



CK Reporter of the Week  
Sam Martinez, Lakewood

## CCBA books reviewed: Part Two

It's time for you to help choose this year's Colorado Children's Book Awards. Last week, we published reviews of five of the 10 nominees in the Junior category. You can see that issue by going to [ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com)

Each year, kids and librarians get together and nominate their favorite books for the CCBA. Then kids who have read at least three of the books in a category get to vote for their favorite.

It's your way of letting libraries, bookstores, publishers and authors know the kinds of books that you like best!



That's important, because it's how you help make sure of more good reading for years to come. And, when it comes to the CCBA, the most important opinion of all is yours! Take a look at these reviews, then go to your school or public library, or your local bookstore, and start reading. Voting ends March 1, and you can find out more about when, and how, to vote, from your librarian. Now, get ready to start reading!

## Sad, complex, very good movie about life

**"A** Monster Calls" is a movie about Conor O'Malley (*Lewis MacDougall*), an easily angered and very emotional young boy.

You see, his mom (*Felicity Jones*) has cancer, and she is dying because the medicines for the cancer are not working anymore.

As if that were not enough, he is also being physically bullied by a kid at school, and his dad (*Toby Kebbell*) lives far away from him.

One night, late, at 12:07 to be exact, a monster (*voiced by Liam Neeson*) appears out of a yew tree in a cemetery near his home and begins to come visit Conor.

Each time it visits, it tells a story. Conor thinks this is stupid and gets frustrated because he wants the monster to go away unless it can help heal his mom.

While all of this is going on, Conor's grandma (*Sigourney Weaver*) keeps coming over and, in Conor's mind, is being kind of a jerk.

She takes him to live with her. Conor doesn't want to do this because it means his mom will be in the hospital again.

Also, his grandma's place is like a museum. Boring!

I won't tell what happens, but I will just say that Conor's emotions and his interactions with the monster create some intricate family drama.

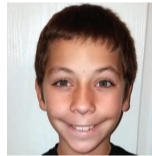
In reality, while Conor's mom was dying, the monster was on a mission to help Conor learn how to heal himself.

The film highlights the complexities of human life.

This was a very intense and sad story.

It is definitely not for little kids because there is a lot of death, the monster is pretty intense, there are extreme nightmare scenes, and to be honest, the movie made everyone cry.

I really enjoyed this movie, however, and would recommend it for ages 10 and up.



By Ben Vanourek,  
11, a CK Reporter  
from Littleton

## Graphic novel explores bravery, friendship

**W**e all know that friends stick together, but what if they want to go in completely different directions?

In the New York Times bestseller and Newbery Honor Book, "Rollergirl," by Victoria Jamieson, Astrid and Nicole have been best friends for as long as they can remember, but one summer, two camps, and new friends change everything.

Nicole and Astrid have always done everything together. So when Astrid's mom brought Astrid out for a fun time, Nicole came, too.

Surprisingly, they ended up at the roller derby for a night of fun and excitement.

As soon as Astrid saw the skaters, she knew that was something she wanted to do.

In fact, there was a perfect opportunity for her to start: A summer camp held by the derby, teaching kids how to roller skate.

Astrid assumed right away that Nicole would join her, but Nicole had different plans.

Instead, she would go to dance camp with another friend and Astrid would be left alone to go to the derby.

Astrid had never been alone and always counted on Nicole to be with her all the time.

Without Nicole, the summer was sure to be filled with strangers, hard times, bumps, bruises, fights, and new beginnings; but can Astrid deal with this all by herself and become strong enough to be a rollergirl?

"Rollergirl" has a spectacular plot and colorful detailed illustrations to go with it (*It is a graphic novel*).

At first glance, it may seem childish or unoriginal, but many plot twists and unexpected events help make it a great story.

This novel has very strong underlying themes about being tough and working hard to get something you want, being happy for others, even when you can't be happy yourself, and believing you can.

