



CK Reporter of the Week  
Innagen Roberts, Lakewood

## A dog's lives will touch hearts



**"A** Dog's Purpose," starring Josh Gad, Dennis Quad, and Britt Robertson, is sure to get you laughing and crying.

"A Dog's Purpose" tells the story of one dog's journey through serving his purpose. Along the way, he changes the lives of his owners and learns what it means to be a dog.

Meet Ethan (*played by Bryce Gheisar and K.J. Apa*), a young boy who finds his beloved dog, Bailey (*voiced by Josh Gad*), while out shopping with his mom.

As he grows up, Bailey does too, and the pair become each other's closest friend. Bailey is there for Ethan through some of the best and worst times of his life.

The story continues as Bailey experiences different lives as different dogs.

From a life-saving German Shepherd to a lovable corgi, he connects with different owners and leaves a lasting impact on them, as his soul continues to search for the purpose of his existence, eventually coming full

circle and reconnecting with Ethan.

Though there was not a dry eye in the audience, the film still had humorous elements to it.

At many points in the film, Bailey has misconceptions surrounding human behavior. For example, when Ethan's father returns home from work to see that Bailey had destroyed the perfectly organized papers in his office, Bailey misunderstands his anger for wanting to play.

One of the things that made this movie special is that Bailey speaks what he is thinking to the audience, though the characters have no idea what he is thinking.

The film also occasionally showcases how Bailey is seeing things in his own eyes. I enjoyed this aspect because it allowed you to see what was happening from a different point of view.

The movie also does a good job of setting the pace for each story.

Some adventures of his life are more drawn out

and heartfelt, while some are short and concise as necessary.

Nonetheless, each story is just as touching as the last. I also enjoyed how many aspects of the film are relatable, especially for dog owners.

This movie is definitely a tearjerker and is sure to have the whole audience crying and laughing at the same time.

While the film is rated PG, it does deal with some heavier issues such as alcoholism. Therefore, I would recommend it to ages nine and up.

"A Dog's Purpose" is a heartwarming must-see for dog lovers everywhere.

Just be sure to remember to bring lots of tissues!



By Lauren Walters,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Denver

## An excellent sequel in the Max Helsing series

**Y**et another really good book has recently come out.

Number 2 in the brand new Max Helsing series, "Max Helsing and the Beast of Bone Creek," by Curtis Jobling, is *awesome*!

Max Helsing is a 14-year-old boy from Gallows Hill, who has a strange job: Max is a monster hunter.

His best friend, Syd, helps him with his job, and Wing Liu, his researcher, gives them all the facts.

He lives with his grandfather, Jed Van Helsing, who is also a former monster-hunter.

Max is soft, though, and tends to relocate, not kill.

This gets him in trouble as he faces off with what he thinks is a sasquatch. But what is it really?

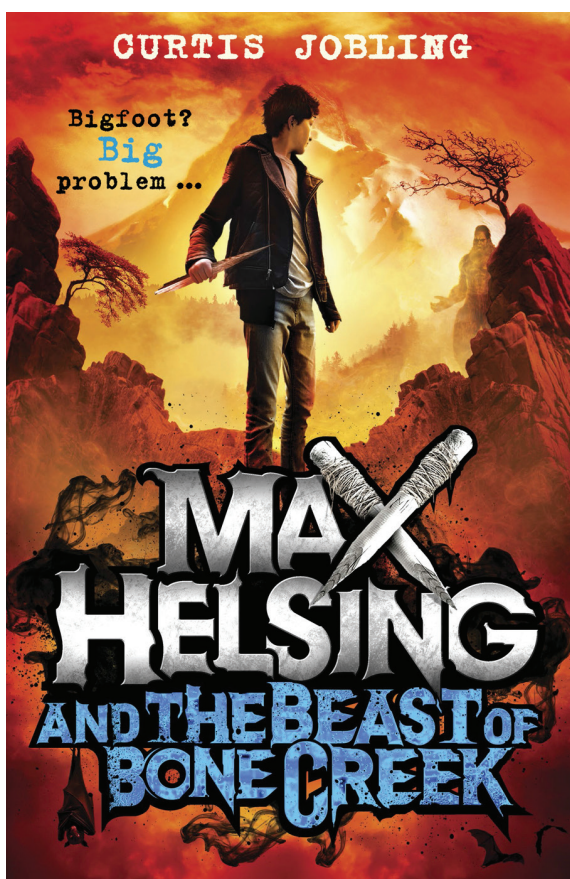
Read the book to find out.

