



CK Reporter of the Week
Kira Zizzo, Highlands Ranch

Prequel will delight Potter fans



Ecstatic teenagers stampeded through bookstores, ravenous to purchase their soon-to-be favorite novels. Gold and red woolen hats flew off of heads, and costume cloaks billowed.

This was the unforgettable mood of the Harry Potter saga, the literary and cinematic phenomenon that has just gained another chapter.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," with a screenplay by J.K. Rowling and directed by David Yates, is no dishonor or disappointment to the tradition.

In this prequel to the Harry Potter saga, Newt Scamander (*Eddie Redmayne*) is a British Caretaker for Magical Creatures, with a suitcase containing infinite ecosystems and rescued beings.

After finishing his manuscript, he travels to New York City to continue his journey, where disturbances have been occurring so strange that even non-wizard Americans are observing them.

Then, when a magical mishap results in Scamander's

case being opened, even more questions will arise, and even more disruption will wreak havoc.

With the assistance of strangers, the disdain of speculators, and the possibly impending mistake of revealing the wizarding community, join Scamander on his trek of attempting to repair both blemishes and catastrophes.

While there are many words to describe this film, the most accurate is simply magical.

With the astounding quality of every artistic aspect, delightful easter eggs and a gripping storyline with radical twists that will entertain Harry Potter lovers and non-lovers, it is utterly phenomenal.

To begin, the production quality is impressive, and the scenes and special effects are gorgeous.

The vast volume of mystical monsters is visually stunning, from enormous birds flapping feathery wings to miniscule branches that make viewers' hearts swoon.

Various spells and symbolic objects are striking in

how realistic they seem to be.

Usage of slow motion is effective, capturing attention at ideal moments, and dramatic music is deliberate. Based on sound alone, a roller coaster of emotions is inflicted.

Every actor impresses, for Eddie Redmayne brilliantly executes an awkward, lovable protagonist, Katherine Waterston plays a wonderful, heroic supporting actress, Dan Fogler makes the audience cackle with his hilarious, significant role, and the list continues.

Continuing on, the movie has several intertwining plot lines, each with different levels of intensity and depth.

Following the stories of each character and how they connect is intriguing, maintaining the ideology of the series we know will follow.

It's a perfect balance of comedy, mystery, and literature, and one can mindlessly enjoy the film or get lost in its many pathways: A suspenseful, dark scene will be followed by hilarious hijinks, for laughter is constant until tears ensue.

For this reason, it serves best for more mature audiences, as it eventually becomes very intense, and its PG-13 rating is somewhat necessary.

The feature is a respectful and charming addition to the Harry Potter series, incorporating, but not overwhelming, its most beloved aspects.

At the same time, a consumer with no knowledge of the series will be satisfied.

Prequels are the extra information that audiences crave.

However, they can be hated creations, with numerous examples.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" is absolutely not one of those movies, and is instead a delightful two hours that will leave both wizards and muggles pleasantly shocked.



By Sanya Bhartiya,
13, a CK Reporter
from Centennial

Team's newest novel does more than squeak by

James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein team up once more, and bring you the story "Word of Mouse."

Isaiah is a blue mouse who lost his family when he was running from "the horrible place," as his 82 brothers and sisters call it.

It is a place where the people who work do unthinkable things to the mice, like giving them smarts, colors and the ability to speak and, although it is special for the mice to be able to do all of that, the mice feel endangered and try to escape.

Now Isaiah has escaped the horrible place and is the only mouse like him who has not been caught.

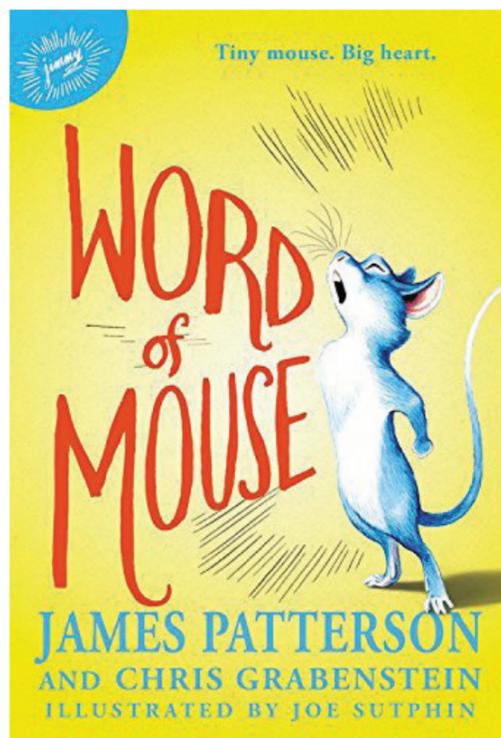
He has to find out how to get back and get his family out of there, and he makes some friends along the way.

Isaiah finds himself wandering a big city full of cats, rats and a new family of mice that welcome him as a part of their family.

Apart from his blue fur, the mice don't see much of a difference in his personality.

Isaiah is a helper and protector to the family and optimistic when all hope is lost because the house gets mousetraps.

Then he goes to the house next door on a food hunt and finds a surprising new friend who is much bigger than he is.



Hailey, a middle-school aged girl who was always made fun of for her white hair and icy blue eyes, becomes a friend to Isaiah, even though the only way that Isaiah can communicate with her is by the computer.

Hailey listens to everything he has to say and helps him and the other mice in their quest to go to the horrible place to try to save Isaiah's family.

This book was very good and I liked the quotes that the authors put in at the start of every chapter.

I think the book would be appropriate for readers 8 years old and up because there are some big words that younger readers might not understand.

This book was entertaining and I hope other readers will enjoy it as much as I did.



By Katherine Gagner,
11, a CK Reporter
from Boulder



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Tale of adventure, magic and intolerance

A peasant girl. A Jew. A young monk. And their holy dog. In Adam Gidwitz's latest novel, "The Inquisitor's Tale," set in medieval France, these three children and their dog band together to form a formidable army.

To anyone familiar with Gidwitz's books, it will come as no surprise that the book is whimsical and winding in a way that stays on just the right side of the line between engaging and interested, and confusing.

The tale is told from the point of view of multiple characters, telling their tales to an inquisitor in a pub.

Pieced together, they form the lives of main characters William, Jacob, and Jeanne and her dog.

It begins with a legend-like tale of a peasant girl, told by a woman from her village. Jeanne's tale is told, marking her growth from a young baby with a dog babysitter to a girl who, persecuted for odd powers that may or may not extend to telling the future, is eventually taken prisoner/guest by some vaguely untrustworthy knights.

Later, a man jumps forward with a tale of a monk-in-training who has been sent on a quest through dangerous forests with only a donkey (*and supernatural strength*) to guide him.

Finally, the unnamed "inquisitor" is introduced to the tale of Jacob, perhaps the saddest tale of all: a butcher from Jacob's village tells of the young Jewish boy, who is searching for his parents after a fire set by Christian boys from the neighboring village for sport.

With much reluctance, the three eventually begin to work together for something they all care about: saving hundreds of books from destruction in "the name of the Lord."

And hopefully, avoiding the martyrdom everyone seems to think they have coming to them.

The book has many unique aspects, and was in fact formulated during a year Gidwitz spent living across Europe.

Besides being set in the Middle Ages, the book incorporates some medieval style

into its design with illuminations by Hatem Aly on every page.

Illuminations, the fancy, decorated first-letters commonly found in medieval texts, particularly religious texts, were used to allow even illiterate peasants to glean understanding of the content.

The book has many such factual pieces, with nearly all characters (*and their alleged miracles*) loosely based on real people and events, or at least on legends that were told of in medieval times.

One of the most interesting parts of this story is the message it teaches: A story is established that brings together three characters from very different backgrounds.