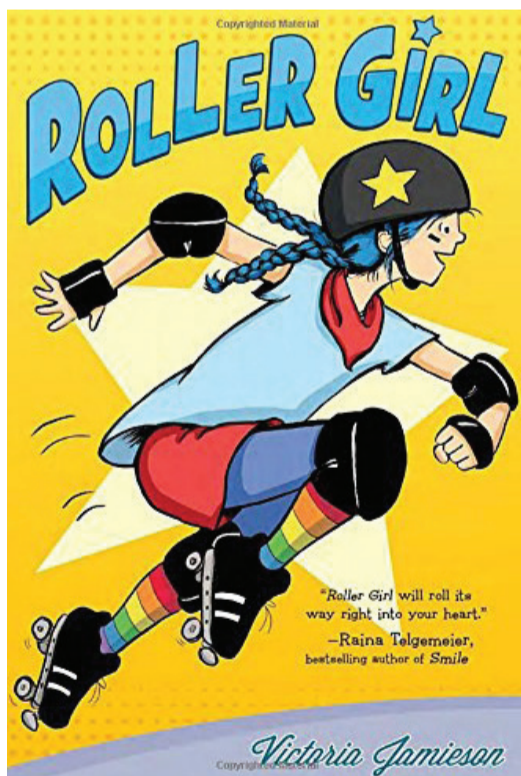
Although it may sound sappy, Rollergirl's numerous humorous lines brightens up the whole story and causes a lot of laughter.

Any comedy or realistic fiction lovers will enjoy this story because of its believable plot and funny lines and also owing to the fact that it is very relatable due to concepts about friendships growing apart and hard experiences.

I would recommend this book to anyone over 10 because of very slight romance and faintly rebellious ideas.

However, it was pretty easy to read because of the beautiful pictures that add to the words on the page, so many different types of book-lovers would be entertained by it.

If you're looking for a fun graphic novel to read, be sure to pick up "Rollergirl."



By Kayla Mitchiner,  
a CK Reporter  
from



## Love to Write?

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# Young boy faces adult problems with truth

After Mark's cancer returns, he knows his future is filled with doctor visits and hospital stays.

Not wanting to end his life in a hospital bed, he sets out on an adventure with his dog, Beau, to fulfill his dream of climbing Mount Rainier.

Over the course of "The Honest Truth" by Dan Gemeinhart, Mark encounters many obstacles and meets new, inspiring people as he becomes an inspirational figure himself.

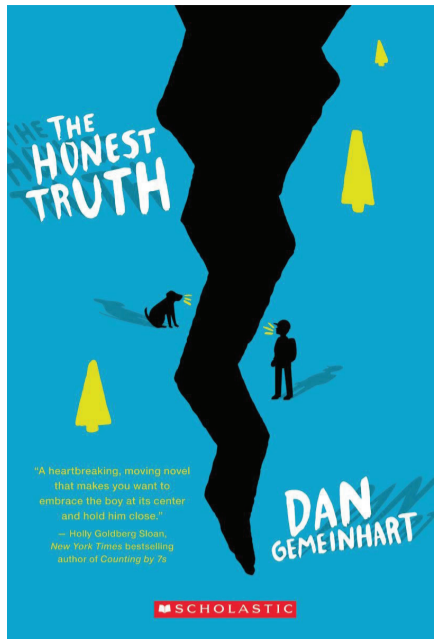
The story is also told from the perspective of Jesse, Mark's best friend, whom he left behind on his expedition.

Jesse faces many emotional challenges, as well having to make some difficult decisions that affect her and many others.

Over the course of the story, you slowly discover more about Mark and his past fighting cancer and making memories with Jesse and Beau, which helps the reader to connect with Mark.

Due to this, this novel is definitely a tearjerker and is for a more mature audience.

I really enjoyed this novel, and it is a nice, quick read, perfect



for the cozy winter days. I really liked all of the unexpected twists and turns, as well as being introduced to many creative and unique characters.

Mark's story is quite adventurous and is definitely a page turner.

I would definitely recommend this book, however, it caters toward 12 and older due to heavy topics.

I would rate this book five out of five stars and really cannot think of any negative feedback.



By Lauren Walters, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

# Canine mystery-solver tackles bayou crime



Police Report

Name: Ms. Gaux

Scene: Gaux Family Fish and Bait

Item Stolen: Black Marlin Named Black Jack

Something is wrong in the Louisiana swamp. Birdie and Bowser know it. In 1945, Birdie's great grandfather caught a champion black marlin off of Grand Isle when he came back from the war and mounted it on the wall of Gaux Family Fish and Bait.

Now, it is gone, and it's up to Birdie and her new dog pal, Bowser, to find it.

They do daring things to try and reclaim the prize marlin, Black Jack, such as following suspicious people into houses at night and taking a canoe through a swamp by themselves.

This 293 page novel, "Woof", by Spencer Quinn holds suspense and fun.

The book is clever and fun with the perspective being from

Bowser's point of view.

The story is realistic fiction mystery, my personal favorite, and it kept me reading till midnight.

"Woof" is probably for ages 8+, or even younger if read with an adult.

If you like realistic fiction/mystery animal novels then this book is perfect for you.

Spencer Quinn paints a visual picture in your head that shows great craftsmanship. It includes juicy details to help readers visualize what's happening.

I can see why "Woof" is one of the CCBA nominees this year, and I think Bowser would agree with that great nose of his.



By Haley Deison, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada

# How Old Man Stole the Sun's Leggings, Part Two

*These stories were collected from Blackfeet, Chippewa and Cree storytellers in Montana in the early 20th century by Frank Linderman.*

*(The Sun has a favorite pair of leggings, made for him by his wife, the Moon. But Old Man sneaked into the Sun's lodge and stole them right from under the head of the sleeping Sun!)*

Carefully Old Man crept out of the lodge, looking over his shoulder as he went through the door. Then he ran away as fast as he could go. Over hills and valleys, across rivers and creeks, toward the east. He wasted much breath laughing at his smartness as he ran, and soon he grew tired.

"Ho!" he said to himself, "I am far enough now and I shall sleep. It's easy to steal from the Sun -- just as easy as stealing from the Bear or the Beaver."

He folded the leggings and put them under his head as the Sun had done, and went to sleep. He had a dream and it waked him with a start. Bad deeds bring bad dreams to us all.

Old Man sat up and there was the Sun looking right in his face and laughing.

He was frightened and ran away, leaving the leggings behind him.

Laughingly the Sun put on the leggings and went on toward the west, for he is always busy.

He thought he would see Old Man no more, but it takes more than one lesson to teach a fool to be wise.

Old Man hid in the timber until the Sun had travelled out of sight.

Then he ran westward and hid himself near the Sun's lodge again, intending to wait for the night and steal the leggings a second time.

He was much afraid this time, but as soon as the Sun was asleep he crept to the lodge and peeked inside. Here he stopped and looked about, for he was afraid the Sun would hear his heart beating.

Finally he started toward the Sun's bed and just then a great white Owl flew from off the lodge poles, and this scared him more, for that is very bad luck and he knew it; but he kept on creeping until he could almost touch the Sun.

All about the lodge were beautiful linings, tanned and painted by the Moon, and the queer signs on them made the old coward tremble.

He heard a night-bird call outside and he thought it would surely wake the Sun; so he hastened to the bed and with cunning fingers stole the leggings, as he had done the night before, without waking the great sleeper.



Then he crept out of the lodge, talking bravely to himself as cowards do when they are afraid.

"Now," he said to himself, "I shall run faster and farther than before. I shall not stop running while the night lasts, and I shall stay in the mountains all the time when the Sun is at work in the daytime!"

Away he went -- running as the Buffalo runs -- straight ahead, looking at nothing, hearing nothing, stopping at nothing.

When day began to break Old Man was far from the Sun's lodge and he hid himself in a deep gulch among some bushes that grew there.

He listened a long time before he dared to go to sleep, but finally he did.

He was tired from his great run and slept soundly and for a long time, but when he opened his eyes, there was the Sun looking straight at him, and this time he was scowling.

Old Man started to run away but the Sun grabbed him and threw him down upon his back.

My, but the Sun was angry! And he said:

"Old Man, you are a clever thief but a mighty fool as well, for you steal from me and expect to hide away. Twice you have stolen the leggings my wife made for me, and twice I have found you easily. Don't you know that the whole world is my lodge and that you can never get outside of it, if you run your foolish legs off? Don't you know that I light all of my lodge every day and search it carefully? Don't you know that nothing can hide from me and live? I shall not harm you this time, but I warn you now, that if you ever steal from

me again, I will hurt you badly. Now go, and don't let me catch you stealing again!" Away went Old Man, and on toward the west went the busy Sun.

*Adaptation c. 2005, Mike Peterson, illustration c. 2005 Christopher Baldwin*

# Science finds the way to turn mice into killers



Don't worry: The scientists at Yale are not preparing to unleash a mob of killer mice. But they have found the parts of the brain that control hunting behaviors, and learned how to turn quiet little mice into, well, yes: Killer mice.

To start with, mice aren't as gentle as you may think. They sometimes kill insects for food.

But they're not eager hunters, except for a dozen who live at

Yale University, and those ones are only killer mice when a laser is shined on two particular sections of their brains.

Researchers were trying to find out how jaws developed millions of years ago, and, in particular, the kind of jaw actions predators use, first to hold, then to kill their prey.

By studying the brains of mice, they found the parts that were associated with those

actions, then provided a way to activate them with lasers.

Mice who might catch a cricket if they were hungry now went after the cricket as if they were leopards after a goat.

And if there were no cricket, they would attack a toy.

But they still only attacked smaller animals, and were not even aggressive towards each other, so there won't be an army of killer mice. photo/ Roger McLassus.

# Simple book offers inside look at rescue dogs

Ellie was trained for search and rescue ever since she was a puppy. She is trained to save people who are lost, or find people under a collapsed building.

"Ellie's Story" is an informative and captivating book written by W. Bruce Cameron. This book is fun as well, because it comes from the dog's point of view.

At a young age Ellie was adopted and forced away from her large litter to go and live with Jacob, a police officer who trained Ellie to find people.

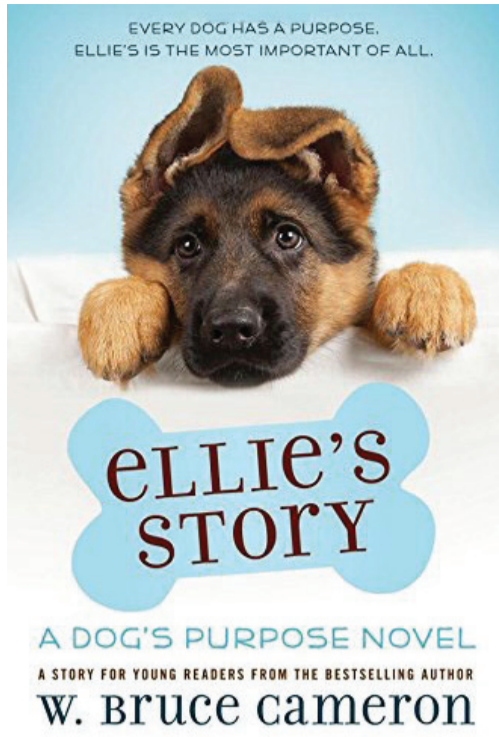
Jacob would often take Ellie to the park where she would 'find' people. Ellie got so good with 'finding', that she started going on actual rescues with Jacob.

During one rescue, Jacob was hurt and Ellie had to return to the police kennel.

One day, a police officer named Maya, who wanted to transfer departments and become a canine officer, came to the kennel wanting to talk to other officers and drop an application off.