He and Syd are on a field trip to Bone Creek when two campers disappear.

They go looking for them in the forest and find many strange things, like dragons made of stone, and much more.

Soon after, Max's school bully, Kenny Boyle, is abducted, too.

Sasquatch hunters come from around the world



to hunt down Bigfoot and soon the town of Bone Creek is swarming with people.

How dangerous is this sasquatch?

Max picks his way through the troubling story and action unfolds as he persists in the search for the two campers and his missing bully.

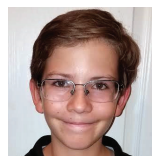
Things get so intense that even old Jed, Max's grandfather, shows up to take on the beast.

With the help of his grandpa, Max, Syd, and Abel Archer, an old monster hunting friend, embark on a huge adventure.

This novel is easy to read, and flows well.

Curtis Jobling is also author of the first Max Helsing book ("Max Helsing and the Thirteenth Curse") and of the entire six-book Wereworld series.

I give this fantasy novel a 5-star rating.



By Jack Vanourek,  
11, a CK Reporter  
from Littleton



## Love to Write?

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# STEM kit makes learning to invent fun

**T**he LittleBits Rule Your Room Kit” is for exploring and learning about the process of inventing.

It includes circuits, sound triggers, buzzers, lights, dimmers, templates, and much more to create the ultimate invention.

With the materials provided, you can create touch-censored sound and light, and interactive inventions.

Featured inventions include a top secret safe, a moving collage, sound activated “cat eyes”, and more.

The instructions give you guidelines and ideas but going outside the box is encouraged.

The LittleBits pieces can be taken apart, so there is no limit to what you can create.

The kit also has materials that can be connected to a computer, where you can plug in your inventions.

The free app, LittleBits, provides more instructions and ideas that can be created with the materials you have.

The kit is easy to use and understand, just make sure to read the first part of the instructions where each piece is explained.

The pieces snap together with magnets, making creation fast and easy.

For many inventions, you will need to use your own stuff, so there is no need for additional pieces or kits to complete the featured creations.

However, more pieces and templates are available.

I would give this kit four out of five stars because it is very easy and fun and there are so many things to create.

My only suggestion would be more pieces because you can only do so much with the specific pieces in the kit.

I recommend this item for kids nine and up because the instructions are very informative and might be hard for younger kids to understand.

Overall, I think the “LittleBits Rule Your Room Kit” is a great introduction to invention and creation using coding and electronics, and makes the price, \$85 (*on Amazon*), definitely worth it.



By Grace McClung,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Denver

## Stories in the Stars

### The Stories

**T**he bears, Ursa Major (“Big Bear”) and Ursa Minor (“Little Bear”), are two of the best known and easiest to find constellations in the sky. They’re also the most important because they help people find their way.

So it’s not surprising that every culture in the Northern Hemisphere has a story about these stars and the patterns they make.

People far from Greece and Rome have called them bears, including many of the native people of our own continent, who had different stories about the bears, but agreed that they were bears.

The funny thing about Ursa Major and Ursa Minor is that they have long tails, and there are no bears anywhere on earth with long tails. The Romans don’t quite explain this, but the Iroquois see Ursa Major in a way that makes sense: The big part is the bear, and the three stars following it are three hunters.

What the Iroquois are calling a bear is only part of Ursa Major, which is a rather large constellation that stretches out across the sky. Ursa Minor, too, is larger than the part most people think of when they hear the name.

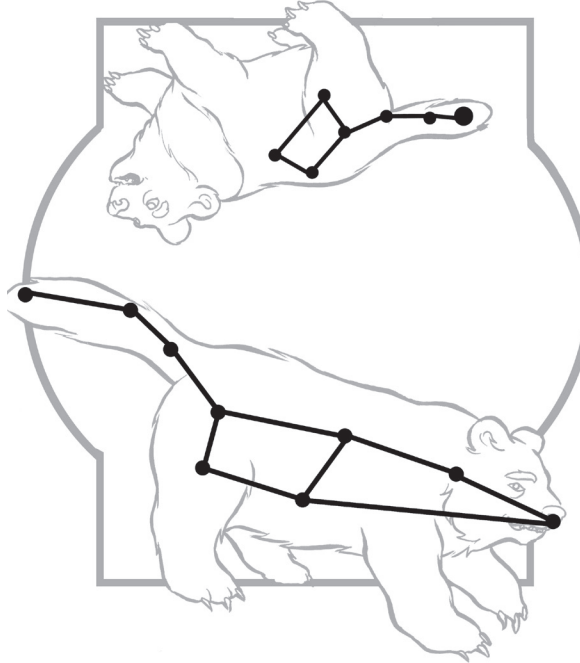
Perhaps you know them as the “Big Dipper” and “Little Dipper.” Those are not constellations, but “asterisms,” which are shapes but not actual constellations.

It’s sort of like, when people who live in other parts of the country say “New York,” they usually mean “New York City.” But people who live in New York State know that there’s a lot more to New York than just the part with skyscrapers and the Statue of Liberty.

For astronomers, these two constellations contain many more stars than are seen in the Big and Little Dippers. And, like people in New York who don’t live in the city, they might get a little impatient if you don’t use the right language to describe it.

Still, those asterisms are important. There is a legend about a song called “Follow the Drinking Gourd” that helped slaves in Southern states find their way north to freedom. It’s mostly a story, because the song’s instructions would only work from a certain part of Alabama.

But it’s certainly true that slaves and many other people have used the Dippers (*or “gourds” or “plows” or whatever they might call them*) for thousands of years to find north without a compass.



### The Stars

**T**o find Ursa Major and Minor, start by facing north.

Look up towards the north and try to find the Big Dipper.

The stars in the Big Dipper aren’t the brightest in the sky, but they are medium-bright and not hard to find. Look for the dipper shape of a large “bowl” and a bent handle. Depending on the time of night and the time of year, it might be upside-down or rightside-up.

If you hold your arm out straight and make a fist, that should be just about the size of the bowl part of the dipper.

When you’ve found the Big Dipper, you’re ready to find Polaris, the North Star.

The two stars that form the “front” of the dipper – the part away from the handle – are called the “pointer stars” because they point right at Polaris. Start with the pointer star in the bottom corner of the dipper and go to the one in the top corner, and then keep going about three-fists towards the north. That will bring you to Polaris.

Polaris is the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper.

So, if you thought you had found the Big Dipper, but, when you held up your fist to check the size of the bowl, it was too small, you probably had the Little Dipper. Follow the handle out to the end and there’s Polaris!

Polaris will be in the same place every night, all year long. That’s what makes it such a good star for people trying to find their way on the earth, but it’s also what makes it useful for those who want to find their way around the heavens.

Here’s something to think about, but not to worry about: The fact is, Polaris won’t always be the North Star. As we move through space, and as the stars move through space, too, these things change.

But remember the size of the numbers that we deal with in space: Unless you’re planning to live to be several thousand years old, you can count on Polaris still being the North Star!

### NEXT WEEK: Cassiopeia

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## Snake hunters from India help Florida’s python problem



**S**everal decades ago, something odd turned into a disaster in Florida: Pet owners who no longer wanted their Burmese pythons were letting them go in the wild.

What might have been kind for the pythons was very cruel for the animals that lived in the Everglades and other wild places, because the snakes not only survived but grew to 16 feet or more.

And as the snakes grew and produced more snakes, the threat to Florida wildlife became serious.

A few snakes might not have been a problem, but, with no natural enemies, no cold weather and plenty of food, the pythons released by pet owners turned into thousands, and tens of thousands. They not only ate a lot of native animals themselves but deprived Florida predators of food.