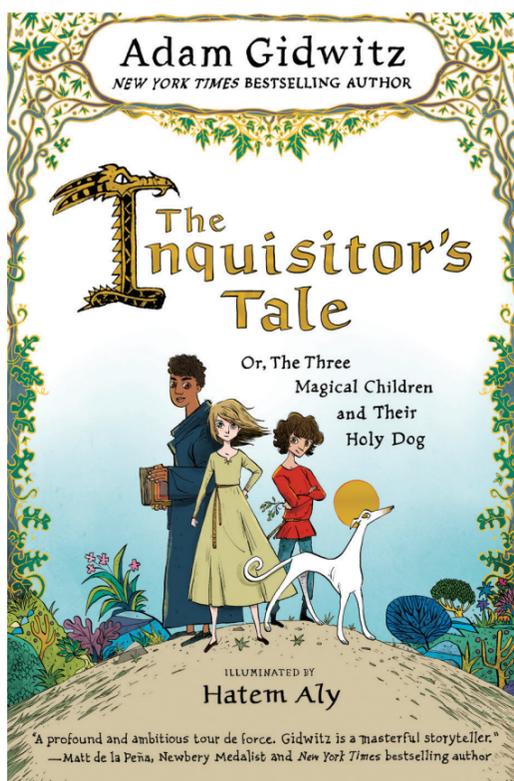
At first there is conflict between them, but the characters learn to work together. With the conflict in the current political atmosphere, perhaps this is something even adults could stand to learn.

In fact, I would recommend this book for adults.

Despite its easy language, a combination of its humor and the themes of tolerance, I wouldn't recommend it for readers younger than eight or ten.

While the language is simple enough, and the plot would be engaging, to a younger kid, certain concepts might be more difficult to understand based on its time period and the (*in some places more mature*) sense of humour this book has.

I do highly recommend this book though, and with the holidays coming up it would make a great gift, whether you plan to spend Christmas in church, are only in it for the gifts, or would really like some Chinese food right about now.



By Thandi Glick, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

America marks anniversary of a tragedy



Today marks the 53rd Anniversary of the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

It might make for an interesting conversation at Thanksgiving to find out which of your older relatives was closest to your age back on November 22, 1963, and ask them what it was like.

You've probably heard the basic facts: The president was in Dallas and was in an open convertible, headed for a noontime speech, riding with his wife and with Texas Governor James Connally and his wife.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson and his wife were in a second car.

As they drove through the city, waving to the crowd,

shots rang out and the president was hit twice. Governor Connally was also wounded.

Although the limousine rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, there was little doctors could do, and John F. Kennedy was pronounced dead.

As they prepared to return to Washington with the president's coffin, Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as president, standing in the airplane before it took off.

This was not just in the days before the Internet but in the days before cable channels.

Most people could only get a few TV networks: CBS, NBC and ABC and, in cities, an independent station or two.

But it was also a time before tape decks or other recorded music in cars, and so many people first heard the news on the radio while driving.

Others heard it when TV networks cut into daytime shows.

For television and radio, it meant stopping all scheduled programming to cover the tragedy.

In those days, some newspapers came out in the morning and others in the afternoon.

So, for morning papers, it meant publishing "Extras," a second newspaper on the same day because the news would not wait until morning.

In the schools, administrators had to decide what to do.

The assassination happened at 12:30 Central Time, so school was still in session even on the East Coast. Some kids were sent home immediately.

Others went home at their regular times.

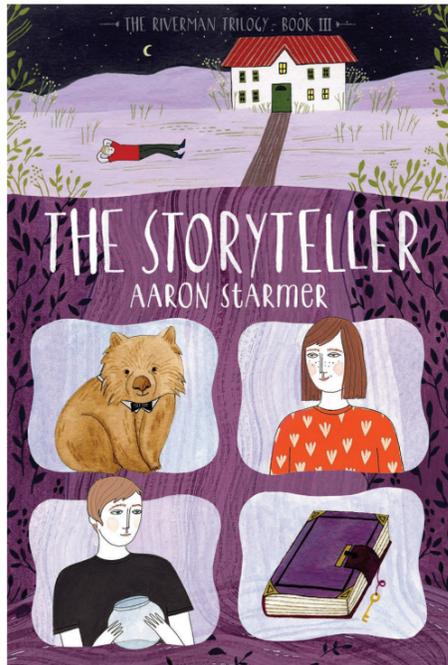
None of them will ever forget that day.

You should ask them. It's a story worth hearing.



Above left, President Kennedy and his children, Carolyn and John, in the Oval Office in 1962. Above, Johnson takes the oath as president, with Jackie Kennedy on his left and Lady Bird Johnson on his right. (Photos/Cecil Stoughton)

The bizarre story at the end of 'Riverman' series



The first word that comes to mind while reading "The Storyteller" is "bizarre."

"The Storyteller" by Aaron Starmer is a book about Kerrigan Cleary and her adventure through life with her family.

Kerrigan Cleary's little brother, Alister, has committed a crime: He shot Kyle Dwyer by accident, and is making up "lies" of what happened to him after surviving the incident and then disappearing.

Everyone around Alister -- his therapist, his friends, his mom and dad -- don't believe everything he is telling them about the shooting.

Everyone thinks he has gone insane, but not Kerrigan. She doesn't want to believe it, but she has been sucked into believing him.

Kerrigan really wants to help find where Charlie Dwyer and Fiona Loomis went. She wants to be involved in everything that is happening, but she was told to just be a sister.

Throughout the book, Kerrigan struggles with not being a part of everything. With her closest friends, she goes behind her parents' backs and finds out more information about what has been happening.

"The Storyteller" is written all from Kerrigan's point of

view. The book is her diary.

As each day passes, she writes an entry and tells the reader about her day.

At the same time, the book follows the plot line of Alister's shooting.

This was a very innovative way for Aaron Starmer to tell this story.

This book, which is the third in Starmer's "Riverman" series, is very odd.

Throughout the novel, there would be a random story inserted.

It would throw you off the plot, and then the next chapter would get back to the story.

I would rate this book for Middle School age and up because there is some cursing involved.



By Ashley Gaccetta, 12, a CK Reporter from Longmont

Smell part of why marine animals swallow plastic waste

The problem of plastic trash floating around in the oceans is becoming more well-known, and it is also becoming more well-studied.

Scientists believe they have just discovered a very important clue to explain why so many marine animals, including fish, whales, turtles and seabirds, swallow so much plastic garbage.

The factor is smell, and, specifically, the smell of rotting algae.

Krill, a tiny crustacean, is a very important part of the food chain in the world's oceans, and krill eat algae, so where you find algae, you will find krill.

Even animals that don't eat krill may well eat other animals that do, or the animals that eat those

animals. We all know that's how the circle of life works, on land or at sea.

Algae finds plastic a good place to land and spread. As plastic trash gets covered with algae, it gives off the smell of dying algae and signals to animals throughout the ocean that food is nearby.

Researchers were clear that actually deciding to eat the plastic is probably still based on other errors. Turtles may think plastic bags are jellyfish, and tiny fish may mistake small plastic particles for the small bits of food they eat.

But it was the smell of algae that brought them close enough to look. Knowing that is a clue that could help solve the problem.

photo/4028mdk09



Zoo's new 'man of the forest' is a woman



photo/Victoria Gagner

Eirena is an 8-year-old female Sumatran orangutan; a Sumatran orangutan being one of the two species of orangutans, a primate found only on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

It is the rarer of the two species. The name "orangutan" means man, person, or people of the forest: "Orang" meaning man, person, or people and "tang" meaning forest.

Eirena was recently brought from Zoo Dortmund, a zoo in Germany, to the Denver Zoo.

Now Eirena lives happily in her new home in the Primate Panoramas Great Apes building, and zoo officials are hoping that Eirena and 14-year-old Bernas, whose nickname is Junie, will soon mate.

I first met with Sean Andersen-Vie, the zoo's public relations manager, whose job is to get people interested in visiting the zoo and seeing new animals here.

Anderson-Vie has been working at the Denver Zoo for eight years and went to CU after getting a degree in journalism.

Soon after that, he had jobs as a TV news reporter and as a communications assistant at the State Capitol before landing the job at the Denver Zoo.

I asked Sean a few questions about his job that included: What do you like most about it?

He answered "Writing about animals and learning different things every day."

I also asked him what the worst thing about his job was, to which he said: "We get a handful of people who think that all zoos are bad, it's definitely hard to deal with protesters."

