



CK Reporter of the Week
Haley Deison, Arvada

Famous artist on display here

The art of Alexander Calder is being shown at the Denver Botanic Gardens until September 24, in a display of nine sculptures called "Calder Monumental."

The sculptures were originally meant for a natural setting, but have usually ended up in an urban background.

In this exhibit, however, the statues are back in a natural environment, and the staff of the Gardens did an excellent job of placing the statues with a background that really suits them.

Alexander Calder (1898-1976) was a modern artist famous for his hanging mobiles, though this exhibit only has one of those.

The showcase is more about Calder's standing mobiles and statues.

It focuses on the end of his career in the last two decades of his life, all the way up to the year of his death.

If you're a person who likes art, this exhibit is for you: These huge abstract metal pieces will take your breath away.

The statues have a lot of personality, partially because the cuts on the metal were originally drawn freehand and the art seems less stiff because of it.

Calder didn't name his work until he was finished, and then titled them based on the impression or feeling his art creates.

"The Crab," for instance, was named not because it was supposed to be a crab, but because Calder felt that the statue showed the scuttling motion of a crab.

Some figures seem very familiar, and some seem so out of this world it's hard to imagine them in day-to-day life.

There is a misconception about Alexander Calder: People think he was a jovial man, but actually he was a very serious artist, according to his grandson,



"Five Rudders," by Alexander Calder, on exhibit at the Denver Botanic Gardens photo/Sylvia Goodman

Alexander (Sandy) Rower, who spoke to reporters at the press preview of the exhibit.

Calder is considered one of the most influential sculptors of the twentieth century and is known for his prominent and energetic sculptures and mobiles.

This art makes you think deeper about the wonderful things in this world: Art, music, creativity, and freedom.

Calder created his art to invoke positivity, because he figured we had enough negative experiences in the world.

This showcase of Calder's work is a collaboration of the Calder Foundation, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Denver Art Museum.

It was fun to learn that Calder's parents were artists but didn't want their son to be one because they didn't want him to struggle like they had to.

When they put him in an engineering degree program in college, however, he didn't like it and he eventually switched to art.

The next time your parents try to tell you what to be, remember what Calder did and know that you can always follow your own path.



By Sylvia Goodman, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

'Guardian' sequel is humorous high-speed fun



Do you like the sound of space, action and spaceships? How about Marvel-type movies with all that great humor?

You'll get all of this and more when you purchase tickets to "Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2."

The cast of this movie includes Chris Pratt as Peter, Zoe Saldana as Gamora, Dave Bautista as Drax, Vin Diesel as Baby Groot, Bradley Cooper as Rocket, and Kurt Russell as Ego.

An early warning before I start would be that the movie has some strong language and intense fighting scenes, this most likely being the cause of the PG-13 rating.

Throughout the movie there are all kinds of jokes to lighten the mood, though, creating quite the hysterical performance for all viewers above that age of 13.

The movie also has a rather inspirational side to it: During a scene that was very serious Chris Pratt provides a quote that addresses the true value of looking at the small things in life.

The setting of the movie tends to stay on a special planet and in spaceships -- very many spaceships -- while the characters really help make this movie fun and interesting, including Peter with his sarcastic jokes, Rocket with his funny commentary, Baby Groot and his cuteness, plus a generous amount of young stupidity.

For this movie, the choice between 3D and normal viewing doesn't matter a lot, because, other than a few scenes where rock comes

blowing out of the ground, it's much the same in either mode.

One thing that was interesting was that, when the world(s) are getting taken over, they show all the different perspectives that all the different organisms are experiencing.

I also enjoyed seeing the return of Baby Groot and his fierce but tiny personality.

One thing I thought was a little off point was the way the creators continue the soul of the first story onto the next. It was like going from Hawaii to Alaska, it just hits you.

However, although the transition is a little confusing, you'll later see where the creators connect the dots.

Still, one thing caused the whole movie to happen, it was just that one small item that led to a much bigger war.

"Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2" is an amazing movie that leaves you wondering what adventure the Guardians will take on next.



By Van Brown, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton

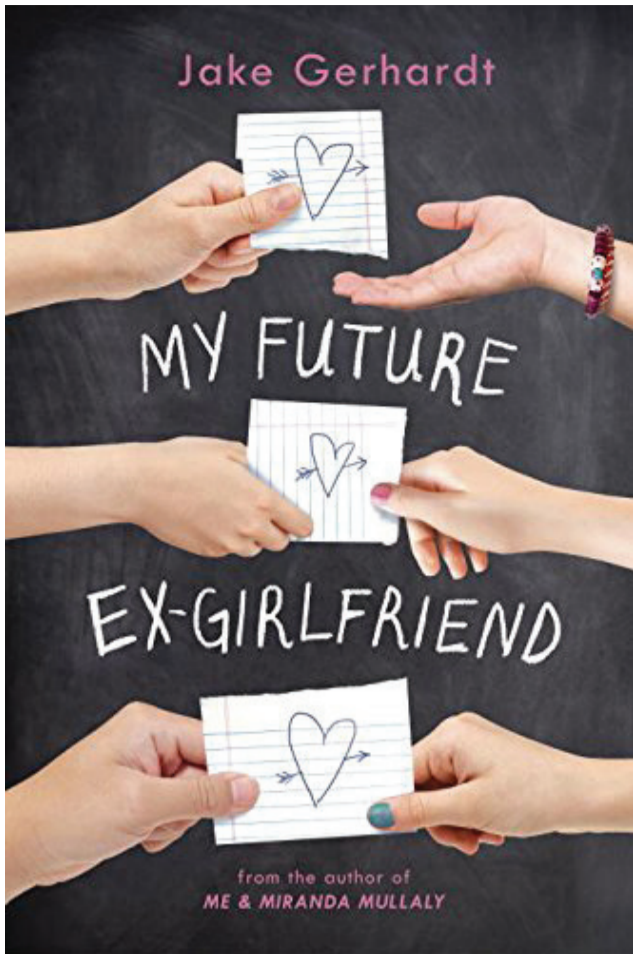


Love to Write?

Apply to be a Colorado Kids Reporter!
It's fun and there are cool perks

Get all the details at ColoradoNIE.com today!
Or email dplewka@denverpost.com

Romantic comedy from boys' perspective



Boyfriend-hood is tough. With baseball tryouts, NYC Nites, and breakdowns, it's impossible to get through it all.

That's where Charlie "Chollie" Muller, Sam Dolan, and Duke-Vanderbilt Samagura step in.

Through creative writing and another point of view, emails, and personal narrative, "My Future Ex-Girlfriend," by Jake Gerhardt, brings a fun-to-read, cleverly formatted, spirited, relatable and addictive book to the table.

The pages will just keep turning.

Sam has big plans with his new girlfriend, Erica Dickerson, like bonding over a glorious New York City.

But when his best friend Foxy, who has very recently gone through a harsh breakup, becomes the third wheel, it totally ruins Sam's chances with Erica. Foxy steals the spotlight from the couple and that makes Sam feel like an outcast in his own relationship.

Charlie, the guy obsessed with sports, has choked on every winning touchdown and winning free throw in the tied games against their rival.

He can not mess up on baseball, he needs to win this for his pride and reputation.

Either way, he'll have his amazing girlfriend Miranda Mullaly beside him.

Only, their dinner date seems to be more with his dad over sports than with Miranda.

Plus, who knew she's a vegetarian? It takes a

slightly rocky turn from there on.

Duke, a smart and corrective intellectual, found Sam's sister, Sharon, who is another astute and beautiful whiz, as his beloved.

It's pretty awkward, it's a little more awkward when she's embarrassed about him.

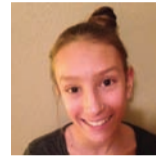
Duke, a little on the nerdy and controlling side, finds it hard to keep archenemy Ralph Waldo from weaseling his way to Sharon's heart.