Wildlife officials have tried many solutions, and now have turned the problem over to a pair

of experts: Irula tribesmen from Southern India, who have a long history of hunting pythons and other snakes in their homeland.

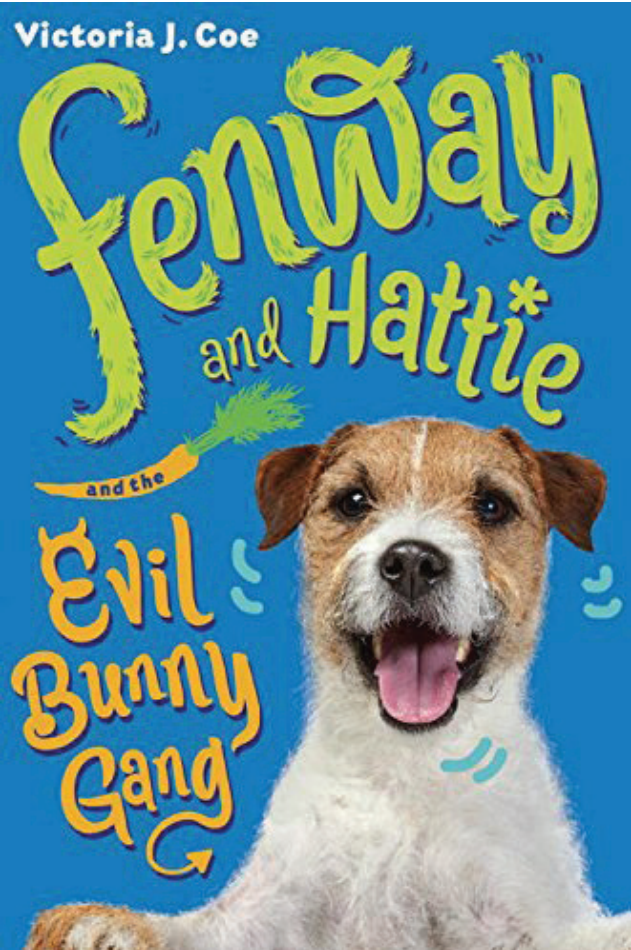
Working with American dogs trained to find roughly where the snakes were, the Indians captured 13 snakes in the first two weeks.

The next step is for the Irulas to train Americans in the special tracking and handling skills they bring to a task crucial for Florida’s environment.

photo/Patrick Jean



# Fenway warns: Beware of the Evil Bunny Gang!



If you are a dog lover looking for an exciting, funny, tail wagging book, then Fenway is the dog you want to meet.

Fenway, the star of “Fenway and Hattie and the Evil Bunny Gang” by Victoria J. Coe, is one weird dog. He won’t ever give up trying to prove what he believes.

When he finds out anything that he doesn’t like, he always denies the truth.

Fenway thinks he has the best short human in the world. Her name is Hattie.

Fenway is just an ordinary dog who goes for walks and plays in the dog park until he finds a new, mysterious stench all around the dog park.

Fenway knows it isn’t a squirrel or bird. The smell is strongest in the vegetable patch.

And all the vegetables are ruined!

Just when Fenway starts sniffing around, the food lady screams.

After the food lady sees the ruined vegetables, Fenway is banned from the dog park.

Later, Fenway’s friends, Goldie and Patches, tell him that bunnies probably ate the vegetables.

And a few days later, Hattie brings a cage home that she got from the neighbors.

From the smell, Fenway knows that there is an evil bunny in the cage.

He thought Hattie captured the evil bunny, but later he learns that Hattie has been taking care of Thumper (as she calls the evil bunny) and not guarding him.

The next thing he knows, he sees that Thumper has taken his spot as Hattie’s favorite pet.

All of a sudden Hattie is going to Thumper to make her happy.

She is also snuggling with Thumper before bed and having Fenway sleep on the floor (*which wasn’t normal for him*).

What will Fenway do next?

Will he seek revenge or will he deal with it?

“Fenway and Hattie and the Evil Bunny Gang” is a fun book. The point of view is creative because the story was told in a dog’s mind.

Though the book started off a little rocky, as I got to the middle it started to get more exiting.

Toward the end it was like I couldn’t put the book down. The book was glued to my hands.

I recommend this book for ages 8 and up because it does have some scary parts and is reasonably long.

I would give this book 4 stars. I really liked “Fenway and Hattie and the Evil Bunny Gang.”



By Ashlyn Wenger, 10, a CK Reporter from Littleton

## Finland steps up to end tobacco use by 2040

Despite years of warnings and of scientific evidence of the dangers of tobacco use, people continue to smoke, chew and vape.

In the United States, some people hoped that the use of e-cigarettes would keep young people from taking up actual smoking.

And there is good news: The percentage of young people 12-17 who smoke has decreased over the past few years.

In 2011, 15.8 percent of young people smoked. By 2015, that had fallen to about 9 percent.

But vaping isn’t the reason.

A recent study shows that the result of vaping has simply been more kids who vape but don’t smoke.

Not only has it failed to change the rate at which smoking has declined, but teen smoking in the most recent survey showed a very slight increase in 2014.

Meanwhile, another study shows that 27.6 percent of American adults use tobacco in one form or another.

The US requires warnings on tobacco products and continues to have anti-smoking programs in schools, funded by the money tobacco companies had to pay in fines for lying and saying that there was no proof tobacco use causes cancer.

But Finland is going much further to reduce tobacco use among its citizens, where about 16 percent are smokers.

The nation is beginning a program which they hope will get



that number down to two percent by 2040, and it involves a lot more than simply telling Finns that smoking is not good for them.

Some of the changes are immediate and others will happen soon, but Finns who want to take up the addictive drug are going to have to start making a real effort, and paying with money as well as their health.

CNN reports that Sweden has seen a decrease in smoking, but has been trying to get people to switch to oral snuff and vaping. Oral snuff is illegal in Finland.

Part of Finland’s program involves raising the cost of tobacco products, which not only discourages smoking but helps pay for treatment and for anti-smoking programs.

But they will also charge for licenses to sell tobacco, and not only must a merchant buy a license, but must pay about \$500 a year for each check-out counter in the store.

This will discourage stores from selling cigarettes and, again, help pay for cancer treatments and other tobacco-related health problems.

Like some other countries, Finland bans smoking in public places, but that will now include apartment balconies if the smoke drifts to other apartments. They also ban smoking in a car if anyone under 15 is present.

As for vaping, that may face the most effective law to keep kids away: Not only are sales restricted by age, but, in Finland, flavors -- a prime way to attract young users -- are forbidden.

## Sudoku

	6	4			
			5		
				2	3
1		3			
6		1			
				4	1

**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

**On this date in 1930, the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Company began selling “Scotch Tape,” using cellophane for a transparent type of tape, so our answers this week will start with “S” for Scotch, or maybe for “sticky.”**

1. Author, poet and cartoonist who wrote “The Giving Tree” and “Where the Sidewalk Ends.”
2. Type of fish known for its pink flesh; the trout is also part of its family.
3. Southern Colorado mountain range whose name means “Blood of Christ”
4. The cartoon character “Popeye” gets this strength from this leafy vegetable
5. Type of tuba designed to be carried in marching bands and named for a famous composer of marches.
6. Very fast, greyhound-like dog used by Bedouins to hunt gazelle and rabbits
7. Telluride is the seat of, and best known town in, this small, Western Slope county
8. Author of the “Goosebumps” series
9. A good king in the Bible, his name is used to describe someone who is very wise.
10. The name of this fictional lion is the Swahili word for “lion.”

(answers on the back page)

## Put down the Mountain Dew and step away from the counter

Sugar continues to be a problem for healthy diets, and now another study is showing that young people consume way too much in the form of soft drinks and other sweetened beverages.

Aside from the problems a bad diet can cause to young complexions -- “Eat it today, wear it tomorrow” -- the sugar habit is hard to break and, over time, can lead to type 2 diabetes, heart disease and obesity, which brings along other very serious health problems.

