



CK Reporter of the Week  
Marcus Turner, Aurora

## Kong offers thrills for older kids

**"Kong: Skull Island,"** directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts, takes place right after the Vietnam War on a previously undiscovered island full of mythical monsters and, of course, King Kong.

When a secret government program called Monarch finds images of a mysterious uncharted island in the Pacific ocean, they launch an expedition to map the surface structure of the island.

The expedition soon finds out that they are not alone on the island, however.

Their entire fleet of helicopters is taken out by Kong, and the survivors are scattered and have to regroup and get to the north side of the island in three days so they can be rescued.

The movie, however, starts out during World War II with an American and a Japanese pilot crash landing on the island.

They soon begin fighting each other and later encounter King Kong.

Overall, the movie was very good.

The special effects were extremely realistic and added to the sense of reality in the movie. Everything, from the explosions to the colossal creatures, looked very real.

Another thing that was good about this movie was that, while it was long (*two hours*), it wasn't painful to watch and the movie didn't spend too much time dallying on unimportant details.

This Kong movie was also a bit more sci-fi than the others have been, with a lot more huge creatures and fictional animals than in previous versions.

Another good thing about the movie was that it was in 3D, which really added to the whole sense of



realism, especially when there were things like giant monsters on screen.

One thing you should note is that it is a very violent movie and has a lot of gore in it as well.

While "Kong: Skull Island" was a good movie, there were some things that were not so great about it.

Samuel L. Jackson's performance as Preston Packard was not so great. It seemed like his character was very

forced and it wasn't natural.

There also was a little bit of inconsistency with the condition of the ape and how injured it was.

In the beginning, the expedition tries to kill Kong, but fails.

Later, we can see Kong tending to his wounds when

he is attacked by an abnormally large octopus.

Kong kills it almost effortlessly as if he weren't injured at all.

The time during which the movie takes place also doesn't make very much sense and it was hard to tell if there was some hidden meaning to it.

If you are into movies with a lot of special effects and are all right with violence and gore then this movie is definitely worth seeing.

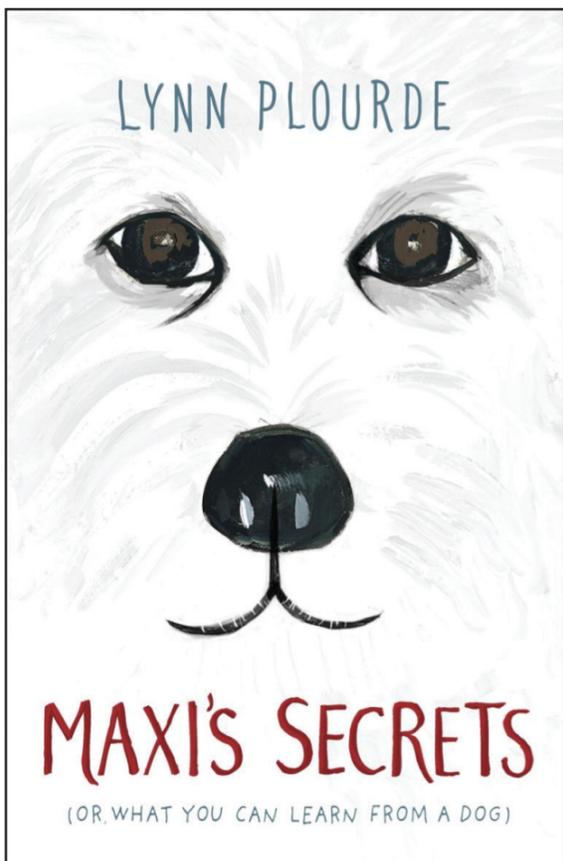
The movie is appropriately rated PG-13, though, and you won't want to bring a six-year-old to see it.

If you are into movies with a lot of special effects and are alright with violence and gore then this movie is definitely worth seeing.



By Parker Secret,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Denver

## Life lessons from a very special dog



**T**he main character in "Maxi's Secrets" by Lynn Plourde is a short boy named Timminy. He is going into 5th grade, so he is probably about 9 or 10 years old.

He lives in Maine and has to move to the urban part of the state.

He is upset about the move, but his parents gave him a dog named Maxi in exchange for moving, to help him adjust.

Maxi is a Great Pyrenees, with a whitish gold color to her fur and she is deaf.

At first Timminy has a hard time adjusting to this fact, but over time he gets used to it.

Timminy makes friends with a blind girl named Abby, the next door neighbor in his new neighborhood.

The mailman says, "a deaf dog in this house and a blind girl in the next house," and this leads Timminy to meet Abby who then helps Timminy meet other new kids and begin to fit in.

This is particularly difficult for Timminy to do because his dad is the vice principal of his new school!

This book covers about 25 of Maxi's secrets. Each of her secrets is sort of a life lesson that

Maxi teaches Timminy.

Of course, the dog cannot talk, but it can interact with him to teach him, and you, things!

As he learns each secret, Timminy experiences them in real life.

My favorite life lesson was #43: "Life is one big story, with some chapters more exciting and more scary - than others."

It was my favorite because it also explains how I see life, and yet it relates to the flow of a book.

This story is a little bit of most genres: comedy, drama, action, sadness, etc.

It was a hard book to read, and it was rather emotional.

I would recommend it for other kids, but you may want to be a bit older to help handle the deep feelings that come with reading this book.



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**

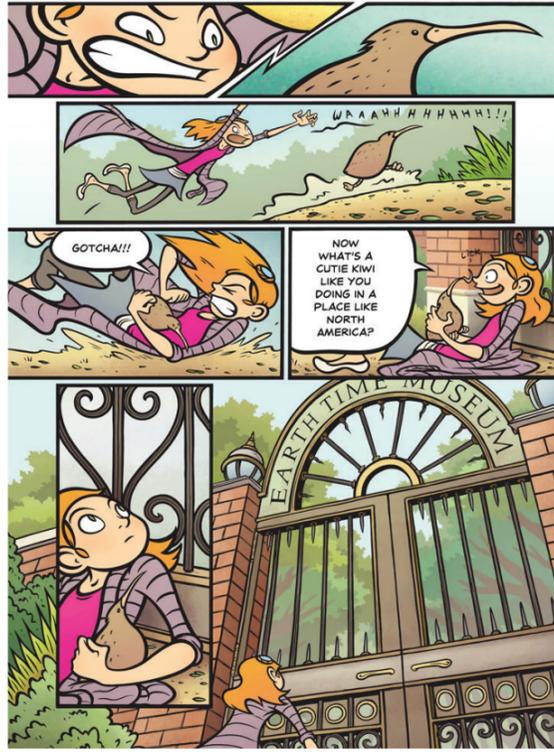
Student Cost for the Day: \$65 (includes breakfast & lunch). Spend the day with professionals learning about story writing, interviews and photography.

Register today! Go to [ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com) for a registration form.  
Call 303-954-3974 with questions.






# Take a quick trip through the Time Museum



As she is exploring she comes across a kiwi bird! This is not New Zealand so what could a kiwi bird be doing here? Delia decides to follow the bird and see where it is going. The strange kiwi brings her to a gate with nothing past the gate but the landscape. "Gates were meant to be opened, right?" she asks the kiwi bird. When Delia opens the gate a whole museum pops out and has all sorts of creatures, people, and cool things inside! Delia hears her parents talking and wonders what they are doing in a place like this. She wanders over to them to see what's going on. To her surprise she finds her uncle with them in this crazy place. "The Time Museum" will keep you going until you really must stop reading this book. This book is appropriate for kids from about six to 12 years old who would like a short quick graphic novel. "The Time Museum" will keep you thinking of all the possible things that you could do if this book were true!