She felt bad for Ellie and wanted to become her partner. Maya started visiting Ellie at the kennel with hopes that one day they would become partners.

One day, Maya came to visit, but surprised Ellie by taking



her home! They were going to be partners.

Maya and Ellie saved many people, and Ellie made sure that Maya was never hurt the way Jacob was.

On one rescue, Ellie was seriously hurt and everyone thought she was never going to be able to rescue people again, but one day she was given another opportunity.

"Ellie's Story" is a really good book: While it is entertaining it is also informative, I learned a lot about search-and-rescue dogs.

This book is very inspiring and teaches people to never give up, and to push through the tough times.

"Ellie's Story" is a book for elementary schoolers, a very simple but detailed book.



By Ashley Gaccetta, 12, a CK Reporter from Longmont

# The adventures of a boy and his faithful fox



Do you have any pets at home? I bet you don't have a pet fox!

Peter finds a kit (baby) fox in the forest all alone. He decided to raise it and named it Pax. Pax stands for peace.

In the book "Pax" by Sara Pennypacker, she describes how this young boy then is forced to give up his pet fox because his dad is going to war, and their family situation has changed.

You will experience the journey Peter takes in finding, loving, giving up, and pursuing reconnecting with this loved fox.

Peter is a brave and courageous little boy.

He is a happy and excitable boy who enjoys spending a lot of time in the forest and playing with his friends.

He doesn't have a mom because she died in a car crash. He also does not have any siblings so it is just he and his dad.

Pax is a really caring fox and feels that he needs to be a guardian to everything around him and to his surroundings.

For example, one time when Peter was seven, a fan was put in his room.

Pax sensed danger and saved the house from bursting into flames by chewing through the

electrical cord just in time.

However, when Peter's dad is sent to war, Peter is sent to live with his (grumpy) grandfather over 300 miles from his house and can't bring Pax with him.

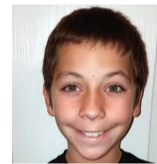
After he stays at his grandfather's house for two days, he decides to run away in order to find and once again save his pet fox.

Peter has some trouble along the way, but I won't spoil the adventure with details.

At 288 pages, "Pax" is a rather long, yet interesting read.

The author spends a lot of time describing the characters so that you feel like you really know Pax and Peter, what they are feeling and what they look like.

I recommend this book and believe that they should make a sequel.



By Ben Vanourek, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

## Sudoku

2	1	5	4	6	3
6	4	3	5	1	2
3	6	2	1	5	4
1	5	4	2	3	6
5	2	6	3	4	1
4	3	1	6	2	5

**Rules:** Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.  
The solution to this week's puzzle is on the back page.



## Brainteaser

Today is Michelle Obama's last birthday as First Lady, so our answers will begin with "G" for all the healthy vegetable gardens she encouraged children to plant.

1. A steep, narrow valley, like the famous one near Canon City with the high suspension bridge
2. A cold soup from Spain made of finely chopped vegetables and a little sour cream
3. The king of England during the American Revolution
4. The leaf-eating African animal who makes everyone think of "tall."
5. The type of novel that tells its story entirely with pictures, captions and word balloons, like a very long comic strip
6. Former silver town, it's now a popular tourist destination in Clear Creek County
7. The wooden hammer a judge bangs on the desk to call court to order
8. For horses, the gait that comes after walk, trot and canter
9. What raisins used to be
10. Character who wanted to get his precious ring back from Bilbo and Frodo Baggins

(answers on the back page)

# Analysis of rocks shows that Moon is older than we thought

Get out your calculators for this one, because it involves some very large numbers, including one that is new: It turns out the Moon has been around a lot longer than scientists thought.

Astrophysicists have calculated that our solar system was formed about 5 billion years ago, and had believed that the Moon did not come along until 150 or 200 million years after that.

Now a team of researchers is showing proof that the Moon actually formed sooner, just 60 million years after the solar system.

