



CK Reporter of the Week  
Christopher Smit, Boulder

## Great comedy, not great cinema

There are two types of good movies in this world: Those that have a well thought-out plot, incredible acting, and beautiful cinematography; and those that include fat babies in suits.

While the movie "Boss Baby" may not win Best Picture, it is still a hilarious animated movie that anyone could relate to.

Seven-year-old Timothy Leslie Templeton (voiced by Miles Christopher Bakshi) has the perfect life: Parents who love him, all the toys he could ever want, and no one to share it with.

However, one day a businessman rolls into town, a businessman who's two feet tall, still wears diapers, and has one tooth.

Timothy quickly discovers that his new brother, this "Boss Baby" (Alec Baldwin) isn't what he seems.

He is working for a top secret organization called Baby Corp., whose mission is to bring back love to the babies from the most dreaded enemy of all... puppies!

Boss Baby gets all the attention and love from Timothy's parents, and at first, Timothy is angry at him and tries to get rid of him.

But he soon realizes that he may need something new in his life more than he had ever imagined.

This teaches the audience that good things may come in unexpected ways.

Even though the movie is ridiculous, there is still a very real message that kids and adults alike can appreciate.

Timothy and the "Boss Baby" team up to try to defeat Puppy Co., the leading manufacturer of puppies.

They go on a mission to try to win back love for the babies, facing security guards, supervillians, flight



attendants, evil babysitters, and spaceships along the way, but their teamwork and perseverance gets them through.

And while there may be no serious challenges that occur in life in the movie, the messages behind the story are still heartwarming and real.

"Boss Baby" captures a story of teamwork, love, toughness, fun, and heartbreak, all thinly veiled under a hilarious world of talking babies.

So next time you want to laugh, smile, and watch babies eat cookies, go see Boss Baby, a fun movie for all ages.

While the movie "Boss Baby" may not win Best Picture, it is still a hilarious animated movie that anyone could relate to.

The funny and sad moments make this film enjoyable to watch and will have you smiling, laughing, and enjoying yourself from start to finish.

The best part about

"Boss Baby" is that it is entertaining and fun for all ages.

There are cute puppies for younger children and humor that goes right over kids' heads for the adults.



By Lincoln Boyd,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Louisville

## Fast action for a junior high audience



The new "Power Rangers" movie is sure to leave you speechless.

The movie follows the path of how Jason, the Red Power Ranger (Dacre Montgomery), leads his new team into battle against Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth Banks), a power hungry former Ranger who wants to suck all life out of the Earth.

She was previously a good Power Ranger until one day when she chose not to obey her leader's commands and was kicked out of the group. She then turned into a rebel.

The movie opens up on a dark scene with Rita standing over the bodies of the last team of Power Rangers, who are dead at her feet.

The only survivor is the former Red Ranger, who takes the power coins from his fallen comrades and buries them so that they may find the next worthy Rangers.

The story lets you explore the changes in lives of Jason, Billy (RJ Cyler), Kimberly (Naomi Scott), Zack (Ludi Lin), and Trini (Becky G.) as they become the new Power Rangers, and tells how they come together as a team.

At the beginning they don't know each other at all. However, they have something in common; they all don't fit in.

Life events led them to being at the same place at the same time where things happen that led

them to be chosen.

Meanwhile, Rita Repulsa has monsters in her control, giant chunks of rock that are alive and can beat you up.

Once Rita has enough gold, she'll be able to summon Zordon (Bryan Cranston), an old giant monster made of pure gold who is made to rip the lifecore out of Earth, thereby destroying humanity.

This movie exceeded my expectations because the graphics were great, there was incredible acting, and lots of fights.

There is an exciting storyline, but it does not have a lot of comedy.

I'd recommend this movie for ages 9-15. The storyline is rather easy to follow, however there are a lot of fights that might intimidate younger kids.

Older people might not enjoy it because it is targeted to a younger audience.



By Jack 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.**




# Fast-paced suspense makes for a thrilling read

**A** dark secret. A hidden universe. Three kids whose choices can save it from mistrust and fear, or pitch it into chaos and destruction.

Meet Ivy and Seb, in "The Uncommoners Book 1: The Crooked Sixpence" by Jennifer Bell.

When their Grandma Sylvie is sent to the hospital after an accident, Seb and Ivy get sucked into a world where an everyday object has the potential for extraordinary abilities.