But after a meltdown over the spelling of "Nites" (He was sure it was spelled "nights"), and a bit of New York brought to their school instead of going to New York, things seem to get better, especially after that horrible triple-date seeing some odd and childish movie.

Even though some spots in the novel are rough and some spots weirdly romantic, Gerhardt puts forth a style of writing that makes the book your humble best reading buddy.

Simplistic, yet it holds onto the reader's attention.

It's very much a fun read that all middle schoolers will enjoy.



By Abby Greiner, 12, a CK Reporter from Golden

Enjoyable novel faces big and little questions

In "Big and Little Questions (According to Wren Jo Byrd)" by Julie Bowe, Wren has to deal with her parents getting divorced.

Once school starts, Wren decides to keep her parents' divorce a secret from everyone, even her best friends.

Wren's little fib turns into a big lie when Marianna Van Den Heuval moves in from Seattle and starts asking questions.

Wren thinks that Marianna is her new enemy but it turns out they have more in common than meets the eye.

Once Marianna shares her big secret, Wren thinks that maybe it's time to share hers.

If you are into mysteries, action-packed, or scary books then this may not be the book for you.

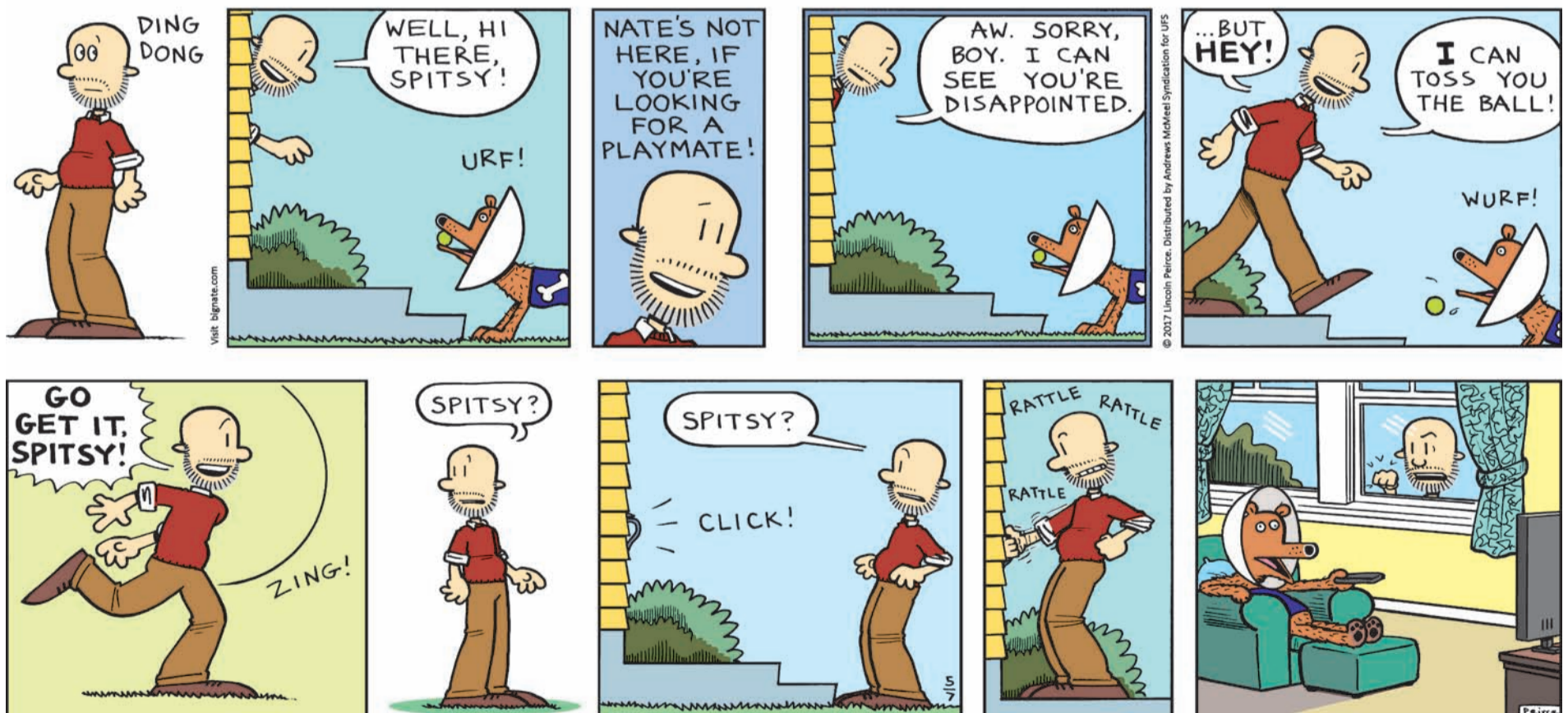
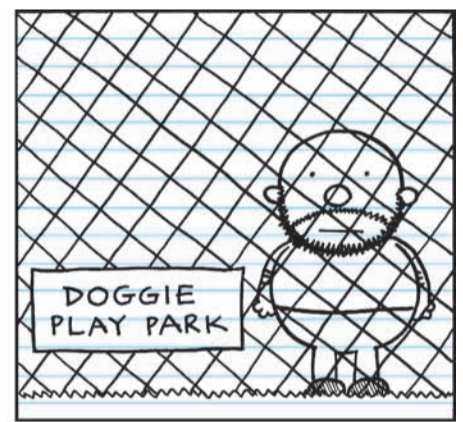
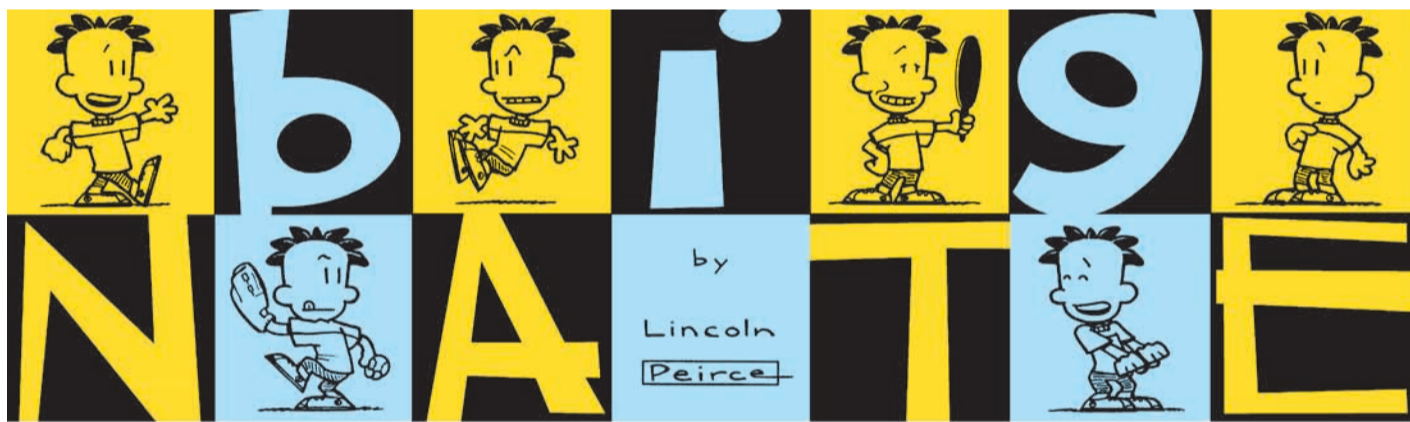


I normally read fantasy books so this was a little different from what I'm used to but I still enjoyed it and I finished reading this book, which is 228 pages long, quickly.

Julie Bowe is an award-winning author, who has written many books.



By Elena Brotherson, 12, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch



Measles, mumps pop up again as vaccination rates fall



Half a century ago, young children often caught measles, mumps and rubella.

The diseases were unpleasant and occasionally extremely serious, with permanent damage and even death a possibility.

In the 1960s, vaccines were developed against these diseases and the number of kids who caught them fell swiftly.

