My Journey Home
Family Connection

This week your child is reading *The Fun They Had*, a science-fiction story about schoolchildren in the year 2157.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Describe an activity from your own childhood that you remember fondly. Does your child think that the past activity is “more fun” than what children do today? Try to use some of these words in your discussion.

progress  mechanical  average  superior  dispute

**Future Worlds**  Talk about some of the future settings you both know from science fiction stories, TV shows, or movies. Why would a science fiction writer want to set his or her stories in the future? Talk about how an author might use features of a futuristic setting to build the plot and make the story more exciting.

**Changes, Changes**  Imagine that you and your child were time travelers from the present visiting several dates from the past. How has listening to music changed over time? What about cooking? How has communicating or traveling long distances changed?

Help your child make a comic strip showing a time traveler from the present visiting several dates from the past. The frames of the comic strips should show the changes in one of the activities you discussed.
Visiting the World of Tomorrow  Read this scene about a visit to the 1939 World’s Fair in New York with your child.

**Futurama**

**VISITOR 1:** This is my third visit to the Futurama exhibit. I love seeing the model of future America!

**VISITOR 2:** Have you been to any of the exhibits at the Communication Zone?

**VISITOR 1:** Yes. My uncle won a chance to make a long-distance telephone call. He talked to his sister in Philadelphia while a whole crowd of people watched!

**VISITOR 2:** Imagine that. Did you see the radio-picture machine? They call it television.

**VISITOR 1:** That’s a little too newfangled for me.

**VISITOR 2:** I know! No one will ever watch television. But that dishwashing machine is something I could use now.

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**Time Capsule**  What objects from today would help people in the future understand today’s world? If you were placing objects in a time capsule, what would you include? Talk over these questions with your child and make a list of things you’d both place in a time capsule.

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**Book Links**

- *The Best Book of Speed Machines*, by Ian Graham
- *The City of Ember*, by Jeanne DuPrau  
  **CHALLENGE**

**Internet Challenge**  Help your child use the Internet to learn how and why a current technology is changing. What predictions are being made about the system or device you have chosen?