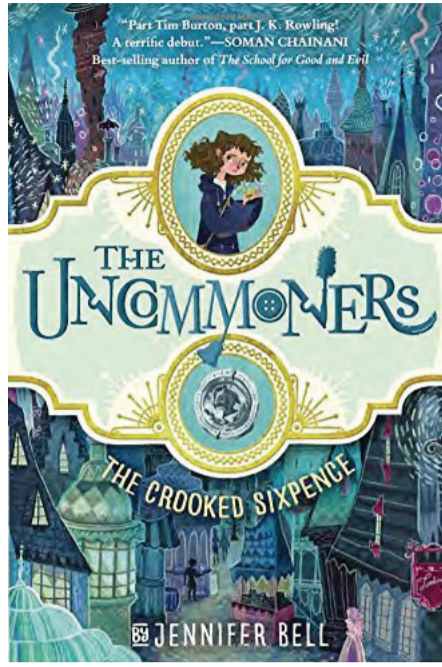
But not everything is butterflies and rainbows in the land of the uncommon.

The Dirge, a terrorist group using uncommon objects to commit crimes, is back, and Ivy and Seb are the only ones who can stop them, along with their friend Valian Kaye.

Can the siblings learn to work together? Will justice be served when nothing is as it seems?

Will Ivy and Seb overcome the mistakes of their own family?

This thriller novel has a surprise ending, with the threat as



well as an ally coming from an unexpected direction.

I liked that Ivy and Seb have a very real sibling relationship.

This fast paced, suspense-filled adventure does a really good job of adding small pieces of mystery that all fit together at the climax, and at the point of resolution, there is still a mission to fulfill.

I definitely recommend this book.

(A sequel, "The Uncommoners: The Smoking Hourglass" will be released in June.)



By Sylvia Goodman, 11, a CK Reporter from Centennial

We asked you, you told us:

## Rollercoasters out-poll horses, boats, even rockets

**W**hen we read in the news that billionaire Elon Musk, the head of Space-X, was going to sell two tickets for a trip around the Moon, it got us to wondering about the perfect fantasy vacation.

CK Readers who answered our question on the topic liked the idea of taking Musk's Moon orbit trip: More than a quarter of you would choose that.

That's a lot more than the ones who were interested in spending two weeks living in the 17th Century, and slightly more than those who wanted to sail the ocean blue.

But the most popular choice was a chance to visit every amusement park in the country! Was it for the rides, the junk food or a combination of the two?

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

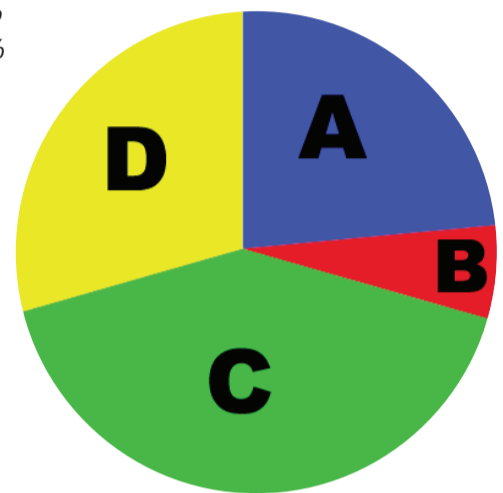
**most want to go on?**

- A. Sail around the world with my family and a friend 24%
- B. Live for two weeks as my ancestors did 500 years ago 6%
- C. Visit every amusement park in the country 41%
- D. I want to be on that trip around the Moon 29%

Now here's our next question:

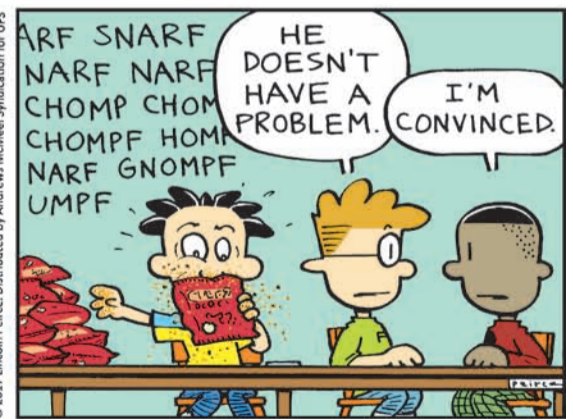
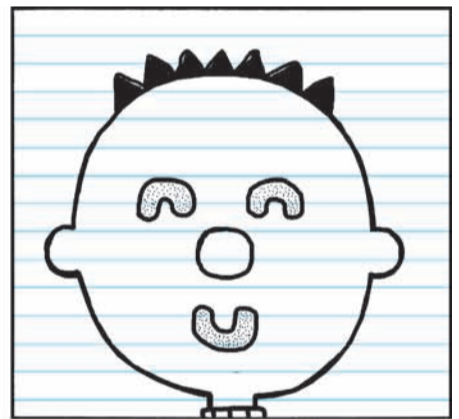
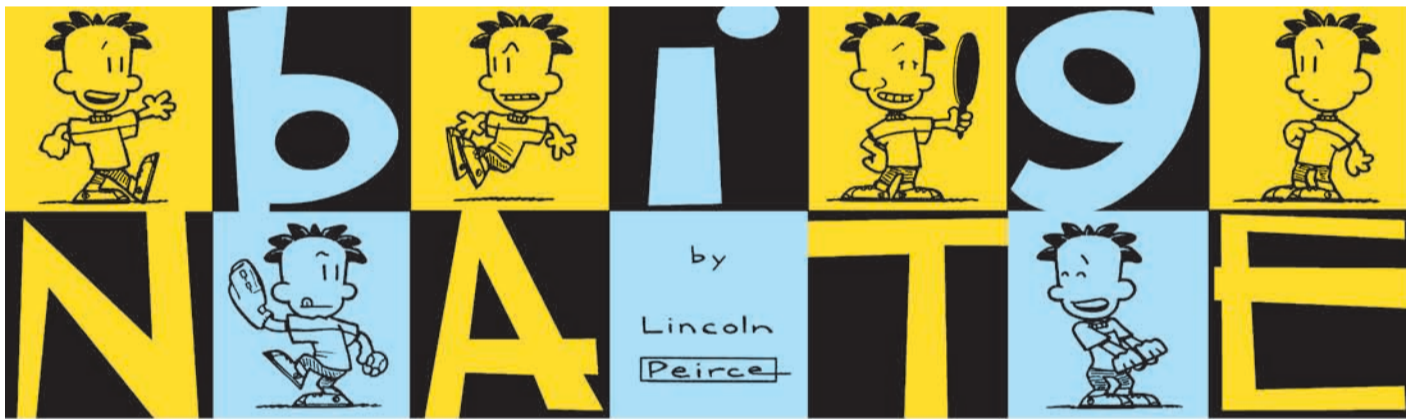
**If we pointed out that the end of the school year is in sight, what would be your most likely reaction?**

- A. Hurray! Can't wait for summer!
- B. Uh-oh. Time to shift gears and play catch-up!
- C. Slow and steady wins the race, and I'm doing fine.
- D. Meh. Summer is as busy as the rest of the year anyway.

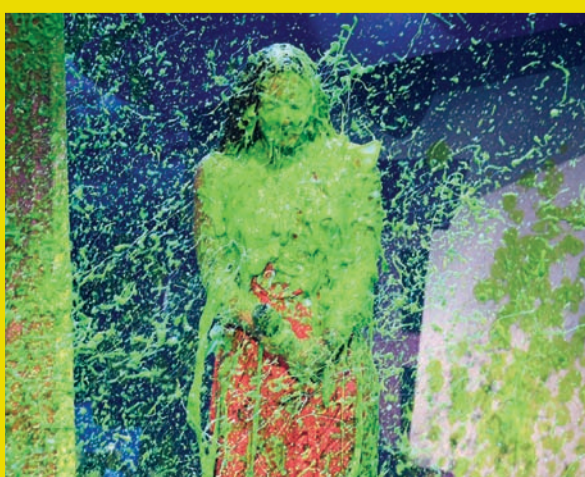


**Elon Musk is letting two people pay to take an orbit of the Moon. Which of these fantasy vacations would you**

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



## A fun project can turn nasty if you're not careful



**Y**ou may have already heard about the girl in Massachusetts who had serious burns on her hands from playing with slime, or maybe the one in England who had the same bad experience.

Whenever a fad becomes popular, there are always plenty of people eager to tell you why it's dangerous and you shouldn't do it.

Certainly, the injuries were serious, but it was two out of millions of sliming kids. What's the real lesson? Slime or goop or oobleck or whatever you call it is very popular and has been for several years.

That's Demi Lovato getting a dose of green slime on Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards last month, and she got through it without any injuries, except maybe to the dress she wore for the occasion.

But since the secret of making this stuff has gone from Hollywood special effects departments to science class and then home for overnight parties, some people have forgotten that it's only safe and harmless when you take the recipe as seriously as, for instance, special effects people and science teachers do.

The problem is that it's so easy to combine Elmer's Glue, borax, water and food coloring that you can forget to be careful with the borax.

An article in Forbes ([get a link at ColoradoNIE.com](http://getalinkatColoradoNIE.com)) explains that, first, you must always dissolve the borax rather than adding it as a powder, and make sure you stop adding it once it stops making slime. Then wash up carefully so it doesn't sink into your skin.

Be careful: Fun should be fun! photo/Chris Vizzello, AP

# Memoir tells of search for home, family

Imagine being lost on the streets of Calcutta, India. The pain of hunger nagging at your stomach every day. The weight of your own survival resting on your shoulders.

The feeling of being alone even though you are surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of people every day. Hard to imagine? Well, Saroo Brierley had to live through this when he was only 5 years old.

He paints a picture of confidence and perseverance in his memoir, "Lion: A Long Way Home."

Saroo was born in 1981 in Khandwa, India. He lived in a small house with his mother, older brothers Guddu and Kallu, and younger sister, Shekila.

As a young boy, he went through more than any of us could even imagine in a full lifetime.

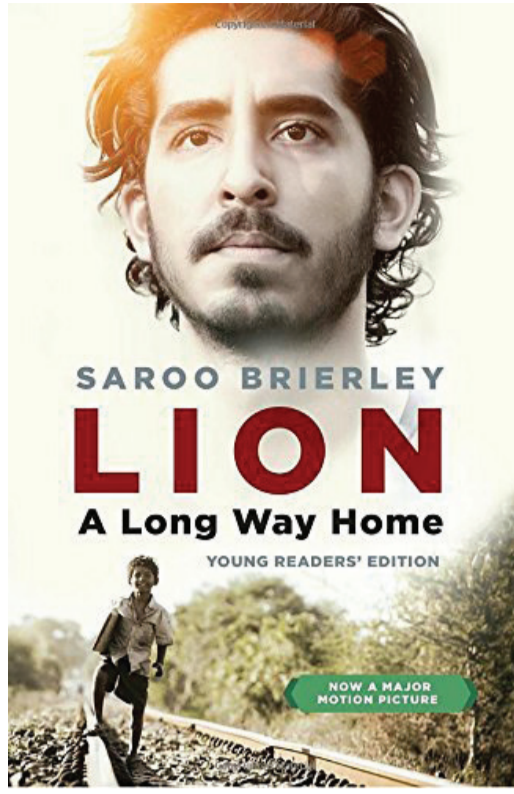
His life changed when he was separated from his brother and, while searching for him, he boarded a train that took him thousands of miles away from home, and away from his childhood.

This memoir is a biography, mapping Saroo's journey to find his birth family.

Once he reached Calcutta, he escaped the train and fended for himself for several months, alone as a young child.

Most of the time, one imagines a childhood being filled with playful memories and fun fantasies. Saroo's was the exact opposite.

Saroo was placed in an orphanage that didn't feel much different than living on the streets of Calcutta.



He was later adopted by a couple from Australia.

Imagine losing your family and not knowing if you're ever going to see them again, having only a tiny bit of hope that gradually fades over the years.

But, the hope never truly left.

He used up-to-date software to find an old-fashioned home.

I thought the book was an incredible and heartwarming story that teaches a perfect lesson, that you don't have to wear a cape to be a hero.

Saroo brought hope to those who have none, with his persistence in attempting to find his family.

I read the Young Reader's edition that would be great for kids eight or nine and up.

The back of the book contains photographs from Saroo's early life in Calcutta, which transformed the semi-accurate pictures in my mind into reality.

There is also a major motion picture, "Lion," that is based on the book.

It came out in November and is rated PG 13.



By Haley Deison, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada

# Could the UK's Brexit lead to a 'Scotxit'?

When the United Kingdom was formed in 1707, it combined England and Scotland into Great Britain. In 1800, Ireland was added to the union, making it "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

All but six counties of Ireland gained their freedom in the 1920s, changing the name of the nation to "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

But how united is that kingdom, now that the UK has voted to leave the European Union?

Last week, the Scottish Parliament voted to ask London for permission to hold a referendum on the possibility of leaving the UK and becoming an independent nation as it once was.