No vaccine can guarantee that you won't catch a disease, but

vaccines for these three diseases were combined into a shot that young children received as part of their well-baby care, and a generation of young people grew up with far less risk.

But in 1998, a doctor in London published a report that said the vaccines could cause autism.

It was found that he had made up his statistics and other studies have shown his theory was wrong.

He lost his medical license for

making the false report, but it was too late: People had heard about his paper and been frightened by it. Many decided not to give their children the MMR shot.

This past week has seen mumps in North Carolina, and measles in Minnesota as well as in Europe in numbers much larger than would have been seen in the days when nearly all young children received the MMR vaccine as part of regular care. photo/Center for Disease Control

Solid writing makes fantasy seem real

For young Honorine, life as a maid is dull: Dust that, polish this, daydream for a minute or two in between.

But suddenly, strange things begin happening. The East parlor catches fire, omen stones are glowing, smoldering paw prints are burned into the rug, and a strange feather appears then turns to dust soon after it is picked up.

Her life is about to get much more interesting.

"The Star Thief," by Lindsey Becker, is a book that follows the adventure of Honorine, an orphan who has worked as a maid in the Vidalia Mansion all of her life.

But one night, everything changes.

She finds two intruders ransacking Lord Vidalia's study, and a young girl with wings appears.

Honorine proceeds to follow the girl out to the greenhouse.

There she meets constellations, which have come to life!

Throughout the story, these animated stellar Muses include Lupus, Virgo, Sagittarius, Andromeda, Eridanus, Pegasus, Scorpio, and the ever elusive Mapmaker.

The constellations are called Mordant, and the captain of the steamship Gaslight is after them.

What will happen as the very stars themselves are forced to fight for their freedom?

"The Star Thief" is filled with adventure, mysteries, and divided loyalties.

Lindsey Becker, the author, has a way with words,



making you think that you are actually there, inside the story: You can feel Honorine's confusion and internal conflict when she is learning her true heritage; and her determination to save the crew of the Gaslight when she learns of the Mapmaker's plans.

Becker uses vividly descriptive metaphors and similes to show the urgency of Honorine's mission as she strives to rescue the people that are unwittingly writing their own death sentence.

With an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a fiery personality, Honorine is one of the most authentic characters that I have ever read about.

She is realistic in that she resides on a gray line, discovering a secret that ties her to both sides.

This is unlike most of the books I have read where the protagonist was a diehard supporter of the light.

Full of secrets, lies, and adventure, "The Star Thief" is perfect for the lover of the fantasy genre.

This novel is recommended for ages 8+, and is definitely worth buying!



By Maria Ciobanu, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

Wyoming native is the newest ancient dino

It's hard to be the new kid on the block when you're from the Jurassic period, but two paleontologists have identified a fossil from northern Wyoming as a new species of sauropod.

The fossil, which the scientists call "Ben," has a somewhat longer name, "Galeamopus pabsti."

Both names come from Ben Pabst, one of the paleontologists who had originally discovered Ben's remains in 1995.

The fossil has been on display in a Swiss museum for decades, but only recently was examined by a pair of paleontologists who found that it was a different type of diplodocid and separate from the Diplodocus everyone had assumed it was.

The two, Emanuel Tschopp and Octávio Mateus, had earlier done research that put Brontosaurus back on the list of sauropods, after other paleontologists had said it was not a separate species.

As is often the case with such discoveries, the differences are not huge, although Ben certainly was. (And, by the way, the paleontologists did not say if they were certain Ben was "Ben" and not "Benita.")

One of the main differences is in the way the head is attached to the long neck, a very solid attachment that makes it hard to tell where the skull stops and the spine begins.



The legs were also thicker than that of Diplodocus, and Ben was a very large dino, approximately 30 meters in length and able to browse from tall trees using its long, triangular neck.

This type of sauropod is called a "whiplash dinosaur" because of its long, thin tail.

That doesn't necessarily mean that the tail was used in defense, and there might not have been any enemies that would attack such a huge beast in the first place.