Nearly two-thirds of people between the ages of 2 and 19 drink at least one sugared beverage a day, and nearly a third have two or more.

That can be a soft drink, energy drink or

sweetened coffee, though researchers did not include tea and coffee that are sold plain but sweetened by the customer.

The study indicated that the highest consumption among young people is in the 12 to 19 age group, but, while they suspect that the parents of younger kids may have stricter rules, they did not come to a conclusion about the difference.

Sales of soft drinks have decreased slightly in recent years, but sales of energy drinks have exploded, more than making up the difference.

The American Heart Association recommends that kids drink only one sweetened drink a week, not one every day.

photo/Russell Bernice







To read the sources for these stories

Finland and Tobacco Use  
Sugary drinks and kids  
Indian snake hunters

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Shel Silverstein 2. salmon 3. Sangre de Cristo 4. spinach  
5. Sousaphone 6. saluki 7. San Miguel 8. (R.L.) Stine  
9. Solomon 10. Simba

**WEEK**  
**13**

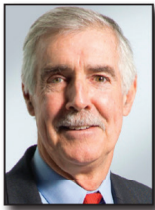
**TEAMWORK & PERSEVERANCE**

**Next Week:**  
What I'll Miss

**sites**  
**ALIVE!**  
[www.sitesalive.com](http://www.sitesalive.com)

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By Rich Wilson, Skipper  
Great American IV

The Vendée Globe is a singlehanded sailing race, yet each solo skipper could not succeed without a skilled and dedicated team on land. This team has prepared the boat, and while the skipper is at sea, are on call 24/7 to advise the skipper by

satellite phone on technical repairs or problem-solving. The entire endeavour is very much a group effort with the skipper being the point person at sea.

We have a team in the United Kingdom who are expert in the latest Open 60 technologies (electronics, sails, rigging, carbon boat-building, etc.), and a team in the United States who have installed equipment specified by the UK team. When the boat was in the USA, the UK team would come over and help the USA team. In this way, everyone got to know each other, and so although separated by an ocean, they are all on the same page regarding our boat, project, and effort.

Additionally, we have our sitesALIVE team, who are essential to our project's mission of education. These include web experts, curriculum designers, program managers, and business experts to manage the relationships with our partners. Weekly, we have a Skype

call that now includes both boat and sitesALIVE people to ensure that all communications that might affect the program are known by all.

I, as solo skipper offshore, am just the tip of the iceberg of our project. The real value is out there in the classrooms around the world – is it working for the teachers and for their students?

The topic of perseverance is natural since the voyage and the program are so long while they are operational. Yet our planning and development, both for boat and program, has been going on for even longer, for several years. All involved will require tremendous perseverance to get to the finish line. And so to see this through one can glean a lesson for many other aspects and challenges of life: you just have to keep at it, until it's done.

Yesterday I went from 3 reefs to 2 reefs to 1 reef to the full mainsail. On the pedestal winch, that meant about 500 revolutions in a medium gear, or 1000 revolutions in a lower gear. I thought my arms, hands, and fingers would fall off! I was utterly exhausted at the end, but it had to be done for the weather conditions. Persevering paid off and we went quickly through the night with the correct sail for the weather conditions.



## TEAMWORK, PERSEVERANCE, AND ASTHMA

By Dr. Chris Fanta

When Rich Wilson was growing up, there were many mis-understandings about asthma. Many people still believed that asthma – with its cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, and tightness in the chest – was a psychological disease. Children with asthma were advised to sit out from sports and other strenuous physical activities, because exercise could provoke an attack of asthma. There were few, if any, famous role models with asthma whom a young person with asthma could admire and try to be like. Medicines to treat asthma were also quite primitive. They didn't work terribly well and they often had unpleasant side effects, like nausea and jitteriness.

