

CK Reporter of the Week
Maria Ciobanu, Denver

New beauty in an old favorite

We all know the sweet, simple animated version of “Beauty and the Beast.”

But the new live-action version (directed by Bill Condon), is a compelling, thrilling roller coaster ride full of riveting action, romance, and fun all on its own.

This movie is pretty intense, and very fast paced.

I liked the fact that the ending is a little less in the fairytale category.

Everything seems lost, but instead of getting better, every attempt fails. Only then does love win.

I also enjoyed the fact that the characters get more personality and depth.

Belle (Emma Watson) and Beast (Dan Stevens) get backstories, and Cogsworth (Ian McKellen) gets a sweetheart.

This movie isn't all singing and love, though.

Three things you might want to know before seeing this film are that, one, there is a controversial character: Gaston's henchmen LeFou (Josh Gad) is gay and seems to crush on Gaston (Luke Evans).

Another is that the songs are tweaked in little ways, so, if you like to be able to sing along to all the lyrics, you will be disappointed.

The last is that the movie is a little darker than the animated version.

Gaston is bloodthirsty and violent, and the CGI makes a lot of things scarier than they would be otherwise.

Because of this, this movie is one that



you might not want to see in 3D, as it can intensify the scary parts.

Despite this intensity, “Beauty and the Beast” is definitely worth seeing on the big screen because you get immersed in the sound and color.

The big version is very detailed, and it's nice to be able to catch those little moments of foreshadowing.

I also enjoyed that the fact that the similarities between Belle and Hermione from Harry Potter (Emma Watson's most iconic role) end at learning bravery and loving books.

Emma Watson's singing voice was a pleasant surprise. You can hear her speaking voice when she sings, which was shocking and amazing all at once.

The Beast gets more feeling, with a bigger singing role and a part as a non-generic selfish prince-turned-animal.

It was cool that the side characters didn't distract from the theme, but added to it.

By one report, this is one of 22 Disney classics remade or planned to be remade in live action.

I sort of like that new approach, but this is a little annoying also. When will Disney make a new live action movie?



By Sylvia Goodman,
11, a CK Reporter
from Centennial

DMNS exhibit sheds new light on Vikings



photo copyright Denver Museum of Nature and Science

The “Vikings: Beyond the Legend” exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science opened March 10. It is a joint venture between the Swedish History Museum in Sweden and Museums Partner in Austria.

I always thought a Viking was a person, however a Viking can also be an activity. For example, it could be a journey for commercial purposes or as a raid.

Sometimes even women or children are on a viking.

An interesting part of the exhibit explains how they dealt with the afterlife.

For example, they buried some of their dead with spikes on their shoes so that they can climb up an icy road to ‘Hel’ (which was not what we usually think of when we think of Hell).

They also sometimes pushed the dead body out to sea on a boat that they set on fire.

There are several historical re-enactors in the exhibit, a cast of seven that rotates, after spending approximately six months preparing for their roles!

The main components that they focused on include accents and expressions.

Having statements that are appropriate to the time are also an important part of the experience, and they worked with experts at Denver University's Nordic

studies program, conducted weekly study sessions, and made costumes that are all hand stitched.

I interviewed a historical re-enactor named “Einarr Shield-breaker.”

He told me that he got his name as a child from his habit of breaking his brother's shields. He carries an axe that he sharpens with soft stone.

The axe is versatile because you can use it for climbing walls, cutting wood, or cutting your opponent's body.

Einarr started training for vikings around the age of seven, he said, but he did not take his first viking until he was closer to 12 or 14. He carried a heavy wooden shield.

The exhibit also has examples of Viking writing, and you can spell your own name with the tiles.

Many artifacts are on display that were dug up on archaeological digs. They have a Viking ship suspended in the air, which is really cool because they removed the wood so you can see the shape and all of the iron nails that were needed to make the ship.

Carts there have replicas of things like old locks, belt buckles, spoons, knives, combs made out of bone, cups, sewing needles, etc. that are exactly like the originals. Kids can touch these and feel how they worked.

The Fjellbrog Vikings Group, a club of re-enactors here in Colorado, helped create these replicas.

This is a travelling exhibit and will be here through August 13, and, during spring break March 26 through April 1, will have extended hours until 7 p.m. instead of the regular closing time of 5 p.m.

I recommend this exhibit for all ages since there are interactive stations throughout the museum.



By Tyler Vanourek,
14, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



Limited to first 75 students.

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for 4th-8th grade students

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Novel re-creates the Klondike Gold Rush

Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine," by Caroline Starr Rose, tells the story of an 11-year-old boy and his 16-year-old brother in the Klondike Gold Rush at the turn of the 20th century.

The gold fever has just hit Seattle, and Melvin and Jasper save up to go get some gold.

Two years ago their mother died, and their pa had become a drunk.

He lost his job and used all of 16-year-old Melvin's income to buy alcohol.

So, Melvin takes the boys' Klondike savings and heads off.

Now, angry little Jasper tramps off with 57 cents and follows his brother over land and water.

Jasper boards a large boat called "The Queen" to follow Melvin, while washing people's clothes for nine cents.

But he had snuck onto the boat secretly as another family was boarding and is found out as a stowaway.

He is hunted down and reported, then kept in a closet for three days until The Queen docks.

Then, he is sent away, and finds his brother.

But the bad luck is not over.



Jasper finds his brother sitting with a man who paid for his food, but, the man and another person were scheming together and use a very clever plan to rob Melvin.

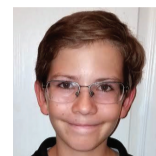
The streak still isn't over, but you'll have to read the book to learn more.

This is a very creative story, and the novel is so descriptive that I did not need pictures to imagine the scene.

I loved this book, and on a scale of 1-10, I would rate it an 8 because, even though it is a mostly dark story, there is still some humor in it.

In fact, Caroline Starr Rose did a fantastic job of incorporating sadness, humor, and the perfect amount of mystery into her story.

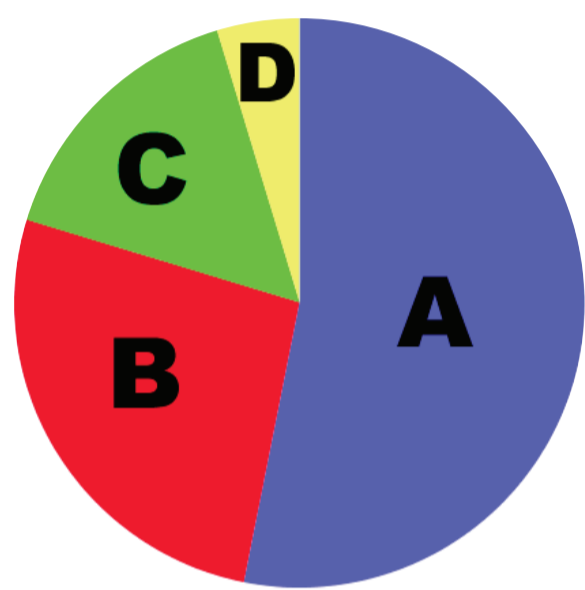
I recommend this for ages 9-15 or anyone who is interested in the time of the gold rush.



By Jack Vanourek, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

We asked you, you told us:

Your 'school bus' is parked in your garage each night



Driving to school is by far the most common way to get there, according to CK readers who responded to our most recent question.

Just over half reported that they get to school by car, while a little over a quarter said they ride the bus and not quite a fifth either walk or ride their bikes.

And five percent report that getting to school is pretty easy for them because they're either home-schooled or taking on-line courses.

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

How do you get to school in the morning?

- A. Private car 53%
- B. School bus or public transit 27%
- C. Walk or ride my bike 16%
- D. I'm already there 5%

Now here's our next question:

How do you get to school at night?

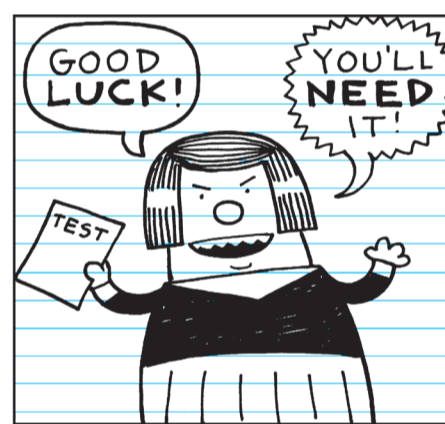
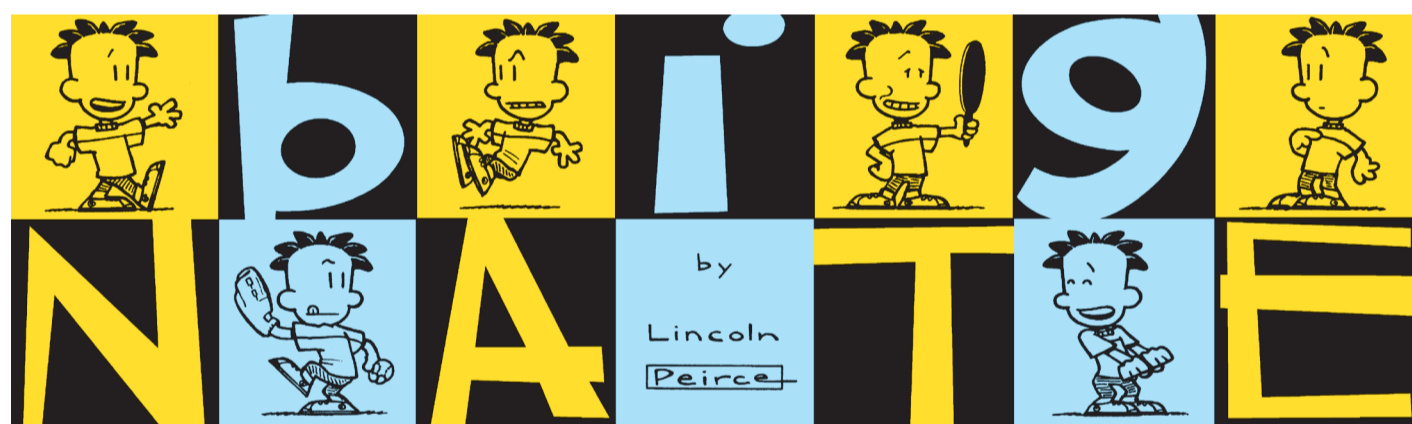
Whoops, just kidding.

Here it is:

Elon Musk is letting two people pay to take an orbit of the Moon. Which of these fantasy vacations would you most want to go on?

- A. Sail around the world with my family and a friend
- B. Live for two weeks as my ancestors did 500 years ago
- C. Visit every amusement park in the country
- D. I want to be on that trip around the Moon

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



Ancient skull suggests more mysteries than it solves



When archaeologists found a 400,000 year old human skull in a cave in Portugal, their work was just starting.

There's an important question about just what sort of human skull it is.

It doesn't quite seem to be a Neanderthal, but it doesn't seem to be from the form of *homo sapiens* that we think of as our ancestors, either.

But first things first: Much of the

value of the fossil was that there were remnants of food along with it in the cave, which helps scientists tell how old it is and gives them a lot more to study, too.

However, it was all fossilized together, and the skull had to be removed in a large block.

It took the archaeologists two years of careful work to peel it down to the skull fossil itself.

Also found were stone tools that were better made than the

crude tools sometimes found along with prehistoric humans.

The skull is the farthest west from the Pleistocene period ever found in Europe, and is twice as old as the first fossils of what we think of as modern humans, which were found in Africa.

So far, the paleoanthropologists are saying it may be an ancestor of the Neanderthal, but it has some features not found in those ancient people.

photo/Javier Trueba

Give this fantasy a chance to hook you

Emmaline lived a normal, recurrent life any little girl would, she didn't know what was going to happen in the future.

She lived with both her parents and her sister. Little did she know that one day all of this was going to be taken away.

"The Secret Horses of Briar Hill" written by Megan Shepherd, introduces a whole new world to readers.

Emmaline is a refugee from the bombing of London during World War II. She lives in the Briar Hill Hospital, which was once the home of a beautiful princess.

She is there not only because she got separated from her family but because she has a sickness called the stillwaters.

She misses her whole family including the horses at the family bakery.