Nicola Sturgeon, head of the Scottish government, has said that there is interest in breaking free of the UK in order to apply to remain in the European Union.

Although voters in the UK agreed last year to leave the EU, the surprising results were not welcome in Scotland, where a large majority of voters had chosen to stay.

This Brexit, or "British Exit," vote has given Scottish nationalists another argument for saying that Scotland deserves to be independent.

It's not the first time the subject has come up. Before the two countries were united in 1707,

they had fought each other, with Scottish heroes like William "Braveheart" Wallace and Robert Bruce leading their armies against England.

But this desire for independence is not just something from hundreds of years ago: In 2014, Scotland held a referendum asking if the Scots should form their own nation.

It lost by a margin of 55% to 45% and most people in the UK felt that was the end of that question for awhile.

But the vote last week for a second referendum is based on the idea that there may be many Scots who voted to stay in the UK in the first referendum, but who also voted to stay in the European Union in last fall's Brexit vote.

Nicola Sturgeon wants a new referendum before the UK leaves the EU in two years, while British Prime Minister Theresa May insists that it must wait.

She says it would be too confusing to be working on the details of Brexit and also trying to hold a referendum in Scotland at the same time.

Meanwhile, Scots themselves are divided over whether they should vote soon and, if there is a win for independence, try to stay in the EU, or if they should wait until after Brexit, so that they can decide on independence after they see what it's like to be in the UK but not the EU.



Scottish Independence supporters hold flags and banners outside the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh ahead of the vote by Members of the Scottish Parliament to hold a second Scottish independence referendum.

(Photo/Andrew Milligan/PA via AP)

## Sudoku

5			4		
1		3			5
		6		5	
3		4		6	
			1		
	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 1949, 12 nations signed the NATO treaty, promising to protect each other militarily, so our answers this week will each begin with "N."

1. This city in Tennessee is considered the home of country music.
2. People who move from place to place, either following the wild animals they hunt or in order to give their herds fresh places to graze
3. This word describes numbers that are smaller than zero.
4. Long, thin pasta; various types are used in Chinese and Italian cooking
5. A place where trees are grown, or where babies are kept
6. Active mostly at night
7. Small whale of the Arctic Ocean known for its long tusk
8. The not-very-frightening ghost who haunts Gryffindor Tower at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry
9. The formal name of the nation often referred to as Holland, though Holland is actually only one part of it
10. Mountain town between Boulder and Rollinsville, named for a European nation  
**(answers on Page Four)**

## Our little BFF has been with us a long time

The house mouse gets its name for a very good reason, archaeologists are finding: It began living with people as soon as people began having houses.

This is a different species than the meadow mouse, also called a vole, and there are several species more like the vole, who live outside.

They're not always welcome in places like orchards where they can nibble the bark at the base of trees, but they're relatively harmless. In fact, one of our serials a few months ago told a folk tale of why the Blackfeet Indians and the mice were friends.

But the Blackfeet and other people living in America long ago didn't have to deal with house mice, who steal food and can spread disease, until the pests were

brought over accidentally by European settlers.

What archaeologists found in the Middle East was fossil evidence that 15,000 years ago, just as soon as people began to live in crude homes, even before they began farming, the long-tailed house mouse moved right in and began stealing food and pooping.

Short-tailed meadow mice stayed outside, and, when archaeologists compared the fossil record, they found that the numbers of house mice went up when people lived nearby while the wild mouse population went down, and that the two types of mice reversed their numbers when people moved away.

Perhaps accidentally taking some of their new little friends along with them.

photo/Rama



# 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

Slime caution

History of Mice

Scottish Independence

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Nashville 2. nomads 3. negative 4. noodles 5. nursery 6. nocturnal  
7. narwhal 8. Nearly-Headless Nick 9. (The) Netherlands 10. Nederland

# Stories in the Stars: Scorpius

## The Story

Scorpius is one of the oldest constellations, and one that looks the most like what it is: A scorpion.

It's such a well-known constellation that it's one of the 12 original constellations that make up the Zodiac, where it's known as "Scorpio."

It's funny that such a long, well-shaped constellation has such a small part in the Greek mythology from which we get our star stories. Scorpius is like an actor who walks on stage, does one thing, and then walks off – he is mostly known as the scorpion that stung and killed Orion.

But Scorpius also comes up in the Greek myth of Phaethon, the boy who tried to drive the Chariot of the Sun.

Phaethon was the son of Helios, who drove his chariot across the sky each day. But his father didn't live with him, and, when he told the other boys at school that he was the son of a god, they laughed and called him a liar.

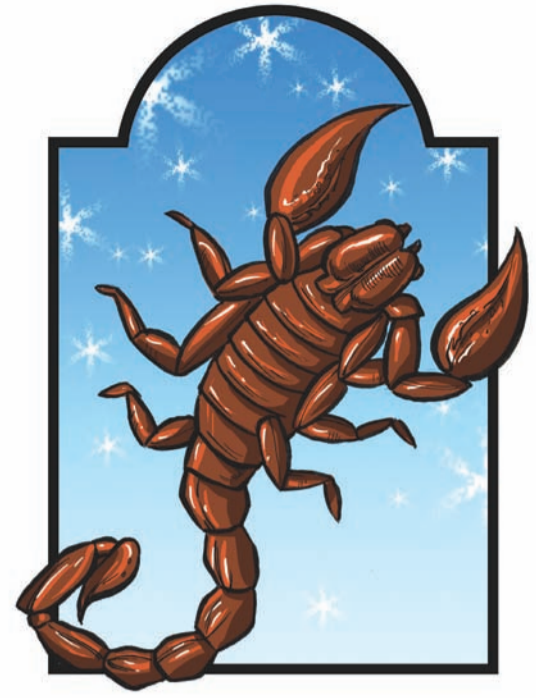
Phaethon went to his father's palace in the East, and told him what had happened. Helios was sorry for the boy and said he would give him one wish, anything he asked. Phaethon asked if he could drive the Chariot of the Sun, so he could show his friends that he was the son of Helios.

Helios was sorry he had said Phaethon could have whatever he asked, because this was very dangerous. But he allowed Phaethon to climb into the chariot. He warned him to be very, very careful, because the horses that pulled the chariot were fast and powerful, and the Chariot of the Sun was nothing to make mistakes with.

As soon as the chariot started, Phaethon knew the horses were too much for him to control. And when they came across the sky to the place where Scorpius sits, the horses saw those great claws and that curving, poisonous tail, and panicked. They ran away with the Chariot of the Sun until it came so close to the earth that it nearly set it all on fire. Mighty Zeus had to hit it with a bolt of lightning that shattered the chariot and poor Phaethon fell to his death.

So the beautiful constellation of Scorpius has only two things to do in mythology, and, in each of them, the result is death and sorrow.

He does much better in China, where he is known as Qing Long, the Azure Dragon, and is a sign of Spring. And, besides looking very much like a scorpion, he looks very much like a dragon, too!



## The Stars

The first step in finding Scorpius is to choose a summer night and either a hilltop or a wide field.

Scorpius is very low on the horizon and, if you're surrounded by trees, hills or buildings, you're not apt to spot the scorpion.

Finding Cassiopeia is only a little bit helpful in finding Scorpius. She's at the far end of the Milky Way from Scorpius, so you can start by finding Cassiopeia, but then you have to trace your way along the rim of the galaxy, right across the Milky Way to where it nearly dips down below the southwestern horizon.

But once you're in the right area, you should be able to see Scorpio's largest star, Antares. When you find Antares, you'll see the rest of the scorpion stretched out just above the horizon. The curved tail is a giveaway!

Antares is a red supergiant that makes up the heart of the scorpion. It's one of the brightest stars in the sky, and, like Betelgeuse, the red supergiant in Orion, it may turn into a supernova before very long.

Because it's so bright and has a reddish color, and because it's located near the ecliptic, the line where planets show up in the sky, it's sometimes mistaken for the planet Mars. One translation of "Antares" is "like Mars." ("Ares" is the Greek version of "Mars.")

The bright star at the tip of Scorpius's tail is called Shaula, from an Arabic term meaning "Raised." If you know about scorpions, you know what it means when the tail is raised: That's where the stinger is!

Shaula is the second brightest star in Scorpius, so that raised tail is quite a warning: Stay away!

Shaula is one of the Top 25 brightest stars in the sky, a blue-white binary star, which means it is actually two stars revolving around each other.

There are two other pairs of stars in Scorpius's tail, one at the western bend and another just above it in the tail.

But these aren't binary stars. They just look like pairs because they're lined up right behind each other -- but many light years apart in space!

## NEXT WEEK: Sagittarius

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



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