions, and space explorers. One thing any first-time visitor to Solaris absolutely *cannot* miss is attending a show at its Zero-Gravity Circus. Part of a tall metal spire built into the Solaris space station itself, the circus was originally a zero-gravity laboratory before its head researcher added the element of entertainment to her original intent of being educational.

Sable, as this researcher is known as, had originally used the zero-gravity lab to test the mobility of her prosthetic leg. She was determined to not allow the space accident that had taken her original limb to keep her down—and as she bounced from floor to ceiling, it certainly didn't! She used these explosive movements to test the aerodynamics of her limb, refining its curvature and material (she found that an alloy, made from a metal found only in Huo Huan's crusts, worked best).

Indeed, as she vaulted around the room, she realised that she had not only built a better prosthetic limb, but had learned how to navigate and take advantage of zero-gravity. Soon, Book Bugs would pile on top of each other at her doorway to watch her graceful acrobatics in the research lab.



Tales from Solaris: Sable

One day, Sable arrived at her lab with a bag filled with props. She laid some blankets on the floor, added some pillows (with magnets so they wouldn't float away), and arranged some snacks. Then, she opened her lab door and asked the waiting Bugs, "Won't you come in?"

The Book Bugs filed in and took their seats on the floor (anchored by the magnetised pillows)—and thus began the very first Zero-Gravity Circus show. Sable taught the Book Bugs all about zero-gravity and her research, demonstrating her learnings through her leaps, flips, and twirls. From that day onwards, the Zero-Gravity Circus had daily shows, occasionally featuring guest performers, but always with Sable as its headliner and head researcher.