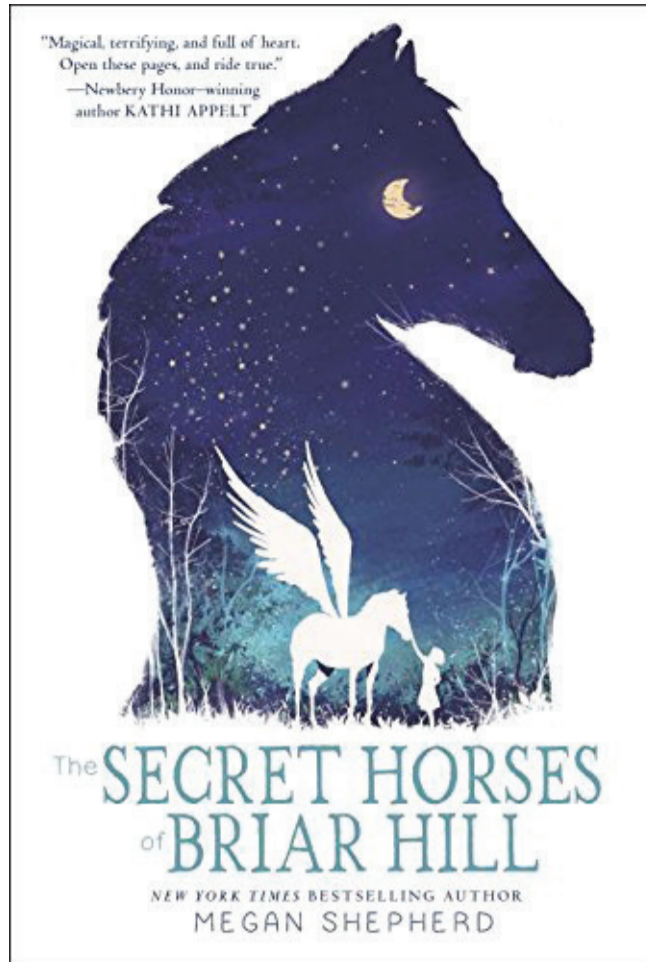
These horses were very special to Emmaline. She cared for them every day.

Ever since she moved there she has been able to see winged horses in the mirrors of the dreary hospital. They remind her of the horses she cared so dearly about.

Kids laugh at Emmaline, taunting that winged horses don't exist. She kept it a secret, but two people know about this, too: Her friend Anna who is a patient at the hospital and one other person.

The person Emmaline least expected sees the horses with their very own eyes. How could this be?

As the story continues, just behind the sundial in the garden another secret unfolds into an adventure



and she must guard a hidden winged horse that somehow made it into the real world.

With a wounded wing, the horse can't fly out of the garden, and, worst of all, she can't protect herself against the evil forces that are after her.

The Horse Lord left a note behind instructing Emmaline what to do. Read the book to find out what he has Emmaline do to try to save this magical creature!

As I started to read, it was very hard for me to visualize and follow what the author was describing. I had to restart the book and pay attention to every little detail.

Even though this book is very well written and the author used very vivid language, it was still hard for me to follow a sequence.

I would suggest that if this happens to you that you go back and re-read, because I guarantee you will get hooked into the story.

This book is an outstanding work of writing that drags you into the fictional world.

Once you are connected it is easy to feel like you are a part of this secret.



By Natalia Zavaleta, 12, a CK Reporter from Lakewood

Elections give hope to more tolerant Dutch

The Netherlands is a small country, but many in Europe, Africa and the Middle East were paying close attention to their elections last week.

One of the leading candidates in the election was Geert Wilders (pronounced "heert VIL-dersh") is the leader of a political party that is strongly opposed to allowing refugees and other immigrants into the country, particularly Muslims.

He has even suggested banning the Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam.

There are other political parties in Europe that are intolerant of Muslims and other refugees, and so, many people in other countries were concerned to see how the Dutch elections would come out.

With national elections coming up in both France and Germany, voting in the Netherlands was seen as a hint as to how things might go in those larger countries.

Unlike the United States, where voters choose a President as well as their Senators and Representatives, the Netherlands has a Parliamentary system, which is much more common around

the world.

In a Parliamentary democracy, you vote for your local member of Parliament, similar to our Representatives.

The Prime Minister, then, is the leader of the political party that has won the most seats in Parliament.

The party of the current Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, won 33 of the 150 seats, which makes him Prime Minister again, but means his party will have to team up with other parties in order to get the 76 seats required for a majority on votes.