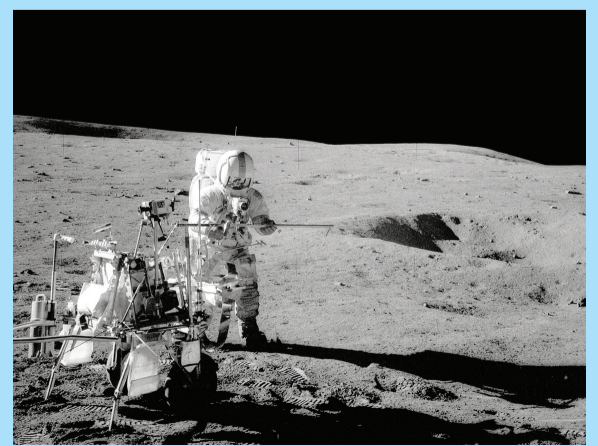
If you put those numbers on a graph, the difference isn't terribly large, particularly given the huge numbers we deal with in space.

But when you are trying to figure out how the Earth evolved, those numbers matter.

Using moon rocks from the Apollo XIV mission, astrophysicists from UCLA measured how much of the element zircon had changed from radioactive to inactive in those samples. The amount of change let them use zircon's normal rate of change to tell how long it had been there.

Think of it this way: Say you have a beaker of water with a leak. You know that it started out as full and you know how fast the leak is.

By measuring how much water is left, you would know when it was filled. That's how they could tell when the Moon was formed. photo/Edgar Mitchell - NASA





# WEEK 11 FORCES OF NATURE

Position: -55.1411, -101.226  
Time: 2017-01-12 08:10:00 UTC

Next Week: Fisheries Depletion  
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Team of Experts • Q&A • Ship's Log  
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To read the sources for these stories

Killer Mice

The Old Moon

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

## Sudoku Solution

2	1	5	4	6	3
3	6	4	1	5	2
4	1	2	6	3	5
6	3	5	2	4	1
1	4	3	5	2	6
2	5	6	3	1	4

## Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

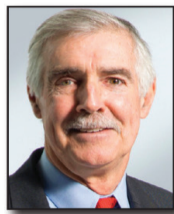
7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!



1. gorge 2. gazpacho 3. George (III) 4. giraffe 5. graphic  
6. Georgetown 7. gavel 8. gallop 9. grapes 10. Gollum



By Rich Wilson, Skipper  
Great American IV

At sea on a clear starry night, one likely feels exceptionally small when confronted by the enormity of the universe laid out in front of one's eyes. It is impossible to describe the relative sizes, except to say that we are tiny.

Similarly, in a storm at sea, one will feel the immediate effects, on the boat, on the sailor, the force of the wind, the violence of massive waves, yet still, one only can experience that which is immediate and nearby, within one's own horizon.

So when you look at the chart, and see that we have been sailing for 10 days since New Zealand, and that we have another 10 days to go to get to Cape Horn, how do you consider, and understand, that enormity of this Pacific Ocean? Or can you? In the storm that we had, how do you connect to the fact that that storm was hundreds of miles

across? And that every little local area, as the area that affected us, will have similar forces of wind and waves?

I cannot comprehend that enormity. Yet I know that I can, and must, respect it. And perhaps this is the best that we can do in other areas of nature. We must respect it, both to defend our tiny physical selves from its enormity, but also to admire it and be amazed by it. We might consider the notion that these powers and forces were here long before we were, and in some sense, we are the intruders, or at the very least, the newest neighbors, for that which has existed for millennia.

The power of an earthquake, or the mass of water flowing down one of the great rivers of the world, the gigantic glaciers, veritable rivers of ice, the incomprehensibly massive oceans of the world – aren't we lucky to be here to observe and live alongside such amazing and massive forces!