After we spoke for a little while, he showed us to the primate house and introduced us to Cindy Cossboon

who is a zookeeper for the orangutans.

Cossboon has been working at the Zoo for 17 years, and went to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Some things I learned were that orangutans are not nocturnal, that they communicate by hooting, squeaking and other verbal noises and that their armspan is 7 to 9 feet from fingertip to fingertip.

Cossboon also told me that their hair turns white on their beards when they get really old, that the zookeepers comb their hair for them, and that they come in different shades of orange, but only in shades of orange.

Their main family, she said, is just the mom and other siblings if they have any, but that then, when they are old enough, they go off to live on their own.

I think that everyone should get a chance to enjoy these creatures, particularly since they are endangered.

Besides, this visit was a lot of fun and the orangutans were really funny, swinging, and rolling, and climbing everywhere.

No matter if you're in a swinging mood or just looking for something fun, Eirena and the other orangutans at the Denver Zoo will sure give you some entertainment.



By Katherine Gagner, 11, a CK Reporter from Boulder

We asked you, you told us: Holidays are family get-togethers

The upcoming holidays may involve some travel, some leisure and some serious moments of spiritual remembrance, but they are sure to include food and family, if the readers who responded to our survey are on target.

Half of you said a family dinner would be the central part of your holidays, with travel and relaxation combining for most of the rest. Only a little over 10 percent expect religious events and other celebrations to be the biggest part of things.

(And, yes, 50% makes a pie chart look weird when it's the second choice instead of the first or fourth!)

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

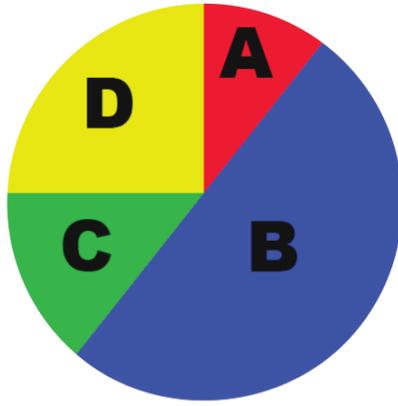
Which of these best describes how you'll mark the winter holidays ahead?

A. Combination of celebration and religious events 11%

B. Family gathering here for a big meal 50%

C. Travel for vacation or to visit distant family 14%

D. Mostly a laid back day at home 25%



Now here's our next question:

The New Year is just around the corner. Will it make any difference to you?

- A. I'll make some resolutions and try hard to keep them.
- B. I'll make some resolutions and then break them all.
- C. I make changes when I need to, not because it's New Year's.
- D. I don't even make changes when I probably should.

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

Sudoku

	2				
	4			6	5
5			4		
2				1	
3		1		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

On this date in 1995, Toy Story was released, the first feature-length movie made entirely with computer-generated imagery, so our answers this week will each begin with "W." You've got the first question right if you know why.

1. The lead character in "Toy Story" is this lanky cowboy.
2. Either the first or last name of the world's first airplane pilot would fit the rules this week. Who took that first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903?
3. Hawaii's most famous beach, it's part of Honolulu's oceanfront
4. In Britain, this tool found on every workbench is called a "spanner."
5. Known from a Christmas carol, this "good king" lived in what is now the Czech Republic.
6. The largest reference work on-line, it began in 2001 and the English-language version now has over five-and-a-quarter million articles.
7. Amusement park where most "rides" are pools, slides and other ways to get wet.
8. He was the US President during World War I.
9. Sparrow-sized birds, but slimmer, with longer, curved beaks and stand-up tails
10. On a ranch, the person in charge of the horses

(answers on Page Four)

Late-night phone fun keeps adults from good sleep, too



It probably wouldn't make bedtime any more pleasant to bring this up then, but kids are not the only ones who need to shut off the phones and tablets before they turn in.

At least, that's what researchers at the University of California, San Francisco learned:

Adults who use their phones and tablets in bed at night end up with worse sleep than those who put the devices down and relax

off-line for some time before turning in for the night.

The head of the study, a medical professor, took his data from a much larger study of sleep and personal habits, so he was looking at results from many people.

