



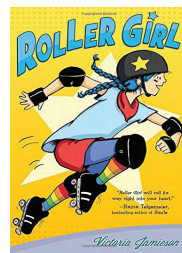
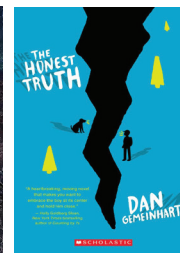
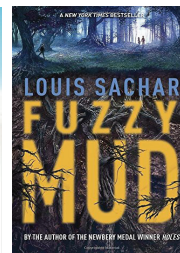
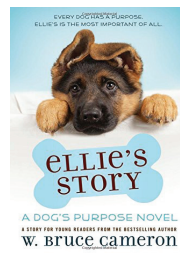
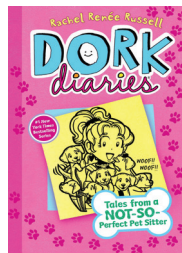
CK Reporter of the Week
Carson Butler, Littleton

CK reviews the CCBA nominees

It's time for you to help choose this year's 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 read the 10 novels nominated in the Junior category this year, and, in our next two issues, you'll get to see that they thought of each nominee.

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!

Good start for Rick Riordan's latest series

Magnus Chase, protagonist of Rick Riordan's "Sword of Summer," has never been the type to fit in. Right before his mother was killed in their apartment, she told him to run.

Ever since then, many people have blamed him for the death of his mother.

He has no home and therefore lives on the streets of Boston. Blitz and Hearthstone are the only people he trusts.

The three of them are constantly running from the police and trying to find some food.

On his 16th birthday, he learns that the police aren't the only people trying to track him down: His Uncle Randolph is searching for him as well, a man his mother had always told him to stay away from.

Soon enough the two meet and Magnus's life flips around.

He learns his father is a Norse god.

Uncle Randolph drives Magnus to the Charles River and informs him that there is a sword in the water that only he can retrieve.

After retrieving the sword, Magnus comes face to face with the fire giant Surt.

A heated battle follows the encounter and leaves Magnus Chase dead, but, despite his current state, Magnus wakes up and learns that he is now in Valhalla, an afterlife for those who died heroically.

Everybody in Hotel Valhalla is trained to fight in

Ragnarok, also known as Doomsday.

Magnus soon realizes Doomsday is closer than everyone believes and he runs away from the comfort of Hotel Valhalla to fight a battle only he can win.

"The Sword of Summer," part of the "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard" series, is a well-crafted book that will hook readers immediately.

The characters are very relatable to many readers even if they don't have Norse parents, and Magnus Chase's sarcastic sense of humor will keep the audience laughing throughout the book.

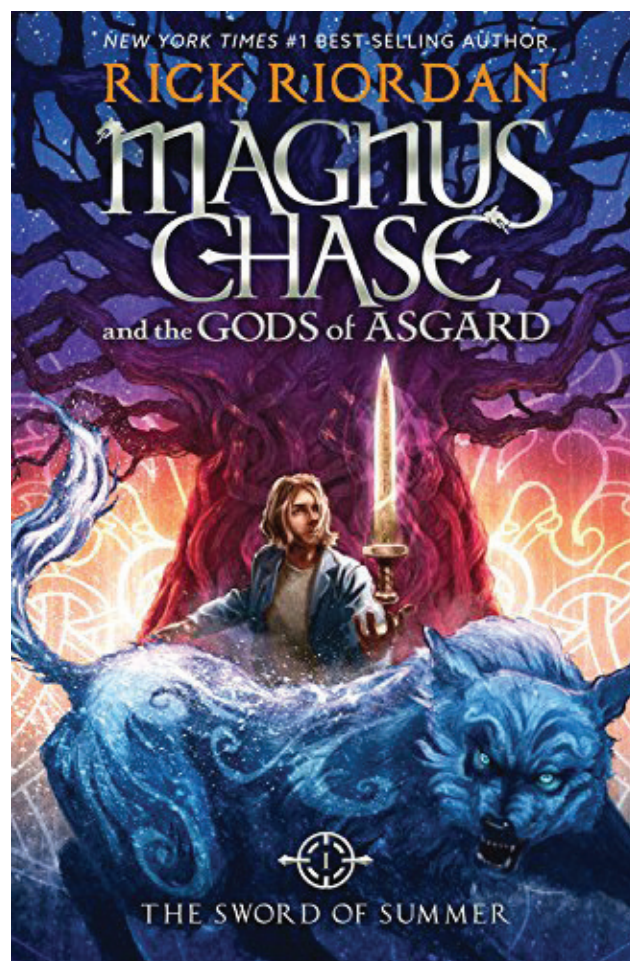
Rick Riordan has again beautifully combined mythology with the modern world. The book gives a lot of information about Norse mythology to anyone who wants to learn the basics of it in an exciting read.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone 10 and above since there are battles in the story.

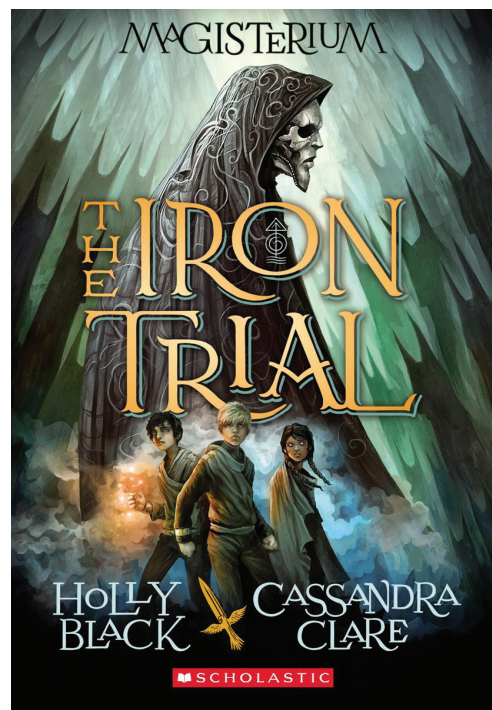
The book will keep you up all night, and fans of Rick Riordan's past books will definitely not be disappointed by this one.



By Saloni Agarwal,
13, a CK Reporter
from Centennial



Series is an action-packed reversal of Potter



"The Iron Trial," a stunning novel by Cassandra Clare and Holly Black, follows the story of young Callum Hunt.

All his life, Call's dad had told him about the Magisterium, the place where he learned to be a mage.

The tales were all about the absolute evil the school was, of getting lost in the dark, underground tunnels and torture performed by mentors.

After all, the Magisterium had killed Call's mom and crippled Call with a shattered leg (*or so his dad said*).

So when Call is forced to face the entrance exam to the Magisterium, he tries his best to fail.

The result is Call's unrestrained magic everywhere, and Master Rufus, the most prestigious mage at the Magisterium and his father's former teacher, choosing him for training.

Now Call will have to survive all the agony that he has been told about at the Magisterium.

Can he perhaps make some friends?

Will he survive?

Can he uncover the dusty business of his mother's true demise, and who he really is?

Find out in this thriller novel, Book One of the Magisterium series.

My immediate reaction to this series is mixed up Harry Potter, with the parent/guardians hating magic and the kid ending up going to a magic school.

Yet the "Iron Trial" is different because said kid also hates magic school with all his heart and stays close to the parent's beliefs, not rebellious at all (*which Harry clearly is*).

This is a slightly humorous, action packed, twist-and-turn adventure in the modern world.

"The Copper Gauntlet," Book Two in the series, is already out and, with the huge cliff hanger at the end of book one, you'll definitely want to read it.



By Silvia Goodman,
11, a CK Reporter
The Centennial




Teachers!

It is time to register for the Colorado Literacy conference!

February 1 - 4, 2017 Marriott Denver Tech Center

Choose from 215 sessions • 34 Invited Speakers

15 Authors • Exhibits • Specials Events

Go to www.CCIRA.org to register today!

Visit us in the exhibit hall!



ColoradoNIE.com



A fun read to prepare kids for middleschool

Turbulent friendships go awry, procrastination is universal, and perspective begins to arise.

Middle School is a seemingly eternal abyss of startling mischief, troublesome drama, and adolescent desperation.

“Dork Diaries: Tales of a Not-So-Perfect Petsitter,” by Rachel Renée Russell, is an exaggerated glorifier of this ridiculous period of life, taking a view of dreadful hope towards the absolute chaos.

Nikki Maxwell is an eighth-grade student at Westchester Country Day, a private school of entitled cliques and insane adventures.

After months of enduring emotional catastrophes from the infamous Mackenzie Hollister, the master of popularity, she earns tranquility when her nemesis decides to transfer academics.

However, this plan detours, as Mackenzie appears back in her life again, disrupting progression with Nikki’s crush, Brandon, and her closest friends, Chloe and Zoey.

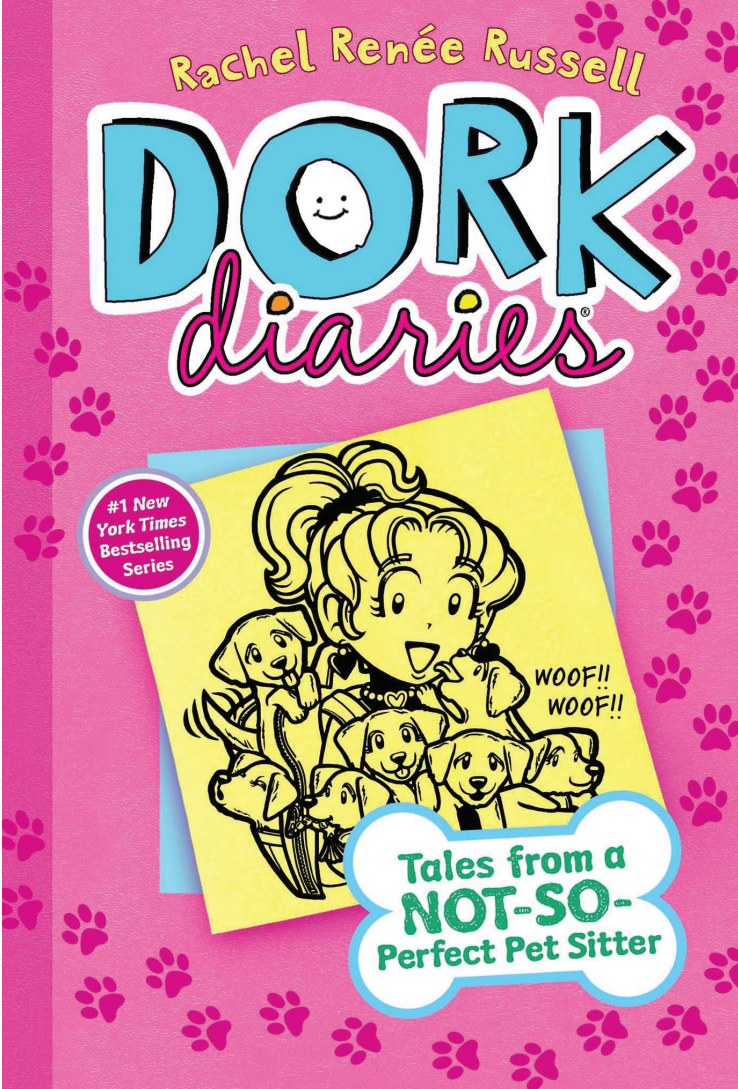
And when the task of handling a dog and seven puppies falls into her hands, Nikki might crumble from the endless drama.

With the only object she has utter faith in, her diary, will she be able to handle every responsibility?

Though this novel is a dramatization of middle school, it is clearly targeted towards more elementary readers.

Nine to twelve year olds, particularly female, will be entertained by the book’s humorous and awkward tone, for its unrealistic “realistic fiction” is quite amusing for young consumers.

Written in diary format with various illustrations by the narrator, the composition



itself is mediocre, which only contributes to its appeal to the target age of readers.

Members of this group often find themselves in situations similar to those in the plotline, including malicious peers, irritating family members, and academic adversities.

Fortunately, in addition to its relatability to children, it perpetuates healthy morals that can encourage the younger generation.

With an overarching theme of friendship, it demonstrates the benefits of unity and kindness, as the protagonist only succeeds when practicing these philosophies.

To recognize this, reading the previous novels (*the story is preceded by several others in a series*) is recommended. The antecedents have been somewhat independent, however this one definitely requires context.

“Dork Diaries: Tales of a Not-So-Perfect Petsitter” is, while imperfect, enjoyable for the right audience.

With heart-warming morals engraved within juvenile jocularly, it is an astounding influencer among youth, and odd preparation for the absurdities of Middle School.



By Sanya Bhartiya, 12, a CK Reporter from Centennial

How Old Man Stole the Sun’s Leggings, Part One

These stories were collected from Blackfeet, Chippewa and Cree storytellers in Montana in the early 20th century by Frank Linderman.

Once the Moon made the Sun a pair of leggings. Such beautiful work had never been seen before. They were worked with the colored quills of the Porcupine and were covered with strange signs, which none but the Sun and the Moon could read.

No man ever saw such leggings as they were, and it took the Moon many snows to make them.

Yes, they were wonderful leggings and the Sun always wore them on fine days, for they were bright to look upon.

Every night when the Sun went to sleep in his lodge away in the west, he used the leggings for a pillow, because there was a thief in the world, even then.

That thief and rascal was Old Man, and of course the Sun knew all about him. That is why he always put his fine leggings under his head when he slept.

When he worked he almost always wore them, as I have told you, so that there was no danger of losing them in the daytime; but the Sun was careful of his leggings when night came and he slept.

You wouldn’t think that a person would be so foolish as to steal from the Sun, but one night Old Man -- who is the only person who ever knew just where the Sun’s lodge was -- crept near enough to look in, and saw the leggings under the Sun’s head.

We have all travelled a great deal but no man ever found the Sun’s lodge. No man knows in what country it is. Of course we know it is located somewhere west of here, for we see him going that way every afternoon, but Old Man knew everything -- Except that he could not fool the Sun.

Yes, Old Man looked into the lodge of the Sun and saw the leggings there, and saw the Sun, too, and the Sun was asleep. He made up his mind that he would steal the leggings so he crept through the door of the lodge. There was no one at home but the Sun, for the Moon has work to do at night just as their children, the Stars, do, so he thought he could slip the leggings from under the sleeper’s head and get away.

He got down on his hands and knees to walk like the Bear-people and crept into the lodge, but in the black darkness he put his knee upon a dry stick near the Sun’s bed. The stick snapped under his weight with so great a noise that the Sun turned over and snorted, scaring Old Man so badly that he couldn’t move for a minute.

His heart was not strong -- wickedness makes every heart weaker -- and after making sure that the Sun had not seen him, he crept silently out of the lodge and ran away.

On the top of a hill Old Man stopped to look and listen, but all was still, so he sat down and thought.

“I’ll get them tomorrow night when he sleeps again,” he said to himself. “I need those leggings myself, and I’m going to get them, because they will make me handsome as the Sun.”



He watched the Moon come home to camp and saw the Sun go to work, but he did not go very far away because he wanted to be near the lodge when night came again.

It was not long to wait, for all Old Man ever had to do was make mischief, and only those who have work to do measure time. He was close to the lodge when the Moon came out, and there he waited until the Sun went inside.

From the bushes Old Man saw the Sun take off his leggings and his eyes glittered with greed as he saw their owner fold them and put them under his head as he had always done.

Then he waited a while before creeping closer.

Little by little the old rascal crawled toward the lodge, till finally his head was inside the door. Then he waited a long, long time, even after the Sun was snoring.

The strange noises of the night bothered him, for he knew he was doing wrong, and when a Loon cried on a lake near by, he shivered as with cold, but finally he crept to the sleeper’s side.

Cautiously his fingers felt about the precious leggings until he knew just how they could best be removed without waking the Sun. His breath was short and his heart was beating as a war-drum beats, in the black dark of the lodge.

Sweat -- cold sweat, that great fear always brings to the weak-hearted -- was dripping from his body, and once he thought that he would wait for another night, but greed whispered again, and listening to its voice, he stole the leggings from under the Sun’s head.

NEXT WEEK: The Sun Discovers the Theft!
Adaptation c. 2005, Mike Peterson, illustration c. 2005 Christopher Baldwin

Hooray! Denver has fallen to Number Twenty-Two!



It’s a shame that the Broncos finished third in their division and missed the playoffs this year, but Denver did even worse in another ranking, and that’s a good thing.

Orkin, the pest company, creates a yearly list of the top 50 cities for bed bugs, based on how often their company is called on to get rid of the nasty little pests.

Some contests you don’t want to do well in, and Denver fell in rankings, which is good news.

Last year, Denver came in at Number 19, but for 2016, it finished as Number 22.

Bed bugs are a bigger problem than they were years ago, and they aren’t easy to get rid of.

They’re easy to get, however: If you stay at a hotel that has them, some may hitchhike home with you, for instance.

The best that can be said about them is that they don’t spread disease, but they do feed on blood

and, if they move into your bed, they’ll snack all night while you’re trying to sleep.

The bites itch, and some people are more sensitive to them than others.

Still, if you’re keeping score, the good news is that Oakland was Number 10, but Kansas City finished way down at Number 45 and San Diego didn’t even make the list. Well, there’s always next year!

photo/Center for Disease Control

Sachar’s back in the dirt, this time with a thriller

Rash. Blisters. Itching. If you have any of these symptoms then you have been a victim of what Louis Sachar describes in his novel “Fuzzy Mud.”

Thirty-three miles of forest lay in between Woodridge Academy and Sunray Farms to keep the two structures apart.

Sunray Farms had developed a new Biolene thesis, which is an alternative to gasoline, a kind of high energy bacteria to be used as fuel.

Ergie, short for ergonym, is a single celled high energy microorganism.

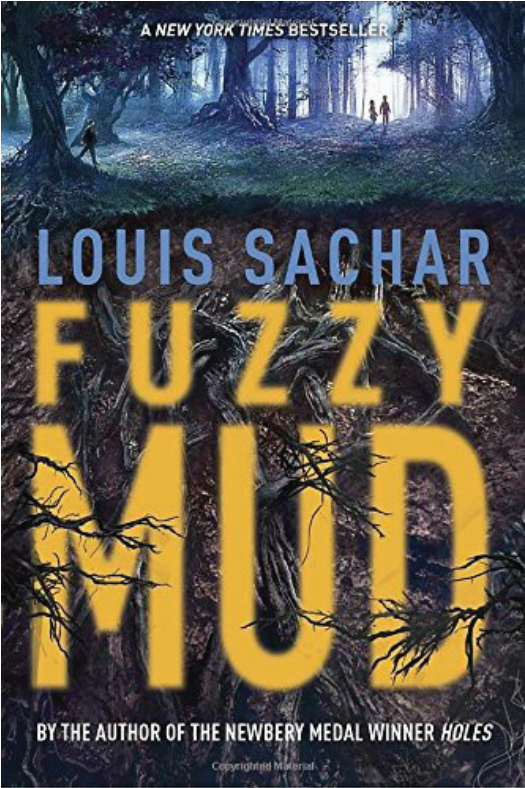
But here’s the catch: The first gallon of Biolene cost around 500 million dollars but the second gallon, about 19 cents.

One ergonym, capable of that much reproduction! Biolene could cause a world crisis.

Tamaya Dhilwaddi Is one of the 289 students who attend Woodridge. Marshall Walsh was one of her good friends and they walk the several miles home together.

Marshall doesn’t have as much friend success as Tamaya did. His whole life has been ruined by Chad Hilligas, the school oppressor.

Tamaya waits outside for him dreading the long walk home. They take a short cut straight through the woods instead of going around like they normally do, and Marshall claims he knows the way, but Tamaya thinks otherwise.



There is some weird mud that appeared to have a thin layer of fuzz on it. Chad meets them halfway through the woods. He lunges at Marshall and punches him several times in the face. Without thinking, Tamaya smashes the fuzzy mud in Chad’s face. The two companions make their way home and away from Chad, but small red bumps and crusty flesh appear on Tamaya’s arm after the attack. It only gets worse from there. A bloody itchy crusty rash starts covering Tamaya’s whole arm. Was it the mud? And Chad never returns home at all. If the mud affected Tamaya’s arm like that then Chad has to be way worse: Alone in the woods, with a rash for a face. This book is probably for ages 9 and up. If you love science fiction then this book is perfect for you. It has a great balance of story and science. The 181 page novel was interesting and fun to read, and actually made me kind of scared that I might become a victim of the fuzzy mud.



By Haley Deison, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada

An imaginary friend helps deal with life’s reality

“Crenshaw,” by Katherine Applegate, tells the story of a boy named Jackson who’s family is going through some hard times financially.

Jackson is a realist, he doesn’t believe in magic, he believes in the facts. But whether he knows it or not, he might just need a little magic to get him through these hard times.

Crenshaw, a giant cat, was Jackson’s imaginary friend from when he was much younger.

Now, as a fifth grader, Jackson doesn’t believe anything like that is real.

“There is always a logical explanation” as he often tells himself.

Applegate develops Jackson’s character by repeating over and over that he only believes in the facts, which makes his character more understandable and realistic.

Jackson is tired of being poor, of not knowing when he’ll eat next, of not knowing if his family will be able to pay their rent this month, of not knowing if his little sister will ever know what’s going on.

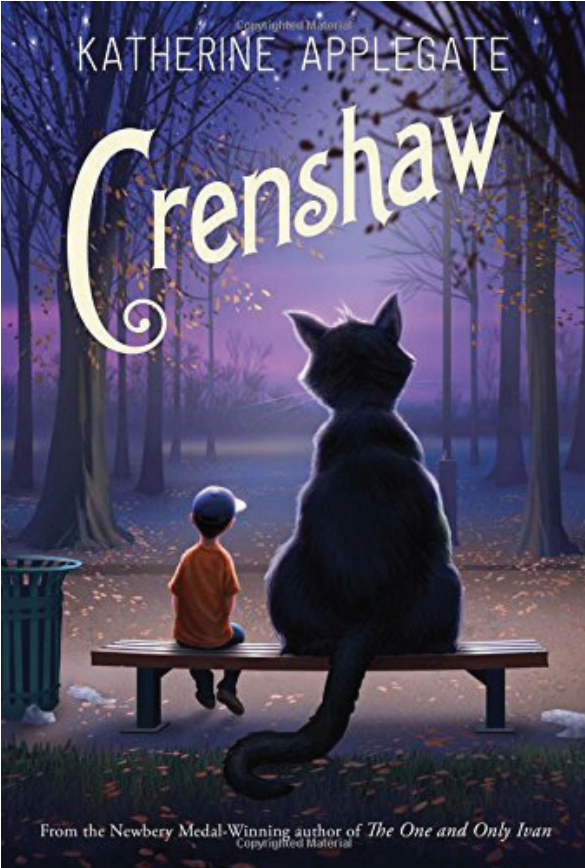
He is mad at his parents for not telling him what’s happening to them, and is very upset in general.

Jackson doesn’t say his feelings out loud, he bottles them up in his mind, which makes the reader sympathize with him.

Then, suddenly, Crenshaw returns. Jackson thinks he is going insane because no one else can see Crenshaw but him. He tells Crenshaw to leave, but Crenshaw remains, talking to him, and being there with him. Crenshaw insists that he needs to be with Jackson, but Jackson insists that he doesn’t, that he is just something made up dancing around in his head. But then Jackson begins to realize that he may need Crenshaw more that he thinks. “Crenshaw” is a heartwarming, tear-jerking, and subtly funny book that kids of all ages would enjoy. However, I believe that the target audience would be 9-11 year olds, as the general themes are for younger children. “Crenshaw” will open your heart and make you realize that imagination is more important than you might think.



By Lincoln Boyd, 12, a CK Reporter from Louisville



Sudoku

					1
	4			3	
5					4
4				2	
	1	3	2		
		4	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 the back page.



Brainteaser

Charles Ingalls was born on this date in 1836, so our answers this week will all begin with “P” for “Pa.” (Bonus question: Whose pa was he?)

1. Islamabad is the capital of this nation.
2. Carlo Collodi wrote this story about a marionette who wanted to become real, and who is most famous for not telling the truth.
3. Often used as a synonym for “castle,” it can be any large, beautiful residence in which the head of the government lives.
4. Author or co-author of “Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life,” “Jackie Ha-Ha” and the “Witch and Wizard” series.
5. In Canada and Great Britain, the name for their legislative branch.
6. A very fluffy, water-loving fisherman’s dog, the Obama family has two of them.
7. A red spice ground from peppers, it’s best known as part of Hungarian goulash.
8. A different red pepper, this one is most often seen stuffed in a green olive.
9. Narrow Central American country that is the site of a famous canal
10. Stop giggling: This is the small, raised deck at the stern (back) of a sailing ship. **(answers on the back page)**

Quick! Run outside and look up!

We’re in the last three days of one of the best meteor showers of 2017, so, if you can get outside and away from street lights, you’ve got a chance to see some spectacular light show, the Quadrantids. It’s worth the effort, because the second-best shower in the coming year will be the Geminids, and they won’t be here until December. There are many other meteor showers throughout the year and you can spot a shooting star or two on nearly any night if you look up into a dark, clear sky long enough. It’s that dark sky that matters, however, because, for instance, the Perseids can be a gorgeous display

and they come in August, which is a more pleasant time to be outdoors in the middle of the night. Unfortunately, this year, the Perseids will come along during a gibbous moon, and it doesn’t do that much good to get away from city lights if a nearly-full moon is going to provide unwanted lights to keep you from seeing the meteors. The Quadrantids are the result of Earth passing through the dust and debris of a comet that went just past the tail of the Great Bear and the head of the Little Bear. That’s another piece of luck because that means they’re visible all night, though they’ll be brightest in the hours before dawn.

photo/Navicore





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

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Pakistan 2. Pinocchio 3. palace 4. (James) Patterson
5. parliament 6. Portuguese Water Dog 7. paprika
8. pimento 9. Panama 10. poop deck

Next Week:
Forces of Nature

WEEK 10 DECISION MAKING

Follow online at: sitesalive.com

Team of Experts • Q&A • Ship's Log
Photos • Podcasts • Videos • Essays

www.sitesalive.com

Position: -46.9333,
-148.55
Time: 2017-01-05
12:56:00 UTC

<p>By Rich Wilson, Skipper Great American IV</p> <p>Decision-making in my immediate context of a Southern Ocean gale is about risk and return. My goal is to get safely to Cape Horn. We have another 36-48 hours of this storm to go.</p> <p>That is a long time for the boat and skipper to be at risk. And we have an immediately sad example of that risk in the dismasting today of Enda O'Coinneen's boat on the other side of this storm.</p> <p>So the first goal is to get through this storm. And the second goal is to get through the storm that is following behind it. So do we try to go faster, with more risk, in this storm, to be able to get out of the way of the second storm? Or should we be safer and more conservative in this storm, and then deal with the second storm when it arrives? After all, the forecast of that storm may change for the better, or for the worse, but it is far from certain now.</p> <p>We have chosen to be safer now to give ourselves the best chance to get through this gale. Toward</p>	<p>this, we have much less sail area up than is called for by the performance specifications of the boat. They want us to have 2 reefs in the mainsail, plus the staysail. We have 3 reefs in the mainsail plus the storm jib.</p> <p>Another factor is that we must make sure that the staysail, our workhorse sail, is in good shape when we get to the Atlantic. So should we add any risk to that sail for the benefit of a few extra knots of speed in the storm? If we go a little faster, will that save us from the second storm? It gets complicated quickly!</p> <p>Plus, for me, one has to sail according to one's nature, and for me that is being conservative. If I have the storm jib, I can get some sleep in and be better rested than if I have the staysail and are going faster, but bouncing and ricocheting off the waves, and unable to sleep.</p> <p>Every decision, at sea or in life, has different inputs to the risk and return equation. They must be weighed carefully with their consequences to attain a final decision.</p>
<p>by Dr. Brien Barnewolt Tufts Medical Center</p> <p>When was the last time you had to think hard about making a decision? Often our everyday decisions are easy, and the consequences aren't likely to be life or death. At other times, decisions can be very difficult and the decision that you make can have life altering effects. Making difficult decisions can be broken down into a specific step-wise process that can help lead to positive outcomes. What is your goal and will your decision help get you to your goal?</p> <p>When I work in the emergency department, my team is constantly making decisions that affect our patients. We must decide which patient to see first (the sickest usually get priority) and then decide what we need to do to make someone better. Some decisions are hard to make and sometimes we need to do things that may be uncomfortable for our patient, but in the end, we know that our patient will get better, which is our goal. Above all else, we need to make sure that we "do no harm." We strive to make good decisions so we don't make our patients worse.</p> <p>Rich is also constantly making decisions that will allow him to finish the race in the fastest time possible for him. Some of Rich's top priorities are for his boat and for himself. While he makes hundreds of decisions every day, the first questions he must always answer is what effect will his decision have</p>	<p>on his boat or on himself. Will more sail or less sail protect the boat? Should he take a nap or stay awake? Should he go faster and finish sooner or slow down and be safer?</p> <p>Rich recently encountered a violent weather system and if he had maintained his boat speed, he would have run directly into the worst part of the storm, potentially damaging his boat and maybe himself! Instead, he made the decision to slow down, letting the storm pass in front of him and avoiding very dangerous sailing conditions.</p> <p>Remember, without an intact boat and an intact skipper, there can be no successful race- and that</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">is the goal to keep in mind when making decisions in the Vendée Globe!</p>

NEWS EXPLORER

Find examples of decision making in a newspaper or online. What was the problem or decision? Go through the decision making process that was used. What factors that affected the choice that was made? Was the outcome what the decision-maker anticipated? Was there an alternative solution that would have had a different result?

NATE! GET A MOVE ON!

MORNIN', DAD!

WHAT THE-?

WHY ARE YOU IN YOUR UNDERWEAR?

I'M NOT! NOT IN REAL LIFE!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS I'M STILL ASLEEP!

YOU THINK I DON'T RECOGNIZE A DREAM WHEN I'M IN ONE?

EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IS IN MY MIND!

YOU'RE NOT REAL! THIS HOUSE IS NOT REAL!

ALL THOSE KIDS WAITING FOR THE SCHOOL BUS AREN'T REAL!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

WANT ME TO FIND YOU SOME REAL PANTS?

I'M GOING BACK TO BED.

visit bignate.com

© 2017 Lincoln Peirce. Distributed by Universal Uclick for UFS

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.

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

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