By Captain Murray Lister  
Master Mariner

As a young sailor and before I became an Officer and later a Master Mariner, I remember an elderly gentleman telling me, 'The sea is safe until you forget it is dangerous'. This is absolutely true when considering the forces of nature. These 'forces' can include wind, waves, swells, currents, volcanoes, hurricanes and typhoons.

In my 50+ years at sea, nature twice dictated that her forces would have me very concerned as to whether I would get home. The first was in an area South of New Zealand, where 'Great American IV' will transit. In these latitudes a swell train goes virtually around the world coming basically from a WSWly direction. This voyage an extremely strong storm sent winds from the NW and thus with the standard swell and the storm swell from two different directions, there was a very confused sea state. Being in a quite small research vessel, it was impossible to sleep for almost two days as we struggled our way North to make the shelter of an island at the bottom of New Zealand. It is times such as this, that diligent ship handling becomes very necessary, otherwise serious ship damage can be incurred, with possibly, the loss of the vessel herself.

The second incident was in the South China Sea when caught in a Typhoon with very little room to manoeuvre. Winds in excess of 75 knots, and a swell height of at least 10 metres dictated that

we needed to heave to, with the weather on our Port bow and speed rung on for around 10 knots. While the vessel pitched and rolled violently at times, we were able to hold our course, however our 'speed over the ground' on GPS showed that in fact we were going some 3 knots astern. The situation lasted some 12 hours until the weather abated somewhat, at which stage we were able to come back to our correct course. What was the most alarming bit, came next morning when the Chief Engineer informed me he had needed to nurse the main engine all night as there was a problem with one of the cylinders. Given that the engine was to stop, we would have been in dire straits.

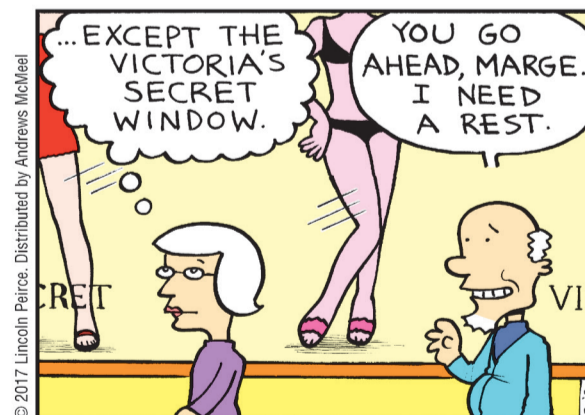
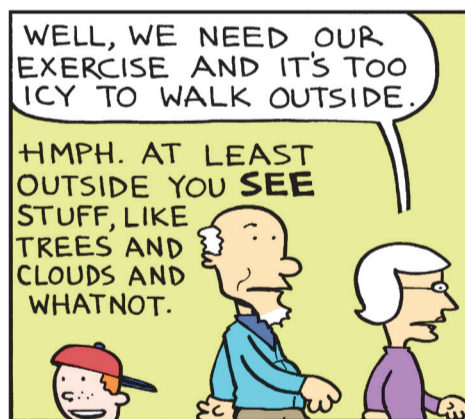


Thus there comes from these few words, another saying: 'Love the sea but respect it fully'.

## NEWS EXPLORER

Search the national and world news sections of the newspaper to find articles describing events caused by forces of nature. Possible examples include hurricanes, blizzards, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Locate each of these events on a world map.

## Big Nate

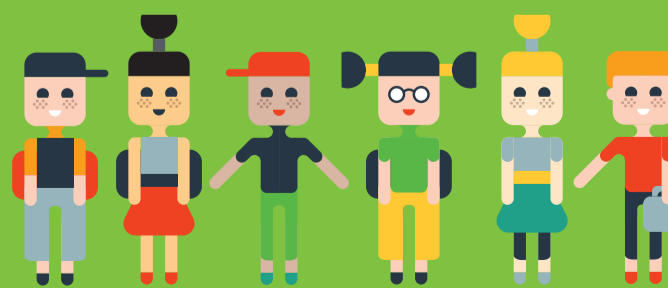


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