



CK Reporter of the Week
Jake Moore, Golden

Kate Messner: Be curious, be open

She is passionately curious and makes her readers wonder.

Kate Messner is an award-winning author who asks questions when writing, wanting answers, but instead getting surprises along the way.

"It starts with an idea. A little lightbulb that goes off in my head that starts it all," Messner says.

In Messner's speech at the 2017 conference of the Colorado Chapter of the International Reading Association, she talked about her writer's notebook, something she takes with her everywhere she goes.

In this notebook, are her thoughts, the ideas that she gets from the world around her.

Sometimes these ideas have been the start to a new story.

Some of them are still waiting until they can see the light of day.

Messner says the hardest part of the story is the middle of the rough draft.

She says, "I have this idea, and I'm like this is going to be the best story ever. Then I start writing it, and suddenly it is not the best story ever."

She went on to say that she always wants to go back and fix it, but knows that she has to finish the story first.

Currently, her most popular books are the "Ranger in Time" series, stories about



Kate Messner signs books for her readers at the recent CCIRA conference. photo/Mike Peterson

a golden retriever named Ranger who has the ability to time travel.

Ranger visits place like Rome, the Oregon Trail, the Underground Railroad and many more places to come.

She has also written "over and Under the Snow," (a young kids' book) about the secret world under the snow, "Capture the Flag," about three kids who have to find the American flag, and "The Seventh Wish," which is about a magical fish who grants wishes.

"You need to be open to the surprises around you," she says because sometimes those surprises can turn into a story.

She encourages kids to, "Keep reading; it gives you a sense of the world. And carry

a notebook: It helps you to see the world around you better."



By Ashley Gacetta,
13, a CK Reporter
from Longmont

Too doggone short

"Middle School: Dog's Best Friend" by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts, is about a kid named Rafe, his dog, Junior, and his sister, Georgia.

Rafe wants to start a dog-walking business, but he doesn't want his mom to know about it because she might get mad at him and not let him do it.

He always walks his dog to a dog park called the 'Park and Bark.'

He goes to the homes of owners of dogs that he's seen there and talks to them about whom they would like to walk their dogs.

He was going to charge \$5 a dog, but, for his first customer, he walks the dog for free and that customer happens to be a magician.

The storyline focuses a lot on the business, his life at home, and how much money that Rafe and his family has.

You will get to hear all about the dog-walking business and what happens during his many trips out and about.

Then Rafe's younger sister gets moved ahead in school and ends up in almost every class with him.

There are also twins in the book who

end up being rather mischievous, and Rafe has to figure out what to do about them.

This obviously causes a lot of friction. I won't tell you what they do or how Rafe deals with it.

I'll let you learn about that in the book.

This story is a comedy.

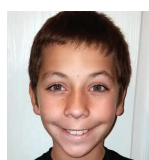
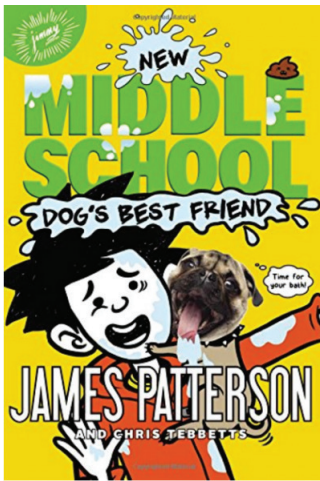
Even though it is about a middle-school kid, you don't have to be in middle-school to get the humor, though, if you are, and especially if you have an obnoxious sibling, you will be able to easily relate to the story.

In my opinion the book should have been longer.

It is about 225 pages long with a decent amount of pictures, but I think the author could have gone into more details about the fight scenes and even included a few more illustrations.

I also would have liked to see the story extended, because I just wasn't ready for the book to end.

I really enjoyed reading it.



By Ben Vanourek,
11, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

We asked you, you told us:

No pattern in reading tastes

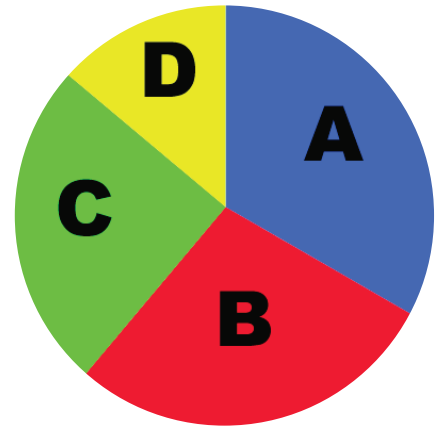
Sometimes asking a lot of people a question doesn't provide you with a clear answer.

That was the case this time around, when we asked CK readers about the way they share books among their friends.

Those who responded to our question managed to split the answers just about as evenly as possible.

A third said that a good book gets shared around in their circle of friends, but then nearly as many responded that the people they're close to tend to choose their own reading material, while a quarter reported that their close friends aren't big readers. And more than a few admitted that they have enough trouble keeping up with their own reading!

Here's what we asked you, and what you told us:



Which of these statements best reflects how you and your good friends share books?

- A. If one of us likes a book, we'll all end up checking it out. 33%
- B. We share sometimes, but our reading tastes vary a lot. 28%
- C. I'm the only really eager reader in my circle. 25%
- D. I don't even read half the books I recommend to myself. 14%

Now here's our next question:

How do you get to school in the morning?

- A. Private car
- B. School bus or public transit
- C. Walk or ride my bike
- D. I'm already there

To answer this question, go to <http://nextgen.yourhub.com>

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.




You should take the A train to and from DIA

You just got off your flight into Denver to find out your ride cancelled on you. What can you possibly do at this point?

One good option to consider is RTD's "Train To The Plane" or the "A" line, which takes a little over half an hour from the airport to Union Station or vice-versa.

As you walk to the doors of the station near the security line and the hotel you will notice the beautiful architecture of the station, one of the cleanest places in the airport.

The personnel both on and off the train are extremely helpful and friendly.

The train station is built so there are no stairs as well as plenty of wheelchair, bike, and luggage racks on each train car.

Tickets at either Union Station outbound or Denver Airport coming into town cost \$9, unless you're a student or senior in which case they're only \$4.50.

On board the train, the seats all face forward instead of facing each other. The seats are also extremely comfortable and along with the warm air conditioning it makes for a nice comfy ride.

The only downside to the ride is there's no music, just the sound of the engine and air conditioning. The engine isn't loud but it is noticeable.



There are eight total stations on the A Line, including Union Station and Denver International Airport.

Is your phone almost dead? No problem, there are plenty of electrical outlets.

There are a total of 91 seats for a full capacity of 170 standees and seats combined on each trip.

Some extra facts that may interest you are that the maximum speed is 79 mph, there are 25,000 volts of electricity in the wires over your head and that the train weighs 70 tons without anyone in it.

The "Train To The Plane" is a great way to get to and from the airport without any traffic or any toll roads: Just a simple payment of \$9.00 to get to easily catch your plane or come on back home again!

For schedule and more information, visit <http://www.rtd-denver.com/index.shtml>



By Van Brown, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton

A case of frighteningly funny adventure



If you like and adventure, you'll like this book!

Growing up in a house rumored to be haunted, author B.A. Frade was destined to write the Tales from the Scaremaster series, and "Tales from the Scaremaster: Swamp Scarefest" is the full package!

Twins Olivia "Liv" and Aiden live in a creaky house near a lake, and they decide to go camping with only their dog for company.

But after they fish a mysterious book out of the water, strange, evil things start happening.

They will be put to the ultimate test, and the Scaremaster plans that they won't make it out alive.

Will they survive or not?

Read it for yourself, if you dare!

B.A. Frade really knows how to put the thrill in thriller for those who love mystery, horror, and most importantly, comedy!

This comical adventure is a lengthy book at 172 pages, but you'll be on the edge of your seat to find out what's coming up next, and it's a real surprise what's coming up.

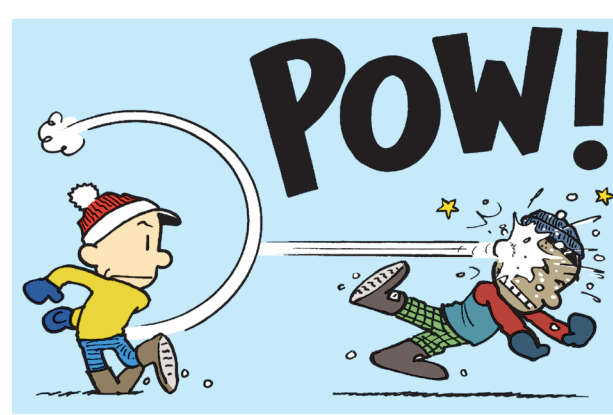
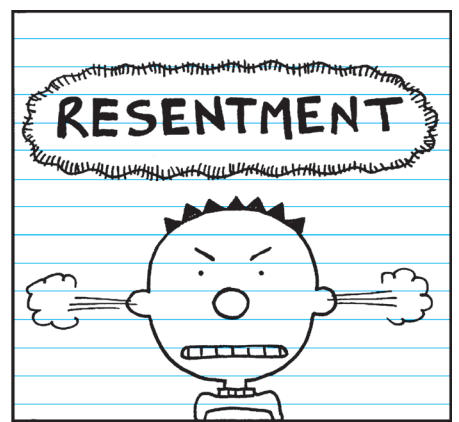
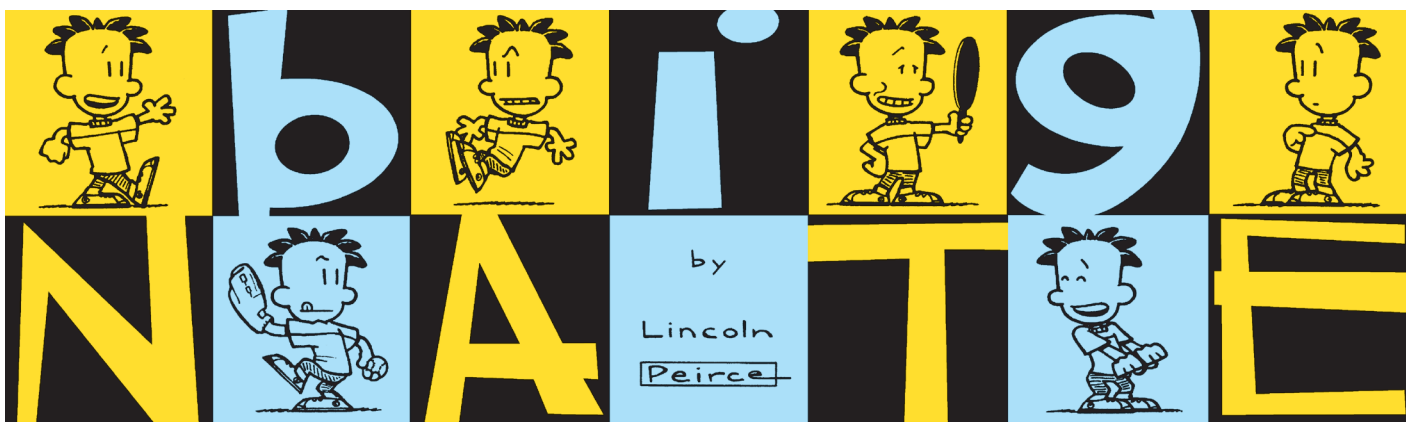
Frade does a terrific job of describing the characters and the setting, which gave me a bigger understanding of what was going on.

The book seems like horror, but my favorite part was the comedy.

I would recommend the book to anybody who is up to a good scare (and maybe some chuckles).



By Marcus Turner, 10, a CK Reporter from Aurora



NASA to boldly go where no man has gone before



Old joke: "I'm going to be the first astronaut to land on the Sun!"
 "You can't do that: You'd burn up!"
 "No, I won't: I'll go at night!"

That joke is less ridiculous now than it used to be, because NASA is, indeed, planning a trip to the Sun.

Not with astronauts, though. Not even foolish ones.

NASA's Solar Probe Plus mission won't involve actually landing on the surface of the Sun, either. That would be impossible.

But it will get within 4 million miles of the surface, braving temperatures of 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit with a heat shield 4.5 inches thick.

That's actually a lot cooler than the surface, which is more like 10,000 degrees, but, strange as it seems, the Sun's surface is cooler than the cloud-like corona around it, which gets as hot as 3.5 million degrees.

That's one of the mysteries of the Sun that NASA hopes its new probe will help solve.

However, the most important part of the mission will be to study solar winds and the activities that sometimes generate storms, sending particles out into space.

There is fear that a large solar storm could knock out power throughout the Earth, and, while there's no way to change the weather on the Sun, understanding it could help uncover ways to protect ourselves against those storms.

(Hint: If you plan to stow away, don't forget the popcorn.)

photo/NASA

Keeping ideas, just in case you need them



photo/Mike Peterson

Teachers from around the region gathered at the Denver Marriott for the CCIRA conference to hear many authors speak about writing and reading.

Among them was Lester Laminack who gave a luncheon keynote talk entitled "Writing as a Pursuit of Passion."

Laminack defined passion as the "fuel that causes you to do something whether someone is watching or not."

He urged listeners to feel their writing, to taste, to touch, to smell, and to see it as well.

With his humor, stories from his own personal experiences, and his signature bow tie, he captivated the audience with his inspiring speech.

Laminack referred to "trap door" moments during his speech.

These moments are formed when one remembers something from the past and uses it to create a story.

For example, Laminack wrote an entire book after he smelled cookies in a grocery store which triggered the childhood memory of baking cookies with his grandmother.

Laminack shared that he keeps a small notebook with him at all time which he uses to jot down ideas, then transfers some to a larger notebook.

One page is never related to the next as he includes any moments that resonate with him.

He compared it to a kitchen drawer where someone might keep various objects they think they might need.

Are you going to need that spring? Probably not. But you never know.

Little of what goes into Laminack's notebooks may actually make it into a book, he said.

When explaining the origin of an idea, Laminack stated, "Where does it come from? Whatever catches my attention in that moment."

Laminack told his audience that young children naturally speak poetically, and that suppressing these natural tendencies would take away their ability to think metaphorically.

He encouraged teachers to give their students notebooks so they can record what catches their attention.

He also instructed them to feed their students' imaginations and souls through fiction.

Laminack believes that reading and writing help children "to think, to examine, and to be passionate."

He ended his speech with an inspirational bit of advice:

"Embrace the good that is within each of you. Don't look too deep. Search for peace in the great abundance."



By Jonah Rupe, 12, a CK Reporter from Evergreen

Where food nourishes young minds, too



photos/http://www.anera.org

Gaza, a narrow strip of land between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea, has been the site of violent clashes between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs for more than half a century.

But children in Gaza still need to go to school and learn, despite the extreme poverty of their homeland.

Schools in Gaza are often too poor to have libraries and

science labs, so it takes some clever thinking to make up for the teaching tools many educators around the world take for granted.

ANERA, "American Near East Refugee Aid," is a group that has been providing help to people in the Middle East since 1967.

Recently, ANERA has been training preschool teachers in Gaza to use experiential learning in place of the books and test tubes they simply can't afford.

The "experience" at the YMCA preschool in Gaza one day was making fruit salad.

This activity included reaching into a bag of fruit to identify by shapes the things found inside.

Kids could also practice counting as they saw how many pieces of each kind of fruit went into the recipe for their fruit salad that day.

They also talked about the forms they could change fruit into as they made the salad, either by cutting it into pieces or by squeezing it to turn it into juice to sprinkle over the salad.

And, of course, a fruit salad is a very good chance to talk about colors!

In addition to shapes and colors, however, the young students were also learning about healthy eating, so that, by the end of the day, they had studied math, science, art and language, and enjoyed a delicious meal, too!



Sudoku

6		3			
				3	5
	6				1
			2		
				4	
3		4		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 Page 4.



Brainteaser

On this date in 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received his first patent for a device he called a telephone, so our answers today will begin with "B."

- George Harrison, John Lennon, Richard "Ringo" Starkey and Paul McCartney
- This city is the capital of Serbia.
- Profiled in last week's CK, he's the author of the Merlin series of novels.
- You'd go over this pass on Route 40 if you were driving from Denver to Winter Park.
- Though fierce and powerful, this panther was a loyal friend to Mowgli.
- Quasimodo's job
- When little kids eat this green vegetable, a relative of cabbage, they often pretend to be giants eating trees.
- If you shout this first name in the Broncos' locker room, Mr. Marshall and Mr. McManus will both answer.
- Fur trader who built a fort on the Arkansas River near present-day La Junta.
- Woodwind instrument that is Grandfather's voice in "Peter and the Wolf."

(answers on Page Four)

Elephants: The noses may be long, but the naps are very short

How many times have you asked yourself, "I wonder if elephants need a lot of sleep?"

Perhaps not many, but, fortunately, some curious researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, asked themselves that question, so now you don't have to.

They already knew that previous studies of both wild and captive elephants showed an average of between about three and seven hours of sleep in 24 hours.

One problem with that is that there is a big difference between three hours and seven hours, and researchers realized there is also a big difference between life in a zoo or circus and life in

the wilds of Africa.

The other problem is that, while it's easy to watch an elephant in the zoo, it's hard to keep track of wild elephants for very long.

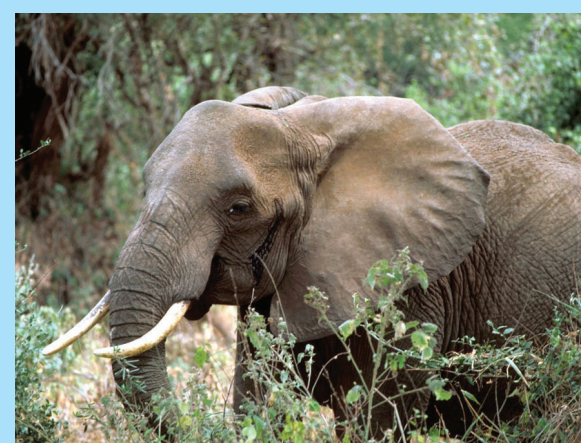
So they tranquilized two wild females and put a band, similar to a Fitbit, around each of their trunks.

If the trunk stayed still for more than five minutes, they reasoned, the elephant was likely asleep.

What they found was that, between searching for food and keeping an eye out for predators and poachers, wild elephants don't get a lot of sleep.

Their subjects moved around a lot and mostly took brief, standing naps, putting in an average of just two hours of sleep each day.

photo/USFWS



Beyond These Four Pages!

Hot Links to Cool Sites!

NASA's Space Place
<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report
<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

Headline Geography
<http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography>

Pulse of the Planet
<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Solar Mission

Preschool teaching

Sleepless elephants

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. the Beatles 2. Belgrade 3. T.A. Barron 4. Berthoud 5. Bagheera
 6. bell-ringer 7. brocolli 8. Brandon 9. (William) Bent 10. bassoon

Stories in the Stars: Orion

The Story

Orion was a great hunter, and a mighty giant who could walk in the ocean from island to island.

One day he came to Crete, where he fell in love with the king's daughter, Merope.

The king was not interested in having a powerful, uncivilized giant as a son-in-law, but he was also afraid of Orion. So he gave him a challenge. There were many dangerous animals on the island, and, if Orion would get rid of them all, the king said, he could wed the lovely Merope. The king secretly hoped that one of the animals would get rid of Orion instead.

But that didn't happen, so when Orion came to the palace with his task done, ready to claim his bride, the king came up with another plot. He had a big party and got Orion to drink too much wine, so that the giant fell deep asleep. Then the king blinded him.

When Orion awoke, he was horrified, as you might guess. Not only would he not get to marry Merope, but a blind hunter would have a hard time making a living at all.

However, Merope did not desert her beloved. She and her six sisters, the Pleiades, gently lead Orion over the sea to the East, the place where Helios, the Sun, sleeps each night. When Orion finally arrived there, the gentle beams of Helios gave him back his sight.

But Merope was ashamed of having gone against her father's wishes, and that is why she hides her face. Most nights, if you look at the Pleiades, you see only six sisters, not seven.

As for Orion, he went back to his life as a hunter, and he did something that always gets you in trouble in Greek mythology: He started bragging. Orion said that he was the greatest hunter of all time and that there was no animal he could not defeat.

This made Hera, the queen of the gods, angry. Some people say she sent a giant scorpion to battle Orion and that there was a terrible battle. Others say that she sent a regular scorpion because it would shame him to be killed by such a tiny animal, instead of by a lion or a bear.

However it happened, Orion was stung by the poisonous scorpion, and the gods were sad to see such a great hunter die. They put him up in the sky where you can find him in the fall and winter skies, and they put the scorpion far away, so the two never have to meet again.



The Stars

Orion is one of the easiest constellations to find in the winter sky. If you face south and look about halfway up in the sky, you'll see three bright stars in a row. That's Orion's belt!

Once you've found that, you can see the rest of the constellation: His shoulders and hips and his arms and head, as well as the sword that hangs from his belt.

The red star that marks the shoulder of his upraised arm (on the left as you look at him) is Betelgeuse, which is one of the most fun stars to say. It's pronounced "beetle juice" just like the 1988 movie title.

Betelgeuse is one of the largest stars in the sky, a red supergiant about 600 times the radius of our sun.

Most astronomers think Betelgeuse is near the end of its life and will soon turn into a supernova. But "soon" is still a long time in astronomy. Even those scientists who expect it to happen very soon say it might be a thousand years from now.

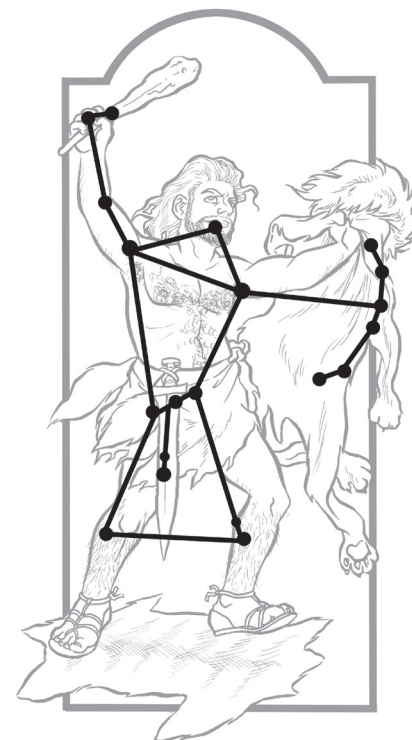
Others say it will be much longer than that, but still "soon" in space terms!

The other major star in Orion is Rigel, which is opposite Betelgeuse. It marks Orion's hip on the bottom right.

Rigel is a blue supergiant, much hotter than Betelgeuse or our sun. Rigel has a companion star close by, but Rigel itself is so bright that it's hard to see that second star, even with a small telescope.

But, if you can get out away from city lights on a dark night, here's something to train your telescope or binoculars on: The middle "star" of Orion's sword isn't a star at all. It's the Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust in which stars are forming.

Most constellations are really just stars that look to be together because of where the Earth happens to be. But most of the stars in Orion really are related to each other. They were formed in one group about a thousand light years away.



NEXT WEEK: Taurus and the Pleiades

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For a teaching guide, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ckserial>

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