



CK Reporter of the Week
Sofia Morfin, Denver

Making books fun for everyone

Every year the CCIRA conference comes to Denver for about three days.

There are lots of books for purchase, and the authors who wrote those books are available so you can actually get your book signed by them. Not only are these authors signing books and meeting their fans, but they also have their own individual sessions to teach about certain aspects of reading and teaching literature, in many different ways.

They each organize their sessions differently and make it entertaining and fun. Many teachers, librarians and educators come from all over the country for this event. This helps teachers gain new techniques and receive help improving their weakness to become their strengths.

Michael Shoulders' session was surely one of the most entertaining. He opened and closed in a very interactive fun way to get his audience to pay close attention: Rapping.

Man, was he good at it, too: He was rapping about encouraging reading, everyone's face lit up with joy and laughter and filled the room with anticipation.

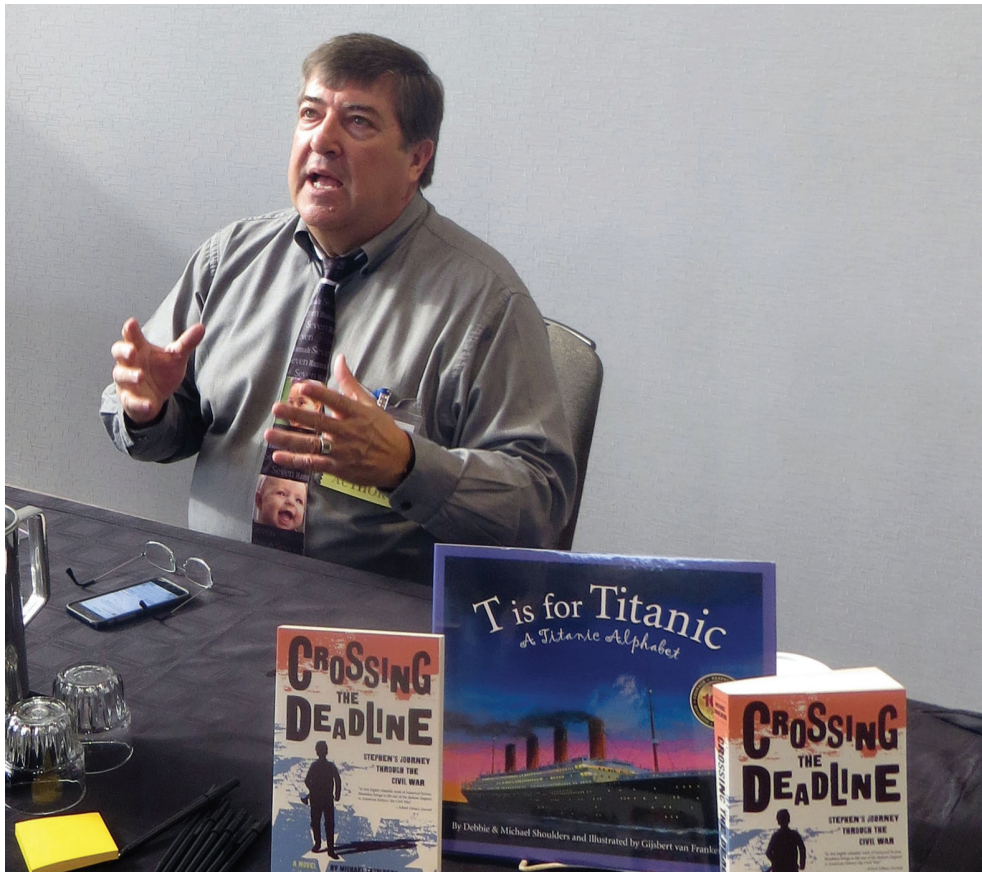
Shoulders, even referred to himself as "Doctor Papercut" when in rap mode!

His session was about how to get boys more interested in reading and writing. Boys remember things with a pattern and things that interest them, he said he had observed during his teaching career.

He first started researching boys and literature when he recognized the big grade gap between boys and girls. In literature, he said, 78% of boys were getting D's and F's. (Again here he interacted with the crowd we got to vote on what we thought the percentage was concerning literature grades.)

He also showed the teachers how to help their boys with literature using websites such as guysread.com or looking at fact-driven or nonfiction for inspiration for reading books.

He highlighted that young boys often write for other boys while girls write for the teachers. So the grosser the better will ignite young boys' desires!



As a teacher, Shoulders used a teaching method that has worked well in the classroom: mnemonic devices. It is more of a visual process that really helps reach boy's brains.

After his session, I got a brief moment to ask some questions.

Most of my questions were more about him because he did not talk about himself very much during his session.

I asked him what inspired him to start his teaching method and write his children's books?

He said that he was listening to an author along with 200 other people and the author said to never write a book, that it's too hard.

This angered him and he decided to prove that author wrong and, though it took him five years to finally sell a book, he did it!

Some of his books are loved greatly, like "T is for Titanic," "D is for Drumming" and "Crossing the Deadline."

Shoulders connects to boys because he also did not like writing as a child, though he did like reading.

He is a real advocate for educators to allow children -- especially boys to -- read and write in their own context.

The CCIRA conference is a great place to go and, while it's intended for teachers, librarians and other educators, all ages would enjoy it, especially if they got to rap along with Doctor Papercut!



By Abigale Morris,
12, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

Space for comedy, romance and action



In "The Space Between Us", the cast explores many different locations including inside a space shuttle, on Mars, and on Earth.

Gardner Elliott (Asa Butterfield) and Tulsa (Britt Robertson) are the main characters.

Gardner is a 16-year-old boy who was born on Mars, and no-one but Tulsa knows that he even exists.

Tulsa is a strong, brave girl who is Gardner's girlfriend. She is about the same age as Gardner and lives in Colorado.

She is very street smart and this comes in handy in multiple situations.

For example, one time Gardner and Tulsa were being chased by the government, and she knew exactly how to get away.

Gardner's mother died in childbirth while she was the captain of a special colonization trip into outer space.

Gardner has a hard life because he has a special health condition that makes it so that he cannot return to Earth.

This leaves him stuck living somewhere that he doesn't want to be, and with very few people to communicate with.

Then there is Gardner's father, but Gardner has no clue who he is.

Still, his father is the reason that Gardner rarely

gets to interact with other people.

This is a dramatic romance type of movie with adventure.

For example, in one scene Gardner gets really upset and sad and runs off with a Land Rover that flips over.

Needless to say he gets in a bit of trouble for that one!

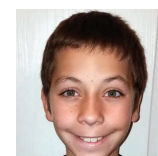
This movie is very emotional, and you could easily connect with the characters.

It really pulled me in and I felt like I was living the movie with the characters.

There are a lot of good visuals in the movie, and the plot is easy to understand.

This movie feels longer than it is, but in a good way, the type of film that you do not want to see end.

It's a good mix of comedy, romance, action, and drama. I definitely recommend this movie.



By Ben Vanourek,
11, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



Limited to first 75 students.

Youth Journalism Day

for 4th-8th grade students

Thursday, July 20, 2017
7:30am to 5:00pm
Metropolitan State University, Denver

Student Cost for the Day: \$65 (includes breakfast & lunch).
Spend the day with professionals learning about story writing, interviews and photography.

Register today! Go to ColoradoNIE.com for a registration form.
Call 303-954-3974 with questions.




Lego Batman provides plenty of laughs

The Lego Batman Movie is a light-hearted romp with a touching, deeper meaning and it's also a hilarious adventure.

Starting quite satirically, the whole movie is a laugh riot of quick-paced humor.

The movie begins with Batman (voiced by Will Arnett) saving Gotham City from the Joker yet again, but this time the Joker (Zach Galifianakis) is accompanied by a colorful array of ridiculous villains such as Condiment King and Clay Face.

Events then play out and the dilemma of the whole film is introduced when Batman's butler, Alfred (Ralph Fiennes) confronts him about being lonely and yearning for a family.

After this confrontation, Batman's personal journey commences, first with the appointment of a new police commissioner, Barbara Gordon (Rosario Dawson) and then the adoption of an orphan boy, Richard Grayson (Michael Cera).

From these two events, Batman begins to learn that working with other people in a team mightn't be as bad as he thought.

Not only is the movie funny, but it is also quite supportive of women's rights, through the character, Police Commissioner Barbara Gordon, who is independent,

smart, and strong, setting a powerful example for young women and girls.

In addition to this, the show breaks the barrier, the notion that men have to lack emotion, as in the end Batman learns to be vulnerable and get in touch with his emotions.

The one thing that solely stood out in the plot, though, was the fact that the director made it possible for all age groups to connect, using different eras of Batman to show change and appeal to a larger audience.

This movie was thoroughly enjoyable with its share of sweetness as well as a large dose of humor.

I would recommend this film to anyone seeking a fun show



to lighten the mood.



By Clarise Reichley, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Stories in the Stars: Cassiopeia

The Stories

Cassiopeia (CASS-ee-oh-PEE-uh) is one of the great villains of all time, condemned to hang upside-down in her chair for half of every night.

But not everyone sees the Queen as evil. Perhaps she was only foolish.

In any case, there she hangs in the sky, part of the "Royal Family" of constellations that includes her husband, Cepheus, her daughter, Andromeda, and the hero Perseus who rescued Andromeda from Cetus, the sea monster.

In the Greek myths, the story takes place in Ethiopia or sometimes in Libya, but earlier versions place it in the ancient city of Joppa, Phoenicia, which is now called "Jaffa" and is part of Tel Aviv, Israel.

In that seaside city, the beautiful Queen Cassiopeia lived with her husband and their lovely daughter.

Phoenicia was the center of trade in that ancient world, and we can guess that they were successful, wealthy people.

Cassiopeia, however, suffered from the most unforgivable flaw in that old culture: She was proud and liked to brag about herself.

Cassiopeia was indeed beautiful, and perhaps she really was more beautiful than the sea nymphs.

But she should never have said so.

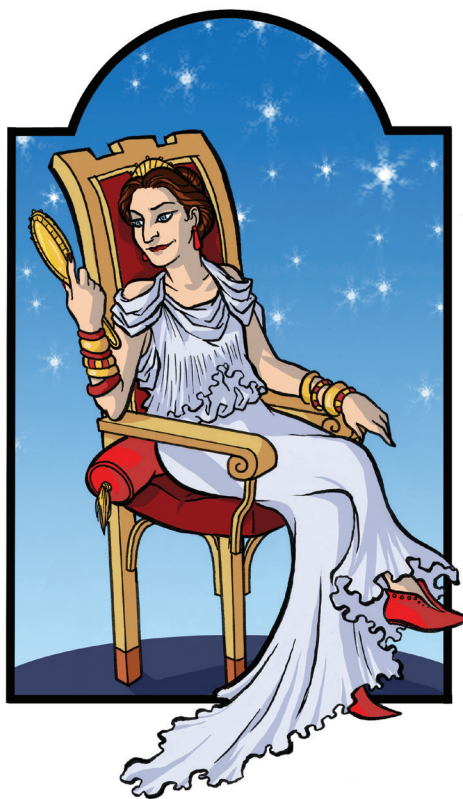
Her boasting so angered them that they asked their father, the sea-god Poseidon, to send a sea monster to destroy Cassiopeia and her entire city.

The great hero Perseus destroyed the monster, but the sea nymphs were not yet satisfied, and so, when Cassiopeia was brought into the stars, they made one demand of Zeus: That for half the night, the proud queen might hang in a most undignified position, upside down in her wonderful throne.

And if you look into the sky on a starlit night, you'll find it easy to spot the beautiful, proud queen, sitting in her throne.

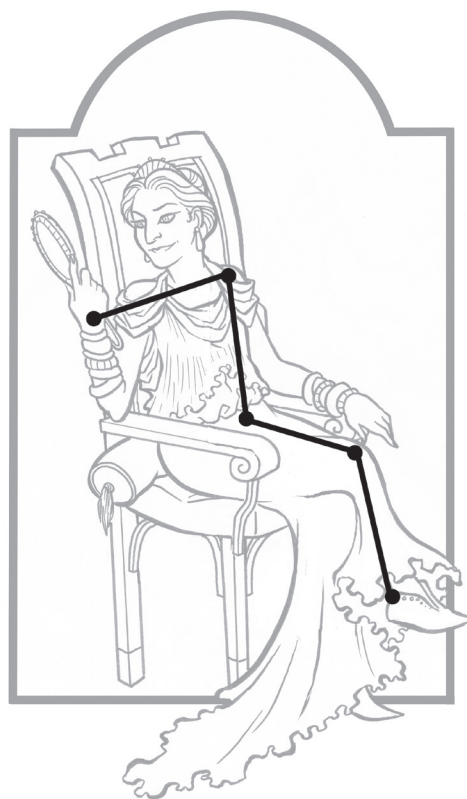
Half the night, pretty Cassiopeia gets to sit as a queen should.

But, for the other half, the nymphs have their wish, and she dangles upside down.



"Cassiopeia."

When she is upright, as an M, the stars are, from foot to head, Segin, Ruchbah, Gamma Cas, Shedar, and Caph.



The Stars

Cassiopeia is a very easy constellation to find, and one of the most well-known in all the heavens. Once you know Cassiopeia and the two Ursas, it's easy to find your way around the night sky.

Her W (or "M") shape has been given different names and stories at different times. Some Greeks thought it looked like a key. The ancient Arabs called it a kneeling camel, and in Egypt they thought it looked like a hand. But in later days, the Arabs and Greeks agreed that it was a woman in a chair.

To find Cassiopeia, face north and find the Big Dipper. Find the star where the handle meets the dipper itself, and combine it with Polaris to form a set of pointers. If you follow that down towards the Milky Way, you'll come to the clear W (or an "M," depending on whether she's upside-up or upside-down at the moment) of Cassiopeia.

There are five main stars in Cassiopeia. They form the W. But there are other, smaller stars there, with the names of Greek letters followed by "Cas" for

Use Gamma Cas and Caph as pointers. Start with Gamma Cas, go to Caph and then go about half that distance again and you'll be near Rho Cas. It doesn't look very bright, but it sure is. It's a yellow hypergiant and it's more than 8,000 light years away. The reason we can see it from here is because it is hundreds of times bigger than our sun!

Here are two things that you can't see in Cassiopeia anymore:

If you take Caph, Shedar and Gamma Cas and try to make a square, the fourth corner is a star called Kappa Cas. Just outside that square near Kappa Cas is where there was a supernova in 1572. That exploding star got so bright you could see it during daytime, But by March, 1574, it had disappeared from view.

There must have been another supernova in that part of the sky some other time, too, because it looks blank, but that area sends more radio waves our way than any other place in space except our own sun.

NEXT WEEK: Andromeda

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A soft tongue and unusual spit combine to feed frogs



The most important ingredient in all of science is curiosity, and, when a group of graduate students at Georgia Tech watched a YouTube video of a frog snapping up a meal, it triggered their curiosity.

How can a frog move so fast and capture not just little bugs but huge bugs and even small birds or other frogs?

They discovered, first of all, that a frog's tongue is extraordinarily

soft, more like brain tissue than other animals' tongues.

Then one of the researchers scraped saliva from frogs' tongues until she had enough to examine, and discovered that it is a "non-Newtonian fluid."

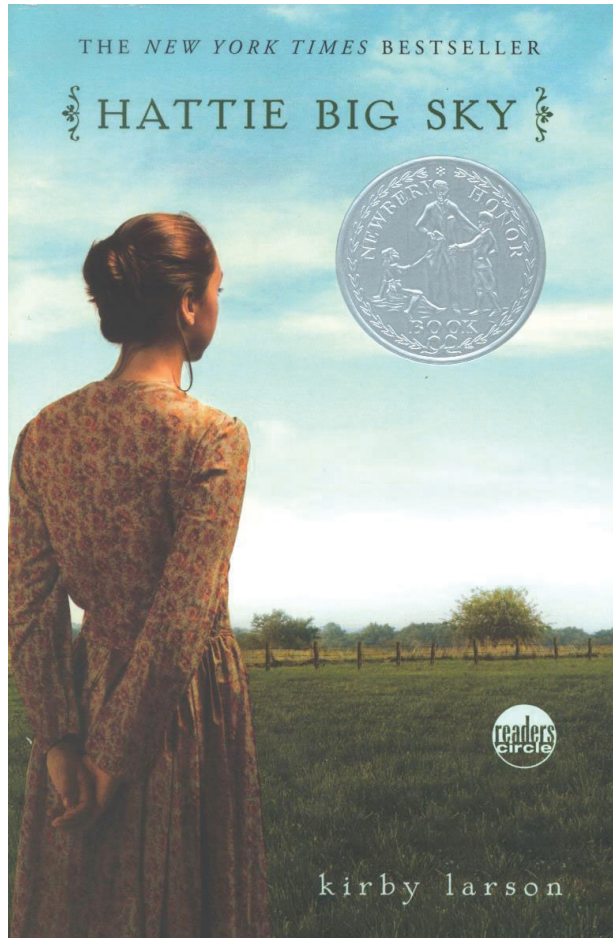
That means, as Sir Isaac Newton discovered, that some liquids don't behave like others.

Frog spit becomes more liquid-like when it hits something like a bug, and spreads all over it.

But, as the frog brings his tongue back at lightning speed, the saliva acts like a solid, making it impossible for the bug to pull free.

In an interview with the LA Times, group leader Alexis Noel compared it to the "ooblek" kids sometimes make from corn syrup and water, which is a liquid until you grab it, and then it acts like a solid. Frog spit, she explained, is just the opposite! photo/Georgia Tech

The first draft is the hardest, revising author says



Kirby Larson owns a tiara, and she is not afraid to use it! Larson, a Newbery Award winning author, has always loved reading and writing, but never thought her talents would take her to where she is today.

Larson says writing the first draft is the hardest part of writing because she continually is revising her work.

It was extremely hard to write and get published. In her talk at the recent conference of the Colorado Council International Reading Association, titled "Piecing Together the Past", she talked of her seven year writing slump.

During her writing slump she got discouraged. People kept saying -- and still do -- that historical fiction is not often read by kids and it is a hard sell, she said.

That didn't stop her from writing historical fiction. Her book, "Hattie Big Sky" is about her great grandmother, Hattie.

It tells a story of what she had to go through. Larson said, "She never talked about her accomplishments. My life was changed when I learned about what my grandmother did. I couldn't believe what she had to do."

"Hattie Big Sky" shocked Kirby Larson in more ways than learning about her grandmother's life. When she won the Newbery Award, Larson said, "I

was very surprised when I won. I thought that award was only for famous authors."

Perhaps she was right: Larson is now recognized among today's best known children's authors.

After winning the award, Larson's career took off. She went on to write a sequel to "Hattie Big Sky" called "Hattie Ever After". She also wrote "Duke" which is about World War II, "Dash" which is about the Pearl Harbor attack, and "Audacity Jones" is a series about a young girl who finds her way through life.

Kirby Larson is a well-known author, who wants to write until she can't anymore.

At the end of her interview she said, "Never stop reading. Read more broadly than what genre you're into. The more you read the more things get into your body."

Larson continues to write, and she still uses her tiara as inspiration!



By Ashley Gaccetta, 12, a CK Reporter from Longmont

Coffee maker joins farmers in literacy program

Dean's Beans is a company near Boston, but the beans that Dean Cycon sells come from many different countries around the world.

Dean's Beans has built a reputation in the coffee business as a "fair trade" company that not only makes sure workers in those countries earn enough money to live decently, but whose leader, Dean, travels to the farms and processing plants often to visit with the people who grow and process his beans.

On a trip to a processing plant in Nicaragua, Dean took time to talk to the women he calls "The Unseen Women of Coffee."

Many coffee drinkers think about the farmers who grow and pick the beans, but not about the Unseen Women who then rake them as they dry, spread out in the sun.

"Every time we speak to these Unseen Women," he wrote in his on-line journal, "they identify two things as the highest priorities for changing their lives; alternative sources of income for their families and increasing educational opportunities for their children."

Dean learned that books are very expensive in Nicaragua and many schools can't even afford textbooks, much less books for fun reading.

He got together with the cooperative farm-

ing group that produces coffee there, and with *Libros Para Niños*, a literacy group in Nicaragua.

With Dean as sponsor, they put together a children's book festival, complete with cake, Jell-O, a clown and a musician, but, best of all, free books for all the kids.

"The musician strummed a sing-a-long with a call and response of cat and dog noises," Dean wrote. "The kids weren't listening. They had their eyes on the boxes of books around the room. When they were given the word they plunged into the boxes and began to read or look at the pictures. Their focus was so intense that the rest of the room must have disappeared for them."

Kids and mothers read the books, or looked at the pictures, since many of the adults in the community cannot read or write, but *Libros Para Niños* and the cooperative are training local volunteers to tutor both parents and kids.

There will also be a mobile library coming to town at least once a month now, to give local kids access to books more often.

And Dean Cycon, the local coop and *Libros Para Niños* are looking to set up more book festivals in the future, to help make the dreams of the Unseen Women of Coffee come true, and let them build better futures for their children.



Mothers and kids in Nicaragua look over their new treasures at the children's book festival in a meeting room at the coffee processing plant in their hometown. (photo courtesy of Dean's Beans)



Sudoku

		4	3		
6				4	
2		5			4
			5		
	1				
	3			2	

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 Valentine's Day, and so of course all of our answers this week will begin with the letter "V." We love the letter "V"! (And everything else today!)

1. The capital of this nation is Caracas.
2. These bats are real, but they mostly drink the blood of cattle, not people.
3. The last color of a rainbow
4. Cowboy slang for "get out of here," it comes from the Spanish for "let's go!"
5. Sea-going warriors from ancient Scandinavia, they raided as far away as Italy.
6. More rare than its cousins, llamas and alpacas, this South American animal's wool is very soft and very expensive.
7. The top scholar in a graduating class, this student gets to make the final speech at graduation.
8. French for "stylish" or "popular," it's also the name of a well-known women's fashion magazine.
9. A window covering made of horizontal slats, they're named for a city in Italy.
10. Famous Dutch artist that Francis is talking about in this week's "Big Nate."

(answers on the back page)

The search for Dead Sea Scrolls isn't dead after all

In 1947, shepherds working near the Dead Sea in what was about to become the modern nation of Israel discovered a cave that contained a number of ancient jars.

In the jars were scrolls that turned out to be from the first century of the modern era, and the earliest copies of the books of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament.

Over the next decade, archaeologists searched and found 10 more caves from that era. Some had scrolls, others, however, had already been found and the contents taken by people who wanted to make a quick profit selling them to collectors.

However, archaeologists and Biblical specialists

were able to find some of those scrolls as well, and to study scripture that dates back nearly to the days of Christ and the time when the Roman Empire destroyed much of the old nation of Israel.

But then there were no more caves to be found, or, at least, that's what many people thought.

So it was a very happy surprise recently when a team of archaeologists discovered a 12th cave.

Unfortunately, the cave had been looted long ago, and only some bits of broken pottery and a blank piece of parchment were found, along with some other small things.

But it's proof that there may be more to be found for those who look. photo/Casey Olson & Oren Gutfeld





WEEK 14 WHAT I'LL MISS

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Time: 2017-02-02 01:54:00 UTC

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www.sitesalive.com

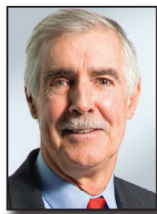
Next Week: Defining Success

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Dead Sea Scroll cave

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By Rich Wilson, Skipper Great American IV

At the end of this big effort to sail around the world singlehanded, it will be time to reflect on what I'll miss from these offshore days when I am back on land.

I'll miss the very clean air of the ocean and how my lungs love it. I'll miss seeing the flying fish whiz here and there trying to escape from our boat that they perceive to be a predator. They fly for 150 yards on their fins – it is amazing! I'll miss the amazing albatross of the south, who glide on their long wings for days, weeks, months, hardly ever flapping their wings, they are the perfect aerodynamic machine. I'll miss the stars of the Southern Hemisphere that we can't see from the north

where I live, because they are different, and they are an adventure.

From this race, I'll especially miss the almost daily communications with fellow competitors. We are all challenged by the sea, we are all doing our best, we are all having highs and lows in our minds and spirits, as well as in our weather systems. My friends of the south especially have helped to sustain me, and, I'd like to think, perhaps I helped to encourage them a little bit too.

I'll also miss the interactions with our site-SALIVE students around the world. I've had the marvelous chance to bring a bit of the ocean to you, 70% of the planet, but unseen and not experienced by so many. These interactions I will miss the most.



By Scott Hamilton President, Dooley-Intermed Foundation Medical Expeditions to Nepal

The end of any great adventure brings a variety of feelings. First there is a sense of relief that comes from an end to the dangers and deprivations that have been endured. Then comes a sense of accomplishment from having worked so hard and long to achieve a very difficult goal. Rich will soon have circumnavigated the Earth solo nonstop not just once, but twice, an incredible accomplishment!

After being on the ocean, or any wild remote place for a long period of time it can be challenging to readjust to the "normal" world. Things we often take for granted like running water, fresh fruit, television, and a soft bed are much appreciated luxuries. On an expedition your priorities are different, and senses sharpened. You have to constantly innovate, solve problems and adapt. It is always nice to get back to civilization and all the comforts of home, at least for a while.

Then, despite all the hardship and fear, you start to reminisce about the amazing places

you have been, and things you've seen that few people will ever experience. The shared experience of a challenging expedition often brings participants closer together and the friendships forged can be quite deep. While the comforts of home are appealing, to some people a life well lived means a series of great adventures. So, don't be surprised if you see Rich Wilson set sail on yet another epic voyage, continuing to inspire people around the world to pursue their own dreams.



NEWS EXPLORER

Find narratives in the newspaper. What do you notice about the kinds of information the reporter included? Write a narrative of some of the exciting events that have occurred so far during *Great American IV's* journey. Write your narratives in one of the newspaper writing styles you have encountered.

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

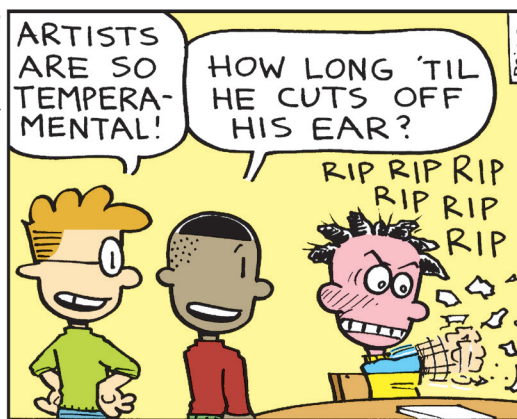
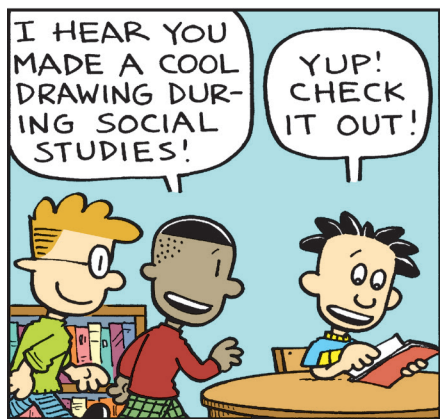
7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

- Venezuela
- vampire
- violet
- vamoose (from vamanos)
- vikings
- vicuña
- valedictorian
- vogue
- Venetian blinds
- Vincent Van Gogh

Big Nate



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