



CK Reporter of the Week
Abigale Morris, Aurora

Bunnies find shelter, seek homes



Ming is a white bunny with brown ears and nose, who is very lucky to have been taken in by the Colorado House Rabbit Society.

He is one of the 168 rabbits rescued by Nancy LaRoche, who is the owner of the shelter in Broomfield.

All of her rabbits have very sad stories.

Ming was abandoned by her owner.

A lot of LaRoche's bunnies were strays. Some were abandoned like Ming.

But people don't realize how good a pet that a rabbit can be.

"Rabbits are cute, very friendly and intelligent, and I learn something new about rabbits everyday," says LaRoche.

LaRoche started this sanctuary in 1991 and, at first, it was just her working there.

She called her friends to ask them if they wanted to adopt any rabbits and they told their friends, so they came and she asked them all to help.

"I'm too embarrassed to ask people if they want to help me," says LaRoche, "so I ask if they want to help

the bunnies."

Today she has a shelter that's run all by volunteers and they need help because they have rabbits of all colors and sizes, and they definitely need money, too, because they have a lot of medical costs.

But start with the pets.

"I would like people to know that bunnies make wonderful house pets," says LaRoche.

Bunnies even have a sense of humor, she says.

"I had one bunny that was so funny, he would run across my shoes and untie them. And when I was working with all of these papers in my lap, he would jump up on my head, and then on my lap, and everything would go everywhere. I knew he was laughing. It just seemed that he was smiling."

But if you want a pet bunny, you are going to need to get two bunnies because they are very social creatures.

One time there was a stray bunny at the park,



LaRoche says, and the only other animals there were ducks.

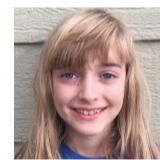
Soon the bunny got to the shelter.

"One day I heard quacking and I looked all over. Then I realized the bunny was making that sound! He was so desperate for companionship that he learned how to quack!"

For more information about the shelter,, go to their website at : <https://coloradohrs.org/>



photos courtesy Colorado Rabbit House Society



By Jazy Marshall,
10, a CK Reporter
from Lafayette

Complex, wonderful story shines like a star

"See You in the Cosmos," by Jack Cheng, was an instant hit in my house.

Its heart-melting story will leave you giving a 5-star review.

The story focuses on one small boy with big dreams. Alex is a kid who enters SHARF's contest for launching rockets.

SHARF is a space program affiliated with NASA that includes an annual rocket launch and prize, called the civet prize.

The prize (a \$50,000 check) is presented by Lander Civet, the program operator.

Alex travels the distance from Rockview, Colorado to Los Angeles to launch his rocket.

But Alex's rocket has a catch. He attached a gold-painted ipod that has recordings of earthly life to his rocket to be launched into space in hopes of reaching alien life forms.

This method is shown many times in the book: Whenever Alex is recording, it shows the text in the form of a script for a movie, with the names in front.

The main part of the story though, is after the SHARF launch.

Alex then finds his sister in Las Vegas. He did not even know he had a sister!

He found her while looking for his lost dog, whose name was Carl Sagan, named after Alex's hero.



Alex carpool with the people he rode with to get to SHARF and he, Tara (*his sister*), and his carpool buddies drive to LA and visit his older brother, Ronnie, whom he did know about.

They return home to find Alex's mom missing, and then when Alex climbs up his roof with a brand new telescope, someone attacks him and he falls and ... well, much more is heard of in this thrilling and sad adventure.

This is an outstanding page turner that I recommend for anyone ages 9 to 90!

The author does a fantastic job of explaining the story to the audience.

It has a 5-star rating from me, and I hope you enjoy it!



By Jack Vanourek,
11, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



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Fact-based novel somewhat disappointing



“Talking Leaves,” a novel by Joseph Bruchac, is not all that it seems; It’s a novel that goes far deeper in meaning than expected.

“Talking Leaves” is about a 12 year-old Cherokee boy named Uwohali whose father is Sequoyah. He is a skilled blacksmith who is alienated by the Cherokee society and assumed to be a deranged man due to the outlandish and unconventional symbols he illustrates.

Uwohali eventually realizes that the odd symbols represent sounds in the Cherokee alphabet.

He tries to show the members of the Cherokee community the ingenuity and brilliance behind these symbols, but not everyone is convinced.

Uwohali ventures out on a journey to spread the usage and genius of the symbols to others.

“Talking Leaves” provides new perspectives and knowledge of Cherokee origins and culture.

This novel defies socially expected limitations for the Cherokee community because of Uwohali and his father’s new ideas of exploring the Cherokee culture more in depth. It informs and elucidates the importance of the Cherokee alphabet.

The meaning and morals in Talking Leaves are the epitome of an image portraying open-minded innovation impacting the community by refining the

dynamics of perception, through the robust morals and ideas in this novel.

However, there are just as many flaws matching the eloquent cascade of finesse.

The introduction hastily brings in an overwhelming influx of information critical to the storyline, but then leaves out some crucial information.

In truth, it was a tad disappointing.

Because of the lure/teaser in the inner book sleeve, I expected a story that really packed a punch, but “Talking Leaves” lacks that lasting impact on the reader.

It does provide congenial, important information, but it gives you more of a soft thud than a punch.

Despite “Talking Leaves” defective storyline, however, the idea and concept of the story shine through, giving this novel 3.5 leaves out of 5 leaves.



By Kira Zizzo, 13, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

Old Man Tales: Old Man Rebuilds the World, Part Two

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

(All the animals except the fish-people are on a raft with Old Man to escape the great flood. Now he has sent for Loon.)

The Chipmunk found the Spotted Loon and told him that Old Man wanted him, so the Loon went to where Old Man sat. When he got there, Old Man said: “Spotted Loon you are a great diver. Nobody can dive as you can. I made you that way and I know. If you will dive and swim down to the world I think you might bring me some of the dirt that it is made of--then I am sure I can make another world.”

“It is too deep, this water,” replied the Loon, “I am afraid I shall drown.”

“Well, what if you do?” said Old Man. “I gave you life, and if you lose it this way I will return it to you. You shall live again!”

“All right, Old Man,” he answered. “I am willing to try.” So he waddled to the edge of the raft. He is a poor walker, the Loon, and you know I told you why. It was all because Old Man kicked him in the back the night he painted all the Duck-people.

Down went the Spotted Loon, and long he stayed beneath the water. All waited and watched, and longed for good luck, but when he came to the top he was dead. Everybody groaned--all felt badly, I can tell you, as Old Man laid the dead Loon on the logs. The Loon’s wife was crying, but Old Man told her to stop and she did.

Then Old Man blew his own breath into the Loon’s bill, and he came back to life.

“What did you see, Brother Loon?” asked Old Man, while everybody crowded as close as he could.

“Nothing but water,” answered the Loon. “We shall all die here, I cannot reach the world by swimming. My heart stops working.”

There were many brave ones on the raft, and the Otter tried to reach the world by diving; and the Beaver, and the Gray Goose, and the Gray Goose’s wife, but all died in trying, and all were given a new life by Old Man. Things were bad and getting worse.

Everybody was cross, and all wondered what Old Man would do next, when somebody laughed.

All turned to see what there could be to laugh at, at such a time, and Old Man turned about just in time to see the Muskrat bid good-by to his wife --that was what they were laughing at. But he paid no attention to Old Man or the rest, and slipped from the raft to the water. Flip!--his tail cut the water like a knife, and he was gone. Some laughed again, but all wondered at his daring, and waited with little hope in their hearts; for the Muskrat wasn’t very great, they thought.

He was gone longer than the Loon, longer than the Beaver, longer than the Otter or the Gray Goose or his wife, but when he came to the surface of the water he was dead.

Old Man brought Muskrat back to life, and asked him what he had seen on his journey. Muskrat said: “I saw trees, Old Man, but I died before I got to them.”

Old Man told him he was brave. He said his people should forever be great if

he succeeded in bringing some dirt to the raft; so just as soon as the Muskrat was rested he dove again.

When he came up he was dead, but clenched in his tiny hand Old Man found some dirt -- not much, but a little. A second time Old Man gave the Muskrat his breath, and told him that he must go once more, and bring dirt.

He said there was not quite enough in the first lot, so after resting a while the Muskrat tried a third time and a third time he died, but brought up a little more dirt.



Everybody on the raft was anxious now, and they were all crowding about Old Man; but he told them to stand back, and they did. Then he blew his breath in Muskrat’s mouth a third time, and a third time he lived and joined his wife.

Old Man then dried the dirt in his hands, rubbing it slowly and singing a strange song. Finally it was dry; then he settled the hand that held the dirt in the water slowly, until the water touched the dirt.

The dry dirt began to whirl about and then Old Man blew upon it. Hard he blew and waved his hands, and the dirt began to grow in size right before their eyes. Old Man kept blowing and waving his hands until the dirt became real land, and the trees began to grow. So large it grew that none could see across it. Then he stopped his blowing and sang some more. Everybody wanted to get off the raft, but Old Man said no.

“Come here, Wolf,” he said, and the Wolf came to him.

“You are swift of foot and brave. Run around this land I have made, so I may know how large it is.”

The Wolf started, and it took him half a year to get back to the raft. He was very weary from much running, too, but Old Man said the world wasn’t big enough yet so he blew some more, and again sent the Wolf out to run around the land. He never came back. No, the Old Man had made it so big that the Wolf died of old age before

he got back to the raft. Then all the people went out upon the land to make their living, and they were happy, there, too.

After they had been on the land for a long time Old Man said: “Now I shall make a man and a woman, for I am lonesome living with you people.”

He took two or three handfuls of mud from the world he had made, and moulded both a man and a woman. Then he set them side by side and breathed upon them. They lived!--and he made them very strong and healthy--very beautiful to look upon. And they are the Chippewa!

NEXT WEEK: How Old Man Stole the Sun’s Leggings

Adaptation c. 2005, Mike Peterson, illustration c. 2005 Christopher Baldwin

San Diego’s new rhino left danger and found safety



When Wallis the Rhinoceros became part of the San Diego Zoo’s Safari Park, she was safely out of her native South Africa, where poaching puts rhinos in danger of extinction.

But she had a narrow escape, as it turned out.

Wallis had a small wound on her chest that wouldn’t heal, despite a few minor operations and constant medical attention.

After dealing with it for a

while with little improvement, the zoo’s veterinarians called for help from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Bomb Squad to test a theory they had.

With the help of the bomb squad’s powerful metal detector, they proved what they had suspected: She had been shot near the heart by a poacher.

A large bullet fragment had stuck under a rib, so that, when she moved, it irritated her flesh.

The zoo vets got ready to perform one more operation to go in and retrieve the bullet when an odd thing happened:

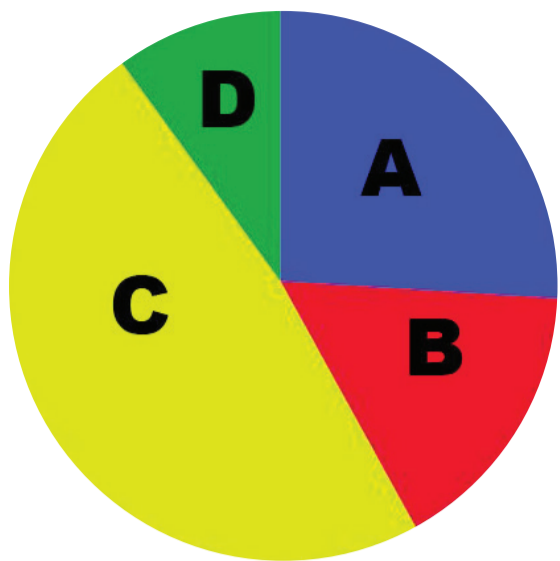
As they were washing Wallis and getting her ready, they realized they could feel the bullet, which had worked its way close to the surface.

All it took was a tug with a Leatherman tool: The bullet was out and Wallis’s wound was ready to heal.

photo/San Diego Zoo

We asked you, you told us:

New Year's Resolutions aren't really important



Change is good, according to most CK readers who responded to our latest question.

But it doesn't seem that change needs to be regulated by a calendar: Slightly less than half of the respondents said they make New Year's Resolutions at all, and a good number of those readers admitted that they don't really keep the resolutions they do make each New Year's.

More than half either said they change when they need to, regardless of when that is, or they laughed off the whole idea of having that kind of self-discipline.

Here's what we asked you, and what you told us (way back in 2016, of course):

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. 26%
- B. I'll make some resolutions and then break them all. 16%
- C. I make changes when I need to, not because it's New Year's. 48%
- D. I don't even make changes when I probably should. 10%

Now here's our next question:

Which of these is closest to your main prediction for the year ahead?

- A. Most things in my life are likely to stay the same.
- B. My family is going to be involved in some big changes.
- C. I'm going to become an age that will make me work harder.
- D. I'm going to become an age that will give me great privileges.

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

Next Week: Wildlife

WEEK 8 MIDPOINT

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Position: -46.4344, 127.847
Time: 2016-12-22 14:24:00 UTC



By Rich Wilson, Skipper Great American IV

A midpoint invites you to look both forward and backward in a project.

Looking backward, are we attaining our goals that we stated at the start? For this project, it was to sail well, to tell the story of the sea to those on land, to deliver all of our promised sitesALIVE content, and to finish the Vendée Globe.

Did we achieve these? Slowly we are sailing better to the capacity of the boat and the skipper is learning that his capacity may be bigger than he thought. We have created some problems of our own to solve (batten car) and we have solved some problems not of our own making (hydrogenerator pump). We have told a detailed story, but perhaps it has been too much on the sailing side and not enough on the life and humanity side of the Vendée Globe. We have delivered our promised

content, but also with the aforementioned imbalance in focus perhaps. We have not yet finished the Vendée Globe.

So for the second half, we shall try to attain a higher percentage of the boat's capacity, while acknowledging that our natural conservatism has served us well so far. We shall work on telling more of the human side of the story rather than just the boat numbers. We also know that chance or luck has a big role to play (Vincent, Kito, Thomas hitting objects in the water) and we hope that King Neptune will continue to smile on us, and the rest of the fleet, and let us all pass.

Almost nothing makes me happier out here than that you teachers and students have chosen to participate with us in sitesALIVE! When I get tired, or discouraged, or afraid out here, I have come to say to myself – you're out here for the students, teach them what you can, tell them the stories, help them to learn – and I am reinvigorated. You truly are helping to bring me home. Thank you.



By Marti Shea Rich's Personal Trainer

When preparing Rich for his Vendée Globe voyage, we worked on three aspects of his training. One was getting him physically prepared, another was mental toughness and

the third was training him emotionally so that he would be able to better deal with extenuating physical or mentally exhaustive days and nights on the boat. Each workout had a beginning, middle and a final stretch very much like what he is doing while racing, although on a much smaller scale. We would begin each workout with a warmup period. He would do a five minute dynamic warmup increasing blood flow the muscles in his body that we were going to be working. We would then concentrate on core strengthening. At the Midpoint of the workout we would be focusing on training his muscles to have as much strength, endurance and agility as possible. The Midpoint of each session was the toughest section of the workout because it had the most intensity. We were exhausting him physically which also simultaneously exhausted him mentally and emotionally. During this section of each workout I would remind Rich to stay focused, to take it one exercise at a time, one rep at a time. I knew if he could get through this section of the workout the rest of the workout would be smooth sailing!

The middle section of any competition is always humbling. It is the time when your mind wants

to drift, your body wants to quit and you may question why you are doing it. Rich is probably having some of these thoughts right about now but I am confident that because of his preparation, both physically and mentally, he will not question whether or not he can finish but will instead look ahead with excitement to completing his race. He may have a few moments of doubt for that is part of being human but I know that positive thoughts will mainly be filling his mind. I believe that once he passes through that Midpoint of the race he



will have a sudden surge of confidence that he is well on his way to a very successful voyage.

NEWS EXPLORER

Search the newspaper for examples of individuals or organizations at a turning point. This could be a sports team, a business that has just issued a quarterly report, or a politician who is just beginning his or her term in government. Imagine yourself from the individual or organization's perspective in the same situation. What kinds of things would the people who are at the turning point have to think about from their earlier experience? What goals might they set or change? What kinds of things might they plan ahead for based on that experience? How might they evaluate their success?

Sudoku

					1	3
1		2				
		6	5			
2			3			1
						6
	5				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

On this day in '59, Alaska became Number 49. To celebrate the anniversary of Alaska's statehood, our answers this week will each begin with the letter "A."

1. That chain of islands that reaches into the Pacific from Alaska's southwest corner
2. A very large sea-going bird, the largest can have a 12-foot wingspan
3. He wrote "The Little Mermaid," "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," "The Ugly Duckling," "The Snow Queen" and many other popular fairy tales.
4. Term for people who can use either their left or right hand equally well
5. The mountain range that runs north-to-south down South America.
6. In "Star Wars," the large, four-legged mechanical fighting machines used on Hoth by the Empire.
7. These flat-shaped, long-finned fish are popular in aquariums and may lay eggs and have babies in captivity.
8. The metal made from bauxite ore, its chemical symbol is Al
9. Pronghorns really aren't, but elands, gerenukes and gazelles really are.
10. An African nation where 39 languages are spoken, but the official language is Portuguese.

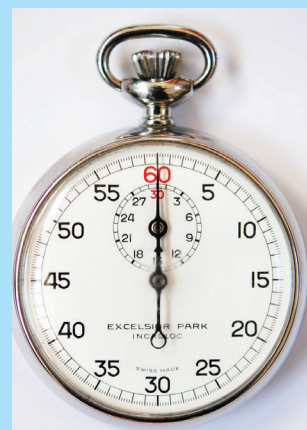
(answers on the back page)

Did New Year's Eve seem kind of long to you? Here's why!

2017 Calendar			
January 2017	February 2017	March 2017	April 2017
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May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	August 2017
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September 2017	October 2017	November 2017	December 2017
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If 2016 seemed longer to you than 2015, there's a reason. In fact, there are two reasons: 2016 was a leap year, so that, instead of 365 days long, it was 366 days long. Plus a second. You might call that the "second reason" it was longer: We tacked on a "leap second" New Year's Eve. The problem is that, while a day is defined as 86,400 seconds long, and that's how atomic clocks measure it, the Earth slows down a little each day. An actual Earth day is only 86,399.998

seconds long because of that slowing, which might not matter to you but makes a big difference to various computers around the world that must be absolutely synchronized. So every 500 days, an extra second is added to the official clocks that keep precise time around the world. On New Year's Eve, that "leap second" was added. It could be worse: In 1972 when the system started: They had to add 10 whole, long seconds to get our planet back on schedule! photo/Wouterhagens





To read the sources for these stories

Wallis the Rhino

The Leap Second

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. the Aleutians
2. albatross
3. (Hans Christian) Andersen
4. ambidextrous
5. Andes
6. At-Ats
7. angel fish
8. aluminum
9. antelope
10. Angola

WEEK 9 WILDLIFE

Next Week: Decision Making

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By Rich Wilson, Skipper
Great American IV

Often I am asked – don't you feel confined in that little boat? And my answer always is – not at all! Because where else can you live every day, all day, with a 360 degree view of the horizon and a hemispheric dome of sky overhead?

Immersed in open nature this way, one finds oneself in the world of other creatures inhabiting the same space. We've had tiny shrimp, squid, and flying fish all come aboard, as well as what looked to me like a baby Portuguese Man-of-War. Groups of dolphins have escorted us.

And in the sky, we've had stormy petrels, terns, and the enormous Albatross, a bird that almost never flaps its wings, but just soars and glides

on the wind and its updrafts and downdrafts over waves. Plus myriad other birds that I can't identify, my knowledge being inadequate.

For all of those creatures, this is their natural environment. For me, it's not my natural environment, I am the intruder – or the guest – in their domain. Of course we must respect that domain by not polluting, but we must also appreciate it for its diversity and astonishing accomplishments. Look at all the things that those creatures can do that I cannot do! They are amazing! How did the albatross learn to fly like that?! How did the flying fish ever figure out to leap out of the water and glide on their fins as wings for 100 meters to escape predators?!

No, this is not confinement. This is good fortune to be here and to see all of it.



By Sy Montgomery, Author

Sometimes it feels lonely sailing around the world alone on a small boat on a big sea. Except Rich Wilson hasn't really been alone. He's joined from time to time by other living creatures—creatures with lives as wonderful, and journeys as compelling, as his own.

The ocean is our planet's largest wilderness. Yet so many of its creatures seem to us like outer space aliens, they are so different from us. But one magnificent creature keeps Rich company and these two have a lot in common. Both are riding the wind. Both are on epic, long-distance journeys. And both will be spending months on end without seeing others of their own kind.

The albatross has the longest wingspan of any bird—more than 11 feet for the largest kind, the wandering albatross (there are 22 species). With its snowy white body and grey wings, the bird looks rather like a sea gull crossed with a limousine. It's a spectacular sight many mariners like Rich have enjoyed through the ages. An albatross will often follow a boat, hoping for a handout from the crew, or at least some tasty fish guts tossed overboard. So it's no wonder that albatrosses occupy a special place in maritime lore.

Some sailors believed that the albatross carried the soul of dead sailors—and seeing one was good luck. The soul of the dead sailor, some insisted, would protect them from harm.

The truth about these magnificent sea birds is even more amazing. Without even flapping once,

an albatross can glide for hours and cover several hundred miles! No other creature can do this. The bird's secret? It's called dynamic soaring. They spend half their time gaining height by angling their wings while flying into the wind. They then turn back toward the sea, swooping along at speeds up to 67 miles per hour, till they catch another updraft skyward. And do it again and again, expending remarkably little energy. By studying exactly how they do it, engineers are trying to design more efficient airplanes.

Wisdom, a Laysan albatross (who wanders the North Pacific), is the oldest seabird in the world—and as this article is being written, she's incubating an egg! So Rich—the oldest sailor in the Vendee Globe race—and Wisdom, the world's oldest seabird—have something else in common: they both are showing the world that no matter how old you are, you can still do something wonderful to enrich our precious blue planet.

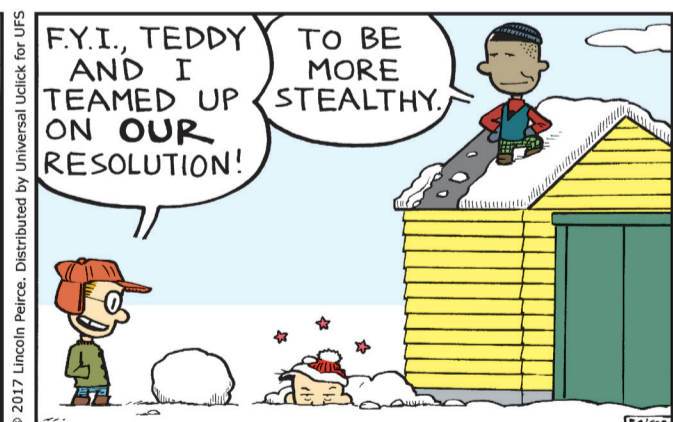
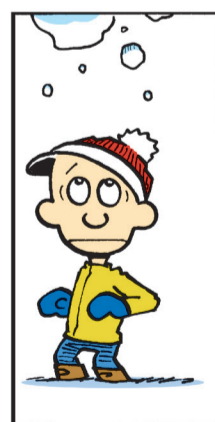


Full essay: <http://vg2016.sitesalive.com/essay>

NEWS EXPLORER

The environment is frequently in the news. Find newspaper articles that identify problems relating to the environment. Present one problem to your class, family or friends and then brainstorm possible solutions for the problem.

Big Nate

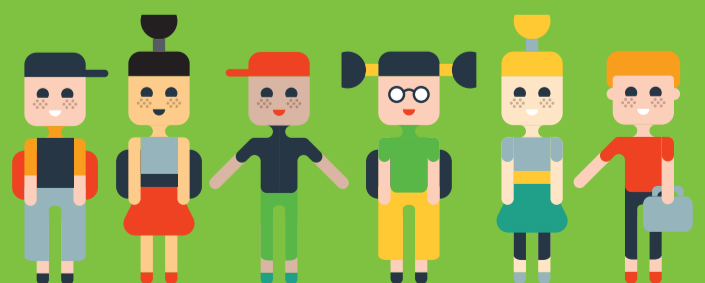


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