"Ben" is seen as yet another scientific honor for the Western United States, which has been a rich hunting ground for paleontologists looking for these large sauropods, as well as fossils from later eons, such as the mammoths found near Snowmass and now at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

This particular fossil was found near Shell, Wyoming, which is in the Bighorn Mountains at the northcentral part of Wyoming, just south of the Montana border.

However, fossilized remains of diplodocids, brontosaurus and other sauropods have been found in South America and in Africa as well.

photo source: PeerJ map source: National Atlas of the United States

Sudoku

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



Brainteaser

Today is Independence Day in Romania, celebrating 130 years as a nation, so our answers this week will each start with the letter "I" for "Independence."

1. This island nation's capital city is Reykjavik.
2. Baseball games are divided into these parts.
3. The name for letters that look like this.
4. A long-billed wading bird that probes the mud for tasty crustaceans
5. Author of "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
6. Put air into a balloon, swimming pool raft or sports ball
7. A triangle with two sides of the same length
8. Inability to fall asleep when you want to
9. Name shared by a small town in Logan County and a theological school in Denver
10. A safe, warm device that can be a place for very young babies or a place for hatching eggs

(answers on Page Four)

Space clutter becoming a problem the world needs to face

Space-X leader Elon Musk has announced a plan to make Internet access available everywhere, through a system of thousands of tiny satellites.

It sounds great when you first hear it, but not everyone is excited about the idea of more things orbiting the Earth.

Last month, the European Space Agency hosted a conference in Germany about space debris, and 350 people from space agencies, colleges and space industries came to discuss the issue.

Much of the junk floating around the Earth is small, but the problem itself is not.

The ESA estimates that there are some 23,000 bits of garbage in the band of space where satellites can orbit, and that's only the bits that are large enough to track.

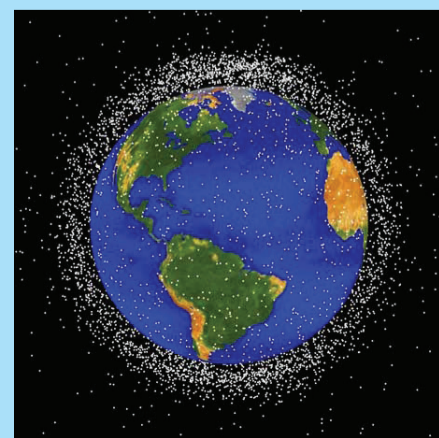
Space debris can include dead satellites, but it can also be things like astronaut's discarded gloves and small bits broken off from damaged satellites.

There is a total of 750,000 smaller pieces of debris in orbit, and even tiny bits can be a genuine threat to satellites, including the International Space Station, where astronauts have to climb into an escape pod when a piece of space junk is spotted approaching.

The conference discussed various devices that have been proposed to clean up useless and dangerous debris.

Meanwhile, with so much of our communications, weather predicting, broadcasting and navigation coming from space, Musk's proposal to launch 4,425 more tiny satellites has experts concerned.

Illustration: NASA



Beyond These 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

Measles and Mumps
 New Dino in Town
 Satellite Clutter

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Iceland 2. innings 3. italics (or italicized) 4. ibis 5. (Washington) Irving 6. inflate 7. isosceles 8. insomnia 9. Iliff 10. incubator

Tommy and the Guttersnipe

Chapter One: Up in Smoke

"Then this was the last day I go to school," Tommy declared. His mother turned away from the window and wiped the tears from her face. "No, I won't have that. Your father's dearest wish was that you be educated."

"When he comes back, then, I'll go back to school," Tommy promised. "But, until then, we need money. I'm twelve years old now and I need to be working like the other boys in this neighborhood."

"This neighborhood," Mrs. McMahon repeated, looking out the sooty window at the crowded scene below.

The street was strewn with garbage and crowded with men pushing carts of vegetables, clothing or cheap tin pots and kettles. Another had a grinding-wheel and sang out for knives to sharpen. A man in a horse-drawn wagon shouted his offer to buy old rags and bones.

