



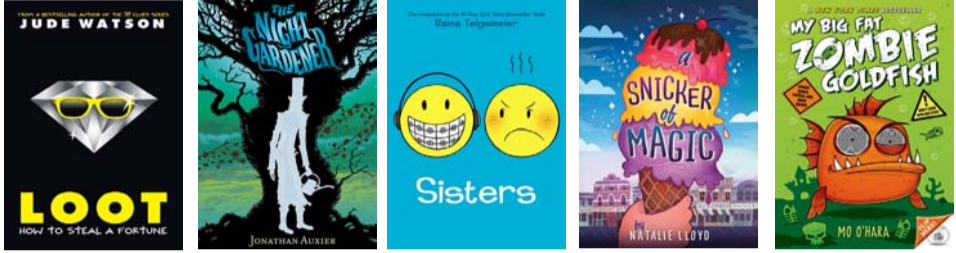
This week, CK salutes kids who read, like you!

CK looks at the CCBA nominees

The new year has begun and it's time to get ready to vote for the Colorado Children's Book Awards.

Each year, kids and librarians get together and nominate their favorite books for the CCBA. Then kids who have read at least three of the books in a category get to vote for their favorite.

It's your way of letting libraries, bookstores, publishers and authors know the kinds of books that you like best! That's important, because it's how you help make sure of more good reading for years to come.

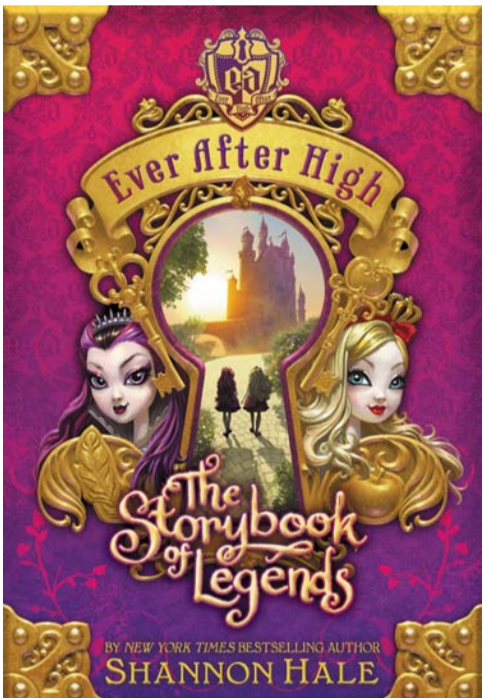


Our reviewers have had a chance to read the 10 novels nominated in the Junior category this year, and, in this week's issue, you'll get to see what they thought. (Some of these reviews ran earlier in CK.)

But when it comes to the CCBA, the most important opinion of all is yours! Take a look at these reviews, then go to your school or public library, or your local bookstore, and start reading.

Voting ends March 1, and you can find out more about when, and how, to vote, from your librarian. Now, get ready to start reading!

Learning to live up to your family's legacy, or not



"Ever After High: The Storybook of Legends" by Shannon Hale takes place at the fantasy school of Ever After High, where the students must literally follow in their parents' footsteps.

Every year on Legacy Day, they must sign the Storybook of Legends to fulfill their destinies in their parents' fairy tales, or risk their story and their life.

Apple White and Raven Queen, from Snow White, have very different views on Legacy Day.

Apple has looked forward to it all her life.

Raven has dreaded it.

And one choice will change everything.

I have to say, the appearance of this book really deterred me.

The tops of the pages were pink and the bottoms were purple. And don't even get me started on the cover.

I had to put a book jacket over it when I read it because I didn't want to be caught dead with this book.

But do not judge a book by its cover. This book is actually very good.

The writing is beautiful and the author takes an over-used plot and makes it fresh and unique.

The plot moves along nicely and is laced with a perfect

amount of humor and randomness.

The concept was approached in a very interesting way. It was very modern, but executed so well that you can almost forget that most fairy tales take place in a medieval fantasy setting.

There was also no end to the bad puns in this book.

The characters used puns in everyday conversation, and there are puns in the names of classes, technology, and even the video games!

Overall, "The Storybook of Legends" is a very good book.

I'd recommend it to middle school students as a fun, interesting read.



By Lexie Greenawalt, then 14, a CK Reporter from Evergreen

Heartwarming tale of seeking 'a cure for dumb'

Kids often think they have the worst life at school and with homework. But it may not be so bad.

In "Fish in a Tree" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, the main character, Ally Nickerson, lives a hard life at school being bullied and unable to read.

Then, as her sixth grade year goes on, Ally's teacher goes on maternity leave.

Ally dreads how many times she will get sent to the principal's office by her new teacher, Mr. Daniels.

But to her surprise she loves Mr. Daniels, with his unique, fun neckties and encouraging smile.

This heartwarming book tells the story of Ally Nickerson and her struggles with dyslexia.

She has been told she is dumb by many bullies and she believed them.

And as she says, "Well, there is no cure for dumb."

There are sweet and sour characters in this book. Some of them change and some of them stay their sour selves.

First off, there is Albert, one of my favorite characters.

He is one of Ally's best friends. He is very intelligent and is a gentleman.

Albert connects everything to science and cracks you up without meaning to.

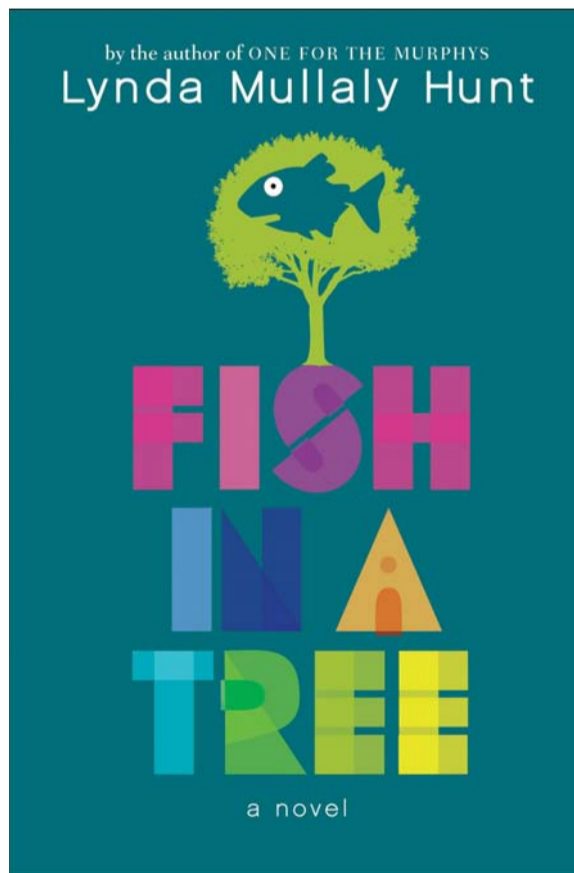
He has a rough life at home, with his mom not approving of his dad being a scientist.

She says he should get a more promising job.

As if it couldn't get worse for Albert, he gets beaten up every day after school.

Though he is bigger than the kids who beat him up, he does not believe in violence.

Keisha, another of Ally's friends, also cracks me up.



Keisha is a talented baker and is kind-hearted.

She sticks up for people when they are being picked on by Shay, the meanest girl in school.

Shay trains her friends to be like little puppies always following her lead.

And Shay's best friend, Jessica, is probably a nice girl but it is like she froze her own heart just so she could be friends with Shay.

This book taught me a lot about the struggles of kids with dyslexia and also that there are a lot of scientists, and authors and other famous people with dyslexia.

I recommend this book for ages 8 and up.

I think girls would enjoy this book more than boys but it is a great book for everyone.

Read this book and find out: Is there a "cure for dumb"?



By Katie Hangland, 11, a CK Reporter from Centennial



HEY COLORADO KIDS!

Visit YourHub.com/nextgen for more stories, movie reviews, school news, blogs and polls. Join the conversation today.

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'Loot' offers something to please every reader

March is not your typical twelve-year-old boy. For one, his dad is the most famous cat burglar in the world.

Or at least, he was, until he tumbled from a rooftop one fateful night in Amsterdam.

His last words to his son are, "Find jewels." March soon learns that his father didn't mean "jewels," but "Jules," the twin sister he never knew he had.

Reunited, March and Jules learn of a terrible prophecy that may be the death of them, and set out to undo it. However, to do this, they will have to pull off the biggest heists of all time... before it's too late.

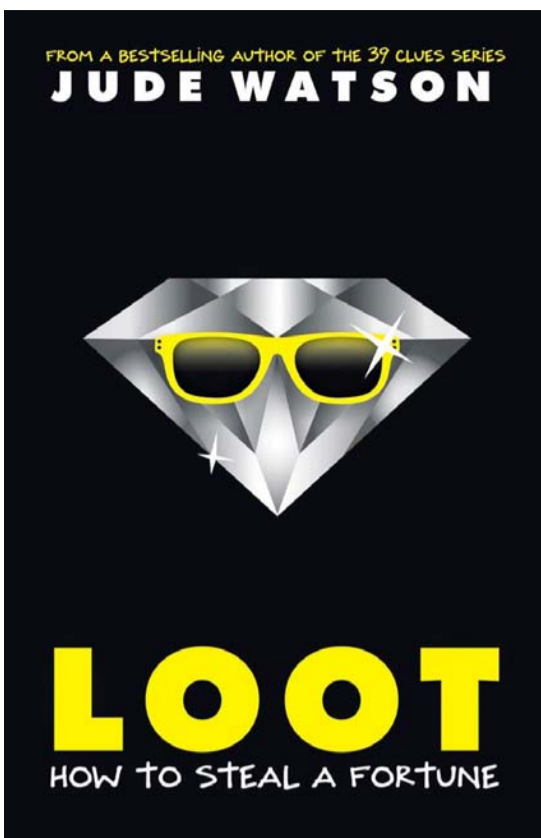
"Loot," by Jude Watson, is an entertaining novel that will satisfy all readers.

This novel is set apart from others in the way that it has many different elements that make it fit into several different categories.

For example, it contains magic and prophecies, making it a good fit for the fantasy category, but it is also extremely action-packed, which will please action fans.

Mystery fans will also enjoy the puzzles behind it.

I would recommend "Loot" for kids in the mid-



dle grades and up. It is not particularly challenging, but it is still entertaining and would make a fun read for older kids.

Additionally, people who enjoy Gordon Korman's books will also enjoy this one, because of the similar writing styles.

And, finally, "Loot" will interest people who have read and liked the 39 Clues series, as several of the books in that series were written by Jude Watson and Gordon Korman.

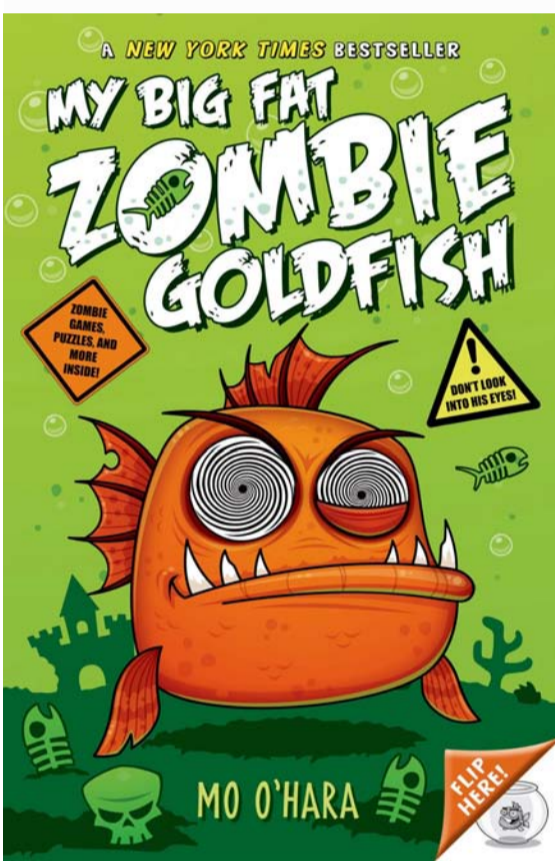
All-in-all, "Loot" is a gripping novel that would please a wide variety of readers.

Whether you're looking for a juicy, action-packed novel, a gripping mystery, or just a fun family read-aloud book, Loot fits the bill!



By Cara Dulin, 14, a CK Reporter from Castle Rock

Evil scientists, middle-school friendships and fun



Evil eel + labcoat + lighthouse + lightning = a dangerous hypnotic zombie eel. "My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish," the sequel by Mo O'Hara, is surprisingly two stories in one book.

The first story is about a vacation to a mysterious lighthouse of Eel Bay, where Mark, Tom and Pradeep find a strange old lighthouse keeper.

The lighthouse keeper always told them creepy stories and even told one that involved an evil eel.

When Mark heard the story about the evil eel, he thought it was one step closer to world domination because he wanted to take over the world.

For Tom and his friends, the evil eel is a mystery, and the closer they get to solving the mystery, the more in-depth it becomes.

Find out if Mark dominates the world or will Pradeep and Tom stop him.

The second story is about Tom and Pradeep's childhood at school.

When Tom and Pradeep sign up to perform in a play, they have to sing a song but did not know until they got there for the auditions, and at the end of the audition Pradeep gets the main role.

After that, Pradeep stops being Tom's friend,

and Mark, Tom's evil scientist brother, gets a part in the play as well!

Is Mark planning something evil, and will Tom and Pradeep stop him if he is?

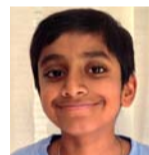
The only thing I did not like was when the author used the word "moron" very frequently in the story.

Except for that, the story and illustrations are enjoyable.

I would recommend this book for ages 8 and up. This 201 page 32 chapter book is humorous and mysterious at the same time.

Some humor that was good was when Tom was singing a song for the school play called "Squeaky Clean Toilets."

"Ah, so clean and fresh ... think your guests ... with Squeaky Clean Toilets".



By Mreedul Gupta, 11, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

Heartwarming novel of friendship and magic

"Everyday Angel," by Victoria Schwab, is a heartwarming story about a girl who gets a little unexpected help during a rough time in her life.

Gabby Torres is a happy, cheerful middle schooler.

Well, she used to be.

Now her older brother Marco is sick, and Gabby and her family are forced to move to a lonely apartment near the hospital.

Gabby doesn't know who she is anymore.

Then she meets Aria, an angel who is sent to help Gabby find her place.

In order to earn her wings, Aria must get rid of the "smoke" around Gabby.

Aria and Gabby get to know each other and Aria helps Gabby find a passion that she can be proud of.

But then, Aria's secret slips and she ends up telling Gabby that she is an angel. Gabby doesn't know what to think.

This book encourages readers to be themselves and always remember you are special no matter what your background is like or who your family is.

I enjoyed this book because of the characters.

My favorite character was Aria because she was always happy and never thinking of herself. She makes you happy just reading about her.

Readers can really connect to Gabby because she is in the same boat as many kids, not knowing who she is and trying to find her place.

Marco is cheerful in the worst of times and when you read about him, you feel hopeful.

Reading about these characters makes you feel like you are somebody and life can go any way you want it to.

I recommend this book to ages nine and up because the plot and story were easy to understand and the content is appropriate for this age group.

This was an easy read, and if you are looking for stories about friendships and a little magic, then this book is for you!



By Grace McClung, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver



Hoverboards the new, fast way to get to the hospital



You've likely seen the new "hoverboards," and you know they don't really let you fly through the air.

Well, they're not supposed to, anyway.

The first problem with the popular devices came when the batteries in some cheap models started them on fire.

Airlines banned them from their cargo holds and Amazon quit selling them while

the problem was examined.

They still turned up on a lot of Hanukkah and Christmas gift lists, however, and that's where the part about flying-through-the-air became an issue.

People have compared them to Segways without handlebars, and the problem with that is that the handlebar of a Segway is good for keeping you from falling off.

Hospital emergency rooms around the country have begun reporting broken wrists and similar injuries as kids, and sometimes parents, fall off the hoverboards.

Most of the advice to users is the same given to them about skateboards and bikes: Wear helmets and similar protection, and take it easy until you've learned how it works. AP photo/Stephen Brashear

Joke-filled story about a stand-up who doesn't

“I Funny” is about Jamie Grimm, middle schooler who wants to become a comedian. But some time earlier, he and his family had an accident that left him in a wheelchair and with a big secret that he does not want to tell, because it is a really sad secret.

So he went to live with his (*not ever laughing*) stepfamily.

When the The World’s Funniest Kid Comic Contest is announced, he wants to participate.

He practices on his stepfamily, because he knows that, if he can make them laugh, then he can make anyone laugh.

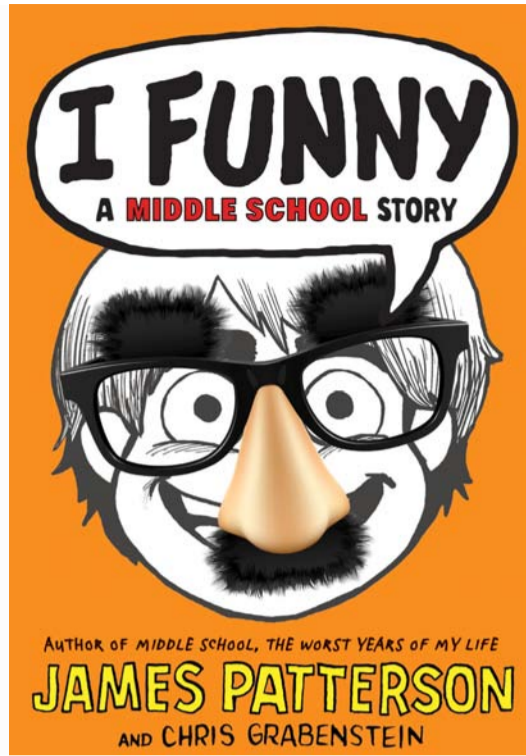
Will he win the contest and be the funniest kid ever or will he lose and stop being a comedian?

You will just have to wait and see until you read the book.

Personally I like books with lots of jokes in it and the title is correct, the story is funny, but I didn’t bust a gut like it says on the back cover.

I think the drawings by Laura Park engage the reader and add a cool element to the story.

The authors, James Patterson, and Chris Graben-



stein, did a good job mixing a joke book and a middle school story together.

It is, however, not only for middle school kids. I believe it could also be fun for kids as young as seven.

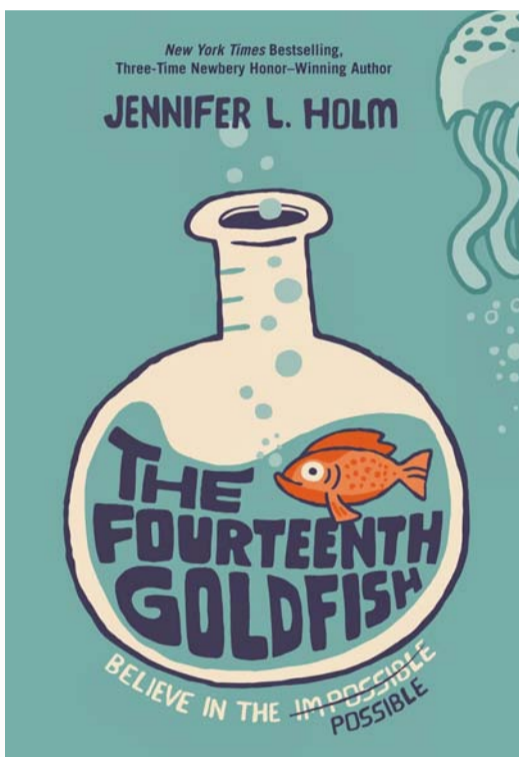
I am looking forward to reading the next book in the series, “I Even Funnier,” another middle school story and, if that one is as good as this one, I will definitely read the third: “I Totally Funniest.”

I hope they are easy and fun reads like the first one.



By Kyra Warneke, 10, a CK Reporter from Golden

Novel an interesting mix of science and fantasy



Ellie is a normal 11-year-old girl; she has a best friend, a loving home, and a pet goldfish named Goldie.

She also happens to have a mad scientist for a grandfather who’s fascinated with immortality.

In “The Fourteenth Goldfish,” by Jennifer L. Holm, Ellie’s world is turned upside down when her grandfather appears at the door, but not as she knows him. Rather, he’s a 14 year old boy.

Ellie’s grandfather explains that with the use of a special jellyfish, he’s reversed the aging process in himself and takes up the cover of Ellie’s cousin, Melvin.

Throughout the time spent with her grandfather, Ellie learns what it means to be a scientist.

Enlisting the help of an unlikely friend, they go on a mission to rescue the jellyfish, in hopes of changing the world.

In a heartwarming story, Holm not only educates people about science and the world itself, but also tells a story that embraces discovery and adventure.

It’s a significant book with wonderful use of

metaphor, especially through the goldfish.

I thought the book was interesting, but the blurb on the inside cover is misleading as to what to expect and the plot is a bit lacking. Some parts of the story don’t really make sense.

The novel contains many high level and important concepts about the world, as well as some advanced vocabulary, so I’d recommend it for 10-12 year olds who have an interest in science.

It’s a good read, but it may not be for everyone.



By Kaitlyn Pierce, 12, a CK Reporter from Arvada

Enjoy some spooky, tense, mysterious reading

“The Night Gardener” by Jonathan Auxier takes place in the late 1800’s during the Victorian Age in England.

The book is about two siblings, Molly and her brother, Kip, who are orphans.

They go to an old English Manor to work as servants for the Windsor Family, but the manor isn’t a normal one.

A curious curse that threatens the residents’ lives makes them deathly pale.

There is also a tree on the property that grants any wish you make in exchange for one drop of your soul.

On their way to Windsor Manor for the first time, Molly and Kip meet Hester Kettle, an old story teller.

When they ask her for directions, she tries to convince them to go back where they came from, but, finally, in exchange for directions, they agreed that, when they see her again, they will tell Hester a story about the Sourwoods, where the Windsor home is located.

In just a few weeks, they will already have some very interesting stories to tell her!

This was a very unique book because it’s spooky, tense, and mysterious.

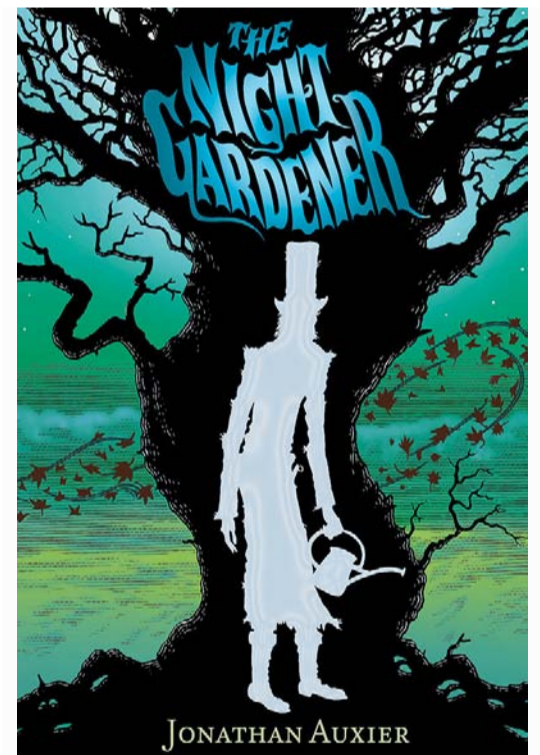
I liked it because the plot was well planned and the characters were described with detail.

I’d recommend “The Night Gardener” for ages 9 and older, because of its creepy content, and give it four stars out of five because of its confusing language, which includes expressions like “I dinna know” for “I don’t know.”

And I’d add one warning: Beware of the Night Gardener!



By Parker Secret, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver



Graphic memoir includes a road trip to Colorado

Author/cartoonist Raina Telgemeier brings forth more of her unusual history in her second graphic memoir, “Sisters”!

Raina has never gotten along with her little sister.

Amara usually wants to be on her own in her little nature filled world, while Raina is trying to find a common bond.

A road trip through the Rocky Mountains will finally bring that out.

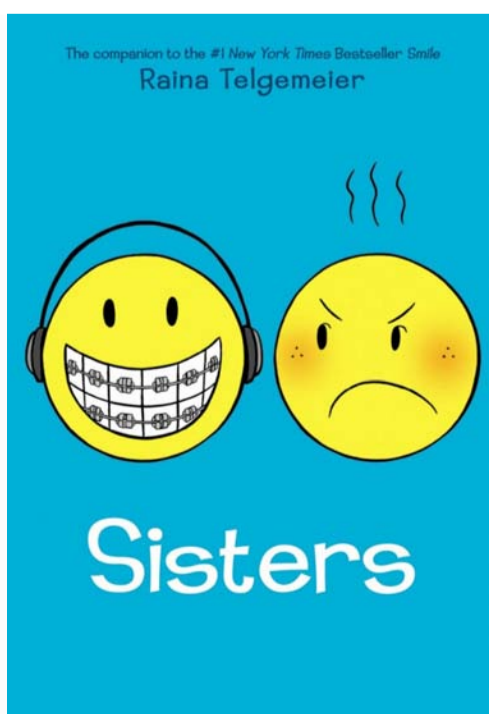
Raina, Amara, little brother Will and their mom head on a car trip through California, Nevada, Utah and Colorado.

During the trip they encounter many exciting things, like the first up close deer sightings and a bug-filled visit to Dinosaur National Monument.

All four of them are fine being alone, especially Raina, due to her unbreakable bond with her Walkman (*Remember, this is the 1990s, so people don’t have iPods or anything like that, and CD players are new.*)

When they get to Colorado Springs, Raina is unhappy to learn that her dream sister, otherwise known as her cousin, has grown up and is especially far from her.

One thing that I like about this book is that the author puts in flashbacks that explain to you what happened beforehand, and those flashbacks often connect to the current issue.



I also like that this book is about her relationship with her family and only in one certain time period, whereas “Smile,” her first book, is about her teeth and her friends, without much about her family.

The only thing that I didn’t like is that she leaves some things unfinished, like the faltering relationship between her mom and dad.

I wish I knew how this ended, because I feel that she left me with a cliffhanger.

Other than that, I would definitely give this book full credit.

Readers everywhere will enjoy this amazing new graphic memoir!



By Tripp Ceysens, 13, a CK Reporter from Arvada

Fun with words in a magical fantasy story

Splendiferous, spindiddly, facto-fabulous! In “A Snicker of Magic,” by Natalie Lloyd, word-collector Felicity Pickle is a sixth grade girl who lives in a small apartment with her sister, mom, aunt and uncle.

Felicity knows for a fact, though, that they will not stay there for long. Felicity’s family is always traveling.

They have lived all over the world and they still haven’t settled down in just one place.

Felicity and her younger sister Fannie Jo hope that Midnight Gulch is the final place to call home.

Midnight Gulch used to be a magical place, but ever since the Threadbare brothers left the town, magic is slowly disappearing.

Almost everybody still has magic in their veins, but they choose not to use it.

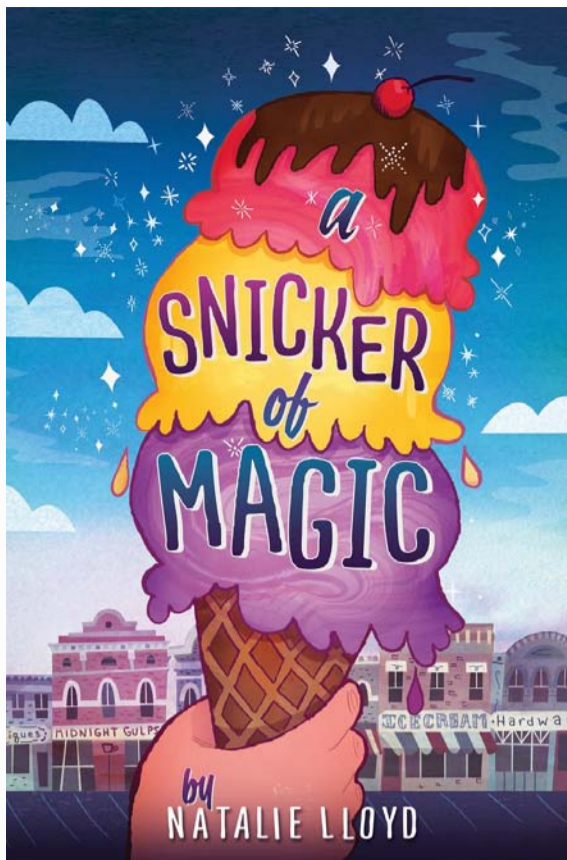
Felicity, on the other hand, doesn’t have a choice. She is a word collector.

She sees words floating around people’s hair, on walls, on posters, everywhere.

Stone and Berry, the two Threadbare brothers, had musical magic.

When they played their instruments, everything would dance: trees, clouds, people, and even the grass!

Stone and Berry eventually became very compet-



itive and decided to have a duel to see who was a better magician.

The loser would be cursed for life and would have to leave the town immediately, using no more magic ever again.

The curse read: “You’re cursed to wander through the night, till cords align, and all’s made right. Where sweet amends are made and spoken, shadows dance, the curse is broken.”

The rest of the story takes you on an adventure with Felicity and her best friend Jonah as they try to figure out the mystery of Midnight Gulch.

I really enjoyed this book and I recommend it for the average reader ages 10 and up because of the incredible vocabulary.

“A Snicker Of Magic” is very entertaining and I just couldn’t put it down!



By Kaiya Cox, 11, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Warm weather once more disrupts turtle migrations

The unusually warm weather of this El Niño winter has created a good-news, bad-news scene for turtle rescue in New England.

Last year, more than 1,200 rare Kemp’s ridley sea turtles were rescued and brought to the New England Aquarium in Quincy, Mass.

The turtles had delayed their normal migration because of warm water, and, when winter cold finally arrived, it came so quickly that the reptiles’ systems basically shut down.

Without being rescued and flown to their normal winter waters in the south, they would have died, and, as winter went on, many did.

The good news this year is that only about 450 of the turtles have beached themselves and required rescue.

But that comes with two pieces of bad news, turtle-watchers say:

One is that El Niño has made a huge delay in the cold weather. Much of New England only got its first measurable

snow the week of Christmas.

This means that, while there are far fewer stranded turtles than last year, it may simply mean that they will turn up later this month.

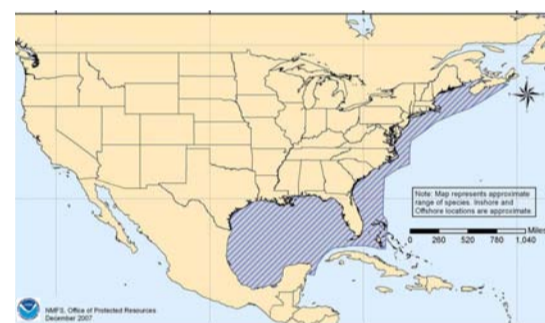
Experts also worry that, as colder water finally shows up in the coastal current, it will drive the turtles out to sea rather than towards land, meaning they will still suffer the bad effects but won’t be where anyone can find and help them.

And that figure of 450 only looks good compared to last year’s record. This is already the second-highest total since 1980, when the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Cape Cod began keeping track.

El Niño is also messing with marine life on the West Coast, where an olive ridley sea turtle, a cousin of the Kemp that is also endangered, was spotted off Point Reyes, near San Francisco, thousands of miles from its normal winter waters off Central America.



Above, a Kemp’s ridley sea turtle in its normal winter nesting grounds (NPS). At right, the range of the turtle throughout the year (NOAA).



Sudoku

		3		5	
	1	5		6	
1		2	3		
			1		6
	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

On this date in 1925, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first elected woman governor in US history, so our answers will begin with “W” to honor her home state of Wyoming.

1. The New York City address associated with the financial industry
2. Miss Muffet ate it as part of her yogurt, but cheesemakers throw it out.
3. Denver’s first African-American mayor
4. Don’t choke on this one: It’s a more common term for your trachea
5. The string in the middle of a candle
6. This large, tough weasel is Michigan’s mascot.
7. Hugh Jackman plays the role of this member of the X-Men
8. The cowboy in charge of the horses
9. This small city on the Eastern Plains is the seat of Yuma County.
10. Author of “Stuart Little” and “Charlotte’s Web.”

(answers on Page Four)

Marine Corps gives up on creating a ‘mechanical dog’

If you ever watched “The Empire Strikes Back” and wished you could have an AT-AT, only smaller, you’ll have to keep wishing.

After five years of trying to develop a mule-sized mechanical robot to carry heavy loads in combat, the US Marine Corps has given up on “BigDog,” a 240-pound, four-legged robot.

Despite its nickname, the device was less like a dog than like the mules that went up and down steep mountain trails during World War II, as US forces fought their way through Italy.

BigDog could carry 400 pounds of sup-

plies and was able to go up steep slopes and through mud, sand and other tough terrain.

But it couldn’t do it very fast and, worse, it couldn’t do it very quietly. The Marines said it wasn’t worth the help in carrying things if it was going to slow them down and let the enemy know where they were.

The company developing the device tried a smaller version named “Spot,” but it was clumsier, harder to control and carried less.

Finally, the Marines decided this idea was a doggone failure. There’s a link to a video at ColoradoNIE.com



photo/Matthew Callahan, USMC

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

Hoverboard Hazards

Sea turtle strandings

Marines give up on BigDog

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Wall Street
2. whey
3. (Wellington) Webb
4. windpipe
5. wick
6. wolverine
7. Wolverine
8. wrangler
9. Wray
10. (E.B.) White

Tales of the Ancient World

CERES AND PERSEPHONE

Part One

At the beginning of time, there were three great gods who were brothers: Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto. They decided to divide the world and each rule a portion. Jupiter gained the land, while Neptune ruled the seas. And to Pluto went the Underworld, the land of the dead.

When Pluto wanted a wife, he came to his brother, Jupiter, for help and advice.

The brothers decided, without asking her, that Proserpina would make a good bride, and began to plan how Pluto might make her his wife.

Proserpina was the beautiful young daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest, and, like her mother, she loved the green things of the earth.

One day, Proserpina was gathering flowers in a grassy meadow near a lake. As she filled her apron with one beautiful blossom after another, it seemed that an even more wonderful flower was always just a few steps further away.

That was no accident. These flowers were not the work of her mother, Ceres. They had been placed by Jupiter to lure Proserpina farther from where Ceres was tending the fields of wheat and barley that men depended on for their food.

As Proserpina moved to pluck each flower, she moved closer to a spot near the lakeshore where a crack ran through the earth into the Underworld.

Finally, as she bent to gather a white poppy very near that crack, the ground shook.

Proserpina froze in sudden astonishment, bent over with her hand reaching for the flower, as the earth opened in front of her and a chariot, drawn by four giant black horses, came thundering out of the cavern below.

In a moment, she was swept up by the strong arms of Pluto as the chariot circled out around the shore of the lake.

A nymph who lived in that lake, Cyane, saw what had happened, and, though she feared mighty Pluto, she stood in the path of his chariot as it circled back towards the cavern, holding out her arms to halt his horses.

"Stop!" she shouted. "You cannot do this! Do you not know that you cannot force a woman to love you? Do you not know how to persuade a young woman with words and gifts and kindness?"

But Pluto did not even slow his chariot. He stretched out his scepter and changed the nymph Cyane into a spring that ran from the edge of the cavern into the lake. The chariot raced back into that cavern and the crack that had opened slammed shut, as Proserpina's final scream for help echoed across the waters.

Far across the fields, that cry reached the ears of Ceres. The goddess paused only a moment, and then raced towards the sound.

But all she found was the flowers that had dropped from her daughter's hand as she was carried away.

She walked back and forth across the meadow, calling her daughter, but no voice responded. At last, she began to walk along the lake shore, still calling Proserpina and weeping with a mother's fear.

At the edge of the crack, Cyane, now nothing more than a trickle of water, heard the goddess and wished that she could call out to her. Her heart ached, but she had no voice.

At last, Cyane realized that, as the chariot disappeared into the earth, Proserpina had dropped the light cloth belt that bound her waist. One end of this belt was caught between the rocks, but Cyane's waters lifted the other end and floated it out through the crack and towards the edge of the lake.

Ceres walked along the lake, looking first ahead, and then behind, and then out over the water, calling all the time for her daughter. Only after Cyane tangled the belt around her ankle did she look down, and cry out as she recognized the cloth. Ceres bent to pick it up, but, when she found it caught fast in the earth, she knew her daughter had been taken into the Underworld.

The goddess sped at once to find Phoebus, who drives the chariot of the Sun across the sky each day. "You must have seen!" she said to him. "You must have looked down and seen who took my daughter!"

"Do not worry," Phoebus said. "She is safe with Pluto in his kingdom below the earth where she shall be queen."

"Safe?" Ceres cried. "How can you say she is safe when she has been taken against her will?"

"It was the will of Jupiter," Phoebus said. "Pluto needed a wife and Jupiter chose Proserpina for him."

Ceres stood a moment, her fury rising. "Then I am done with Jupiter, done with Olympus," she shouted. "I am done with any who would do something so evil!"

Ceres returned to earth, but she no longer looked like a strong, beautiful goddess. Instead, she changed herself into an old woman in a gray cloak and traveled slowly from place to place, sadly thinking of the daughter she had lost.

No longer did she make the plants grow in the fields, no longer did flowers bloom or fruit ripen on the trees. The green earth grew brown, as drab and plain as the goddess who once had cared for it.

At last, she came to a town in Eleusis. There, Ceres sat beneath an olive tree near the village well, her head covered with a veil.

To all who passed, she looked to be an old woman who had lost everything but life, and valued life very little with no child to make it pleasant.

And to herself, she felt very much as if that were true.

Next: Ceres grieves for her lost child

retold by Mike Peterson, c. 2005 - illustrated by Dylan Meconis, c. 2005

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

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