That huge study also allowed him to include things like smoking, alcohol use and general fitness, to make sure that the difference he measured was on-line use and not those other things.

He admitted one thing: Some people might have been using their phones in bed because they couldn't sleep and were bored, so the phone wouldn't be to blame.

But there was enough data to make it pretty clear that people who spend more time on-line don't sleep as well as people who live off-line more, and, particularly, those who stay off-line in the time that bed time approaches.

photo/ Abhisit Vejjajiva



To read the sources for these stories

- The death of President Kennedy
- Smartphones, tablets and sleep
- Seabirds and the smell of plastic

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. (Sheriff) Woody 2. Wilbur Wright 3. Waikiki 4. wrench 5. Wenceslaus
6. Wikipedia 7. waterpark 8. Woodrow Wilson 9. wren 10. wrangler

Big Nate



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Stories without bylines were written by the editor.

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**By Rich Wilson, Skipper
Great American IV**

For a mariner, Crossing the Line is a special event, no matter how many times he or she may have done it before. North turns to South (or the reverse) on the GPS. The Line is not marked by buoys, only by signs (+ or -) in the spherical trigonometry of the planet.

New stars and constellations appear that cannot be seen from the other side of "The Line". Polaris, our celestial anchor in the Northern Hemisphere, will disappear below the horizon in our wake when we cross heading south.

In a maritime tradition universally followed, those who have Crossed the Line must initiate those who have not. The ceremony is to degrade and interrogate as to whether they are worthy of entering King Neptune's new domain, which must be respected. The Ancient Mariner of-

fended King Neptune by shooting the Albatross, and brought disaster to his ship.

I have crossed the line eleven times under sail and once aboard cargo ship (*New Zealand Pacific*, after our rescue off Cape Horn in 1990). Even aboard The Big Red Lady (NZP's affectionate nickname), merchant mariners who had not crossed were ceremoniously doused in bilge water and diesel sludge, demeaned, questioned, demeaned some more, and then permitted to cross. I was happy to see that these highly professional mariners still adhered to this tradition of the sea.

When we cross in a few days, I will wonder, as I did in 2008, what adventures, inspirations, calamities, marvels, and rigors will happen to us before we re-cross going North. We will have gales, we may see the Aurora Australis, we will suffer the cold and the fear, before rounding Cape Horn and heading north again. The South, how will we fare in the South? We will do our best; yet King Neptune will decide.



**By Dava Sobel,
Author**

People often speak of drawing "a line in the sand," meaning a boundary that cannot be crossed without serious consequences. Next week

Skipper Rich Wilson will cross a line in the water. Although no one can see that line threading through the ocean waves, still the Equator constitutes a real borderline between the northern and southern hemispheres. At the Equator, the Sun and planets pass more nearly overhead, the temperatures at sea level change little with the seasons, and the girth of the Earth is widest. Perhaps most important for the person sailing from north to south, the Equator marks a ship's passage into the mythic realm of King Neptune.

The slow winds—or no winds—in the so-called doldrums near the Equator left European sailors of centuries past plenty of time for mischief. The old experienced hands would put the new recruits through a rite of passage that could include smearing their heads with foul slops, "shaving" their faces with jagged bits of iron that pierced the skin, pouring salt water down their throats, flogging them, and pitching them blindfolded into makeshift pools (sails filled with seawater). One senior sailor would dress up as King Neptune and preside over the shenanigans.

When the initiation was over, the crew headed into whatever dangers awaited them in the southern ocean.

On ships that observed such line-crossing ceremonies, no first-timer could demand exemption. Charles Darwin experienced the indignity aboard HMS *Beagle* in 1832, en route to his encounter with the interesting wildlife of the Galapagos Islands.

Rich has plunged southward across the line several times before. Even if he were making his first crossing now, there would be no one else aboard *Great American IV* to induct him —except, perhaps, old King Neptune himself.



NEWS EXPLORER

Find an article or picture in the newspaper or online that shows or discusses a ceremony (political, religious, or personal). Why is this ceremony important? Write a letter to the editor that describes one of your traditions and why it is important to you.