Around and through them ran small children, playing tag. Directly below and across the street, Mr. Goldstein had come out of his grocery store to catch an older boy trying to slip two oranges into the pockets of his tattered jacket. Mr. Goldstein had the boy by the collar and was shouting for a policeman.

"Working, do you call it?" she snapped. "That's your friend Shanahan now, isn't it?"

Tommy looked over her shoulder, "Stork and I aren't friends." He looked into his mother's disapproving face. "Because his legs stick out of his pants," he explained. "Somebody said he looked like a stork."

"That's hardly his fault," his mother said. "His poor mother can barely feed him, never mind buy new pants every time the boy grows again."

Tommy laughed. "Everybody has a nickname on the street. That one's nothing. There's a boy who's blind in one eye ..."

"I don't want to hear it!" Mrs. McMahon said firmly, walking away from the window.

"Do you know what they call me?" Tommy asked, but answered without waiting for her. "Shakespeare."

"Shakespeare!" she repeated. "And what on earth has William Shakespeare got to do with anything?"

"It's because they see me go off with my books to school every day," Tommy explained.

His mother turned to look at him for a moment. "Well," she said, "then let them keep calling you 'Shakespeare' and you keep going to school."

Tommy sighed. "You know I can't do that, Ma," he said gently. "What would we do?"

He looked around at their tenement apartment. It was just two small rooms and a tiny kitchen, but it had a window to let in light, and it looked out on the front street instead of the filthy, narrow alley behind. "Where would we live next?"

Mrs. McMahon sat down heavily in a wooden chair. "I don't know, son. Lord help us, where would we live next?"

It had been nearly two years since they had heard from Tommy's father, and a year since they had to move from their neat, small home in Brooklyn to the crowded tenement on Hester Street in Manhattan.

Before that, they had money each month in the mail, from faraway places like Minnesota, Kansas and Colorado, where Tommy's father was working the farms, the mines or the forests. Once a year, he'd come back to New York on the train.

Always, when he came back, he promised that some day he'd be home to stay. But the jobs back East weren't as good as they were out West, and so, after a few weeks at home, he'd be off again to where he could earn enough to keep his family and still save to buy their own place one day.

But then the letters and the money stopped coming. They didn't know where he was, or if he were even alive.

After a year, Tommy's mother decided they couldn't wait any longer or their savings would be gone entirely. She and Tommy and the baby, Bride, left their little home for this sad apartment, and Mrs. McMahon took a job sewing shirts for Brown and Company, a men's clothing store, so that she could work at home and watch the baby.

The store gave her 25 cents for each shirt she finished. It was just enough for the rent and some food. From what was left of their savings, she bought extra food, and took money so that Tommy could keep going to his old school in Brooklyn.

And now, even that little income was gone. Tommy had found out that day when he got off the Wall Street ferry on his way home.

His friend Dutch, a bootblack who worked at the ferry slip polishing the shoes of the businessmen as they came and went, called out to him.

"Shakespeare!" he shouted. "Did you hear about Brown and Company? The store burned down!"

"It's gone?" Tommy asked, as they began to walk up to the neighborhood together.

"Nothing but ashes," Dutch said. "The whole building burned, and the buildings next to it got some, too. But the fire started in the store. It's gone, all right!"

And gone with it was his mother's job, his family's income and his chances of finishing school.



Text copyright 2007, Mike Peterson - Illustrations copyright 2007, Christopher Baldwin

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

ColoradoKids

is produced by
 Denver Post Educational Services
 Executive Editor: Dana Plewka
dplewka@denverpost.com
 CK Editor: Mike Peterson
coloradokidseditor@gmail.com
 We welcome your comments.

eEditions of the Post are
 free of charge for classroom use.
 Contact us for information on all
 our programs.

Denver Post Educational Services
 101 W. Colfax Ave.
 Denver CO 80202
 (303) 954-3974
 (800) 336-7678

For tools to extend the learning in this feature,
 look under "Youth Content" at:
www.ColoradoNIE.com

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.



ColoradoNIE.com