There have been major advances in our understanding and treatment of asthma since those times. We know now that for most children, asthma represents an allergic reaction of the breathing (bronchial) tubes. Muscles surrounding the tubes squeeze them into narrow passageways, and inflammation with swelling and mucus further plug them up. As you might imagine, exercise is good for the lungs as well as for the rest of the body. Children with asthma receiving proper treatment are encouraged now to play sports and be fully active without limitation. These days one can easily point to athletic superstars who have excelled despite their asthma, like Jackie Joyner-Kersey in track and field, Amy Van Dyken in swimming, Jerome Bettis in professional football, and, of course, Rich Wilson in sailboat racing. Also, our asthma medicines are stronger, safer, and simpler to use. For many people, that means simply

taking one tablet once daily and perhaps one inhalation of medicine once or twice a day.

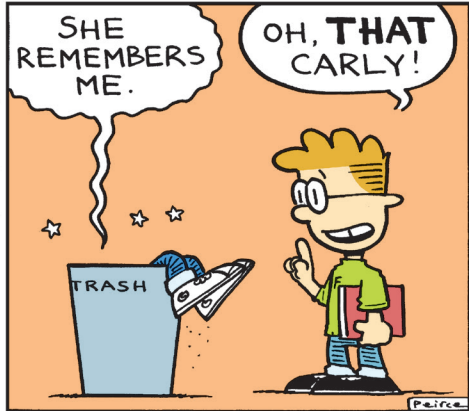
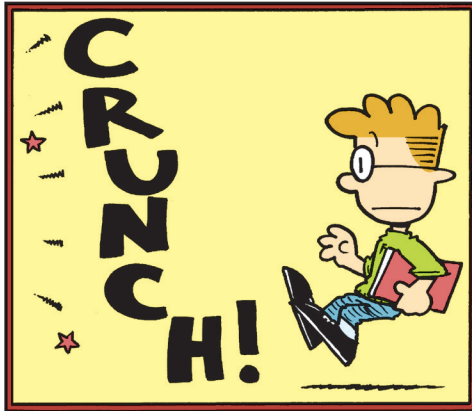
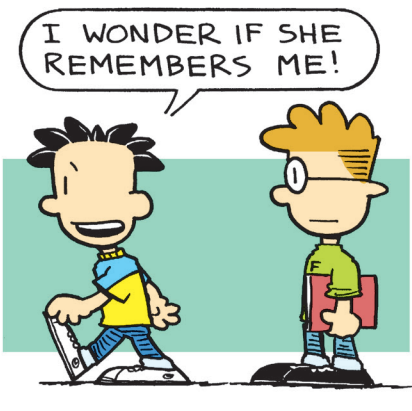
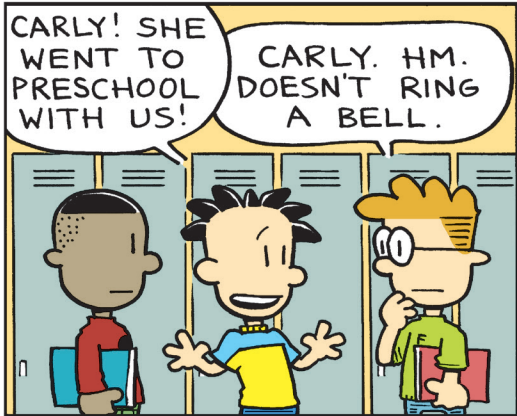
Although symptoms of asthma come and go, the tendency to develop narrow airways is present all the time for people with asthma. Asthma is a chronic condition. For many people with asthma, that means taking medicines every day to prevent asthma attacks and being on the alert to avoid things (called "triggers") that might bring on asthma symptoms. Like sailing solo around the world, taking care of your asthma on a daily basis takes perseverance – not letting down your guard, even when things are going well. It also requires teamwork: patient, doctor, family, and friends, all working together to ensure healthy outcomes. Rich Wilson knows this: he takes his asthma medications every day; he checks his breathing frequently with a measuring tool called a peak flow meter, and he consults periodically with his medical team to ensure that he is getting the best treatments available. Smooth sailing takes perseverance and teamwork.



## NEWS EXPLORER

Read a sports article that has examples of decision-making that led to a loss. Imagine (or role-play) the dialogue that took place before each decision. Imagine or stage the dialogue that took place after the decision that led to the loss. Discuss how using good sportsmanship might help the team.

# Big Nate



# ColoradoKids

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