By Jake Moore, 11, a CK Reporter from Golden

If you've ever wanted to travel through time, you should be partners with Delia Bean, the main character in "The Time Museum," a graphic novel by Matthew Loux. Delia is a normal kid in a normal life until now! She is just now finishing school for the year and is

super excited to go to her uncle Lyndon's place for a week or two. When the family gets to their uncle's place, however, he is on a work trip, or, at least, that's what he says. When Delia's family goes to the public pool she decides to stay at their uncle's place.

# Who planted the trees in the Amazon forest?

It seems like a silly question to ask who planted the trees in the Amazon rainforest.

That's like asking who dumped water in the Atlantic Ocean, or who scattered all that sand in the Sahara Desert.

Of course, the forest was there long before people lived in the Amazon.

But Dutch and Brazilian archaeologists and ecologists have determined that, well before Europeans came to the Western Hemisphere, people living in the Amazon had a lot to do with how many of each type of trees were there.

An earlier study had looked at the different types of trees in the Amazon.

Now researchers began to look at where there were more trees of certain kinds than you would expect just from natural growth.

There are some types of trees that are particularly useful to human beings: Palm trees, as well as the trees that produce cocoa, Brazil nuts and acai.

These trees are not only useful, but have, over the centuries, been domesticated so that they produce more of their benefits than they might have if they were simply growing untended in the wilderness.



Archaeologists and historians already know that people in ancient societies might not have had the tools and machinery that Europeans brought to the New World, but were still good at biology and farming.

For instance, the corn we know today was more like grass or rice, until the Mayans and the Mound Builders began to cultivate it, developing the larger ears and larger seeds we think of as corn.

And although horses only arrived in this hemisphere with the first Europeans, the Nez Perce quickly began careful breeding programs that produced the Appaloosa breed.

Now it appears that the people of the Amazon planted and tended the most useful trees in the places where they lived.

The researchers found that, when they examined areas in the jungle where there were large numbers of these domesticated, more useful trees, they also found archaeological proof that humans had lived in the area long before the coming of the Europeans.

Even people who did not leave pyramids or stone ruins left behind evidence of their abilities to make the forest a more welcoming home: Useful, carefully planted trees.



(Photo/lbama)

## Sudoku

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

**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

To celebrate the date being 3/14, our answers will all begin with "P," and our first question will explain why!

1. If you divide the circumference of a circle by its diameter, the answer begins with 3.1415926 ... and then goes on forever. What is the name of this useful number?
2. This European nation is bordered only by the Atlantic Ocean and Spain.
3. Author of the "Captain Underpants" series
4. Root vegetable shaped like carrots, but cream-colored rather than orange
5. Another name for the cougar, catamount or mountain lion
6. This organ of your body produces insulin; if it is not working well, you might have diabetes.
7. Founder of Colorado Springs, his statue is in the middle of a main street there, right in front of the high school named for him.
8. This foxy-looking, fluffy little dog is in the "toy" category, but is related to much larger spitzes like the Norwegian Elkhound and Siberian Husky.
9. Western Slope town in Delta County known for fruit, particularly its cherries
10. Dark type of rye bread with a strong taste and a German name

(answers on Page Four)

# Too much time on line may be a sign of real-life loneliness



Two weeks ago, we reported on a study that said people who spend too much time checking their social media have more problems with tension than those who unplug from time to time.

Now a study suggests that people who spend a lot of time on social media may have a lot of Facebook friends, but, in real life, tend to be lonely.

Researchers from the Center for Research on Media, Technology and Health at the University of Pittsburgh surveyed 1,787 U.S. adults ages 19 to 32 and asked them about their media habits.

They also asked them about their personal lives, including how often they felt left out.

They found that people who said they spent more

time on social media were far more likely to feel lonely in their three-dimensional lives than people who spent less time on-line.

The researchers were quick to point out that this doesn't mean that going on line will ruin an excellent social life.

It could mean, they said, that people who don't feel like they have a good social life spend more time on Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and other places where they can connect with people in the virtual world.

But if you're spending more than two hours a day on line, you may want to make sure you're connected to the real world, too.

photo/JCllks

# 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

Yellow Cabs

The Amazon Forest

Lonely Social Media

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Pi 2. Portugal 3. (Dav) Pilkey 4. parsnip 5. puma 6. pancreas  
 7. (William Jackson) Palmer 8. Pomeranian 9. Paonia  
 10. pumpnickel

# Stories in the Stars: Taurus and the Pleiades

## The Story

**T**aurus the Bull is a fairly easy constellation to spot, right above Orion the Hunter. In fact, part of the legend of Taurus is that he and Orion are fighting, and he is kneeling and just about to lunge at the hunter.

There are two myths about bulls that are connected with Taurus.

The main one has to do with Zeus turning himself into a bull and kidnapping a princess named Europa for a swim across the Mediterranean. They ended up in Crete, where she became that ancient land's first queen.

The other mythological bull that people say is Taurus started out in Crete. The Cretan Bull was a violent animal that was tearing up the island until Heracles captured him and brought him to Greece, then let him go.

The bull ran around Greece creating more problems, until the great hero, Theseus, who also killed the Minotaur, was able to put an end to this bull.

Or, at least, he put an end to him on earth, because there he is up in the stars! But there are more myths about this constellation than just the ones about the bull. His head is a cluster of stars called the Hyades.

The Hyades were among the daughters of Atlas, who had many daughters. The Hyades were particularly fond of their brother. He went hunting one day and was killed by a lion, and the Hyades were so upset that they died, too.

Zeus put them up in the sky, Their name in Greek means rain, and it was said that, when it rained, it was the Hyades weeping for their brother.

Over the bull's shoulders are some more of Atlas's daughters, the Pleiades. These "seven sisters" have many myths about them.

The main one for this constellation is that Orion got a crush on the youngest sister and wouldn't leave her alone. After awhile, Zeus turned them into doves so they could fly away from him. (The name "Pleiades" means "dove.")

He's still bothering them, but Taurus won't let him get too close.



## The Stars

**T**aurus is one of the best constellations to look at with binoculars, but you'll see a lot just looking up on a dark night with your own eyes.

Orion is attacking Taurus, and Taurus is ready for trouble, so if you find Orion, you'll find Taurus just above him and to the right. Look for the bright star Aldebaran in a V-shape that makes up the horns of Taurus.

Aldebaran is a red giant so big that, if it were our Sun, poor Mercury would be gobbled up in it. It's the 19th brightest star in the heavens.

Aldebaran will be surrounded by lots of stars. That's the open-star cluster of the Hyades, and it's quite a sight with binoculars or a small telescope. The wider your lens, the more light it will gather and the more stars you'll see -- there are plenty in this cluster!

If you search the Hyades with binoculars, you might see some double stars, too. There are several that you'll be able to get a good view of, if the night is dark.

The Hyades and Aldebaran make up the bull's head, with Aldebaran as his angry red eye, but the Hyades aren't really very close to Aldebaran in space. They're really much farther away from Earth.

The Pleiades are just where they belong to be protected from Orion. Look up above Aldebaran and you'll find a fuzzy little patch of stars sitting safely on the bull's shoulders.

With binoculars, you'll see they are a star cluster, but much smaller and closer together than the Hyades. There are supposed to be seven Pleiades, but, without binoculars or a telescope, you'll probably only see six of them.

Open star clusters like the Pleiades and Hyades are groups of young stars formed from the same huge cloud of hydrogen, which still hangs around as a fog. You're looking at baby stars!

Both the Greek myth of the Seven Sisters and an Onondaga story of dancing children rising into the sky say that, at first there were seven in the group, but later there were only six.

The Greeks said one of the sisters was embarrassed and hid, the Indians said one of the children ran home at the last minute. Did one of the stars grow more dim over the centuries?



## NEXT WEEK: Canis Major and Canis Minor

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

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