Wilders' party won 20 seats, but Rutte will not likely cooperate with them, since their views are quite far apart.

The key to Rutte's victory was that just over 80 percent of Dutch voters showed up to vote, a very large number.

Part of that may be because it is easy for the Dutch to vote. Many businesses and public places have polling stations and people have only to show their identification to vote there.

But most of the turnout was likely because they did not want to see intolerance win.



Dutch voters had many choices of places to vote, including this windmill in the south of the country, where they could both vote and pick up some jam and sauces.
(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)



Sudoku

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

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

Twitter is 11 years old today, so each of our answers this week will begin with "T" and none of them will be longer than 140 characters.

1. City in Washington state that shares its airport with Seattle
2. Hot sauce made in Louisiana from peppers that were named for a state in Mexico
3. Communications invention developed in the US in 1837 by Samuel Morse
4. Author of the Mary Poppins books, she was portrayed in "Saving Mr. Banks," a movie about how Walt Disney persuaded her to let him turn the stories into a film.
5. Style of skiing in which the heel is free, combining parts of downhill and XC skiing
6. Round percussion instrument with jingling discs built into its rim and, often, a drumhead stretched over that rim
7. This hero of the War of 1812 and the Mexican/American War, known as "Old Rough and Ready," became President of the United States but died in office in 1850.
8. Former gold-mining town in San Miguel County known for skiing and for its annual film festival
9. Citrus fruit very similar to an orange, easy to peel and named for a city in Morocco
10. Russian composer of "The Nutcracker" ballet and "The 1812 Overture"

(answers on Page Four)

Google offers controlled "Family Link" for the under-13 crowd

Back when computers were all desktops, there was a simple rule for keeping kids safe on-line: The computer was in the family room where parents could look over and see what was going on.

Once laptops and tablets and phones came along, however, it became much harder to keep track of what kids were seeing on-line and how much time they were spending there.

And age rules for various apps were easy for younger kids to get around.

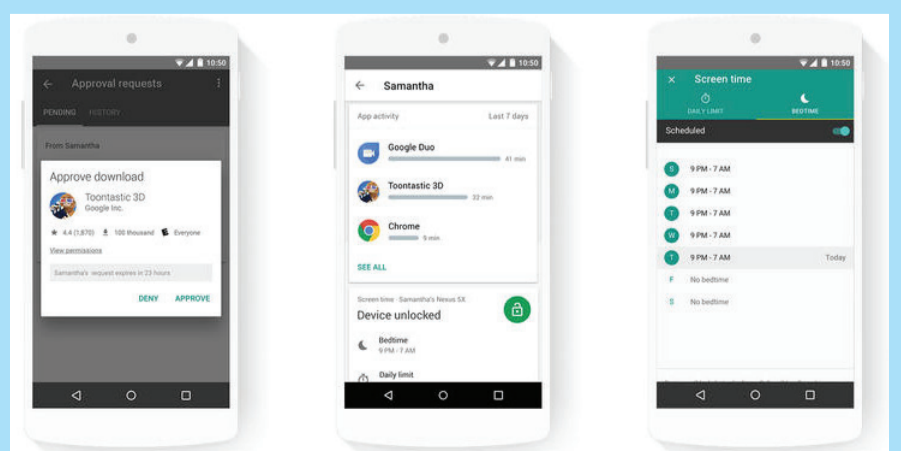
Now Google is offering "Family Link,"

an app for kids under 13 that allows them to have phones and tablets but lets parents approve any apps they want to download and to see how much time they spend on each.

It also allows parents to set time limits on how long they are on line, with different settings for school days and weekends, as well as to set a bedtime so the phone or tablet goes dead when kids are supposed to be sleeping.

The "link" in "Family Link" is part of the program: All that tracking happens on the parents' device.

photo/Google



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

Family Link

Dutch elections

Portuguese fossil skull

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

Stories in the Stars: Canis Major & Canis Minor

The Story

It's not surprising that Orion the Hunter has a pair of dogs following him. Lots of hunters have dogs, so if you invent a story about a hunter, why not add a pair of dogs?

What is surprising is how many different cultures have seen a dog in the stars around Sirius, the dog star, the brightest star in the night sky.

Canis Major, the big dog, follows at Orion's feet. Like most hunting dogs, he's keeping alert, and he's watching Lepus, the rabbit constellation that is nearby.

But his bright eye, Sirius, is on his master. Canis Major is a good dog.

Or is he? Not everyone has felt that way. The expression "dog days of summer," which refers to the hottest, most unpleasant weather, also refers to Sirius.

As the earth moves around the sun, different stars become visible in the night sky at different times and places. Ancient people could use their knowledge of the night sky to create a calendar.

There is a point in summer when Sirius rises in the morning just as the Sun is rising. Of course, you have to look fast, because when the Sun comes up, that's the end of any stargazing until nightfall.

But Sirius is as bright as the brightest planets, and just as you might see Venus or Jupiter in the dawn sky, so, too, you can see Sirius shining through.

As the Earth spins on its axis, it also wobbles slightly, and, over the past four thousand years, the direction our planet faces has changed slightly. Sirius used to rise at the beginning of summer instead of halfway through, which made it a very useful "calendar" star.

When the dog star appeared with the Sun in ancient Egypt, the people who lived along the Nile River knew that floods would soon follow. In their art and hieroglyphics, Sirius is the god Anubis, with the head of a dog or jackal, and a very important figure. After all, the floods were dangerous and inconvenient, but they also made the Nile River valley fertile.

Trotting along with the Big Dog is Canis Minor, the Little Dog. He's not a mighty hunter like his larger cousin, but the ancients knew that, when the little dog appeared, the big dog would not be far behind!



The Stars

The easiest way to find Sirius is to go to his master, Orion. Take the three stars of Orion's belt and use them as pointers. If you follow their line to the southeast, or left, you'll come to a very bright star. That's Sirius.

When we measure the brightness of stars, the dimmer stars have higher scores and the brighter stars have lower scores. Polaris, for instance, has a magnitude of 2, while Betelgeuse, the bright star in Orion, has a magnitude of 0.7.

Sirius, though, is so bright that it has a magnitude of minus 1.5!

If you have a pair of binoculars or a small telescope, look down and to the right of Sirius. There's a star cluster there with the lovely name of M-41.

To find Canis Minor, go back to Orion and this time, instead of his belt, use his two shoulder stars, Bellatrix and Betelgeuse, as pointers. If you go about three times their width to the left, you'll come to a bright star called Procyon, which is one of the three main stars in little Canis Minor.

Procyon's name means "before the dog" because Procyon rises before Sirius.

Together, Procyon, Sirius and Betelgeuse form an asterism called "The Winter Triangle." It's pretty close to an equilateral triangle, but of course that's only because, looking from here, the three stars seem to be equal distances apart. If you measured their real distances from each other in three dimensional space, it wouldn't come out that even!

But Sirius and Procyon are fairly close to Earth. Procyon is only about 11.4 light years away, and Sirius is even closer -- just 8.5 light-years away.

You can probably remember, or at least figure out, what you were doing when the light we see from Sirius first started towards the Earth.

But Betelgeuse is quite a bit farther away. Find a history timeline and try to figure out what your ancestors might have been doing 525 years ago, when the light we see from Betelgeuse tonight first headed in our direction!

NEXT WEEK: Bootes

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Tacoma
2. Tabasco
3. telegraph
4. (P.L.) Travers
5. Telemark
6. Tambourine
7. (Zachary) Taylor
8. Telluride
9. tangerine
10. (Peter) Tchaikovsky

ColoradoKids

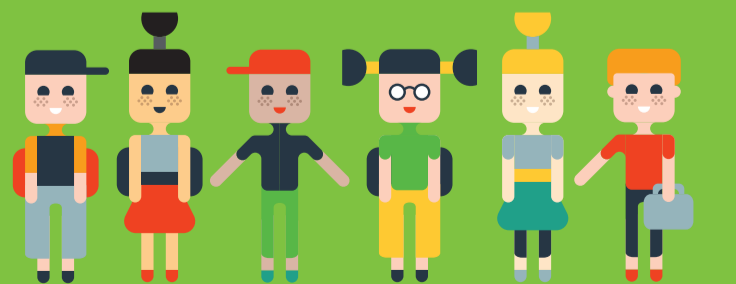
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