



## Behind the scenes at 'Goosebumps'



Jack Black, Ryan Lee, Odeya Rush and Dylan Minnette. *photo: Thomas Krumholz*

Recently I previewed the new movie "Goosebumps" and met with several members of the cast, including three young actors and one certified movie star: Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush, Ryan Lee, and comedy legend, Jack Black.

The movie cleverly brings R.L. Stine's series of books to life.

When Zach Cooper moves to the small town of Greendale, Maryland, he finds an unex-

pected surprise: His next-door neighbors are the secretive introvert R.L. Stine and his adventurous daughter Hannah.

Both carry a dangerous secret.

One day Zach and his newfound friend Champ open one of the horror writer's original manuscripts, bringing the monster of the book to life.

In a chain of events leading to the take-over of the town by R.L. Stine's monsters, Zach

and his friends must literally face their demons to save their town.

On a scale of one to ten I would give this movie a ten!

I loved the tone of the movie. It's scary, but not the kind of scary that stays with you for weeks. It's the kind that will leave you laughing.

For parents debating whether to take your kids to this movie, take any of them that are eight or older.

With all the special effects and animated monsters, you would think it would be hard to film some scenes, but the cast said they had little trouble acting scared of the animated monsters.

Some of the time they would actually have something real following them, whether it was a hard-core parkourist in a green suit, or a tennis ball on a stick.

"It depends on what kinda kid you were," Jack Black said. "Like if you were the kinda kid that imagined monsters a lot and running away from them, you're probably gonna be good in acting in these kinds of movies."

The cast also talked about what it's like to film something in front of a green screen when effects will be added later.

With some prompting from Jack Black, Ryan Lee described a particularly uncomfortable experience.

"Ok, so in one scene I kissed a ghost," he said, "and without the animation, had to kiss air. It was honestly the most awkward thing I've filmed in my life."

And with that Ryan added, "I got it on video!"

He quickly pulled out his phone and showed me the video.

And it made my day.



By Thomas Krumholz, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

## Despite some drawbacks, a good starter kit

Friendship bracelets are something that girls love wearing to represent a bond with a good friend, and to keep that relationship alive.

Making these bracelets is much more meaningful and fun than just buying them from a store, so this holiday season, if you know any young girls, you might want to consider getting them something that will give them the ability to create this type of jewelry.

With seven colors of string, and 11 design instructions, as well as a loom and beads to enhance the designs, the friendship bracelet kit by Melissa and Doug is a great way for girls to make stylish, intricate bracelets.

I thought the kit was really neat and fun.

However, the instructions are not very clear, so there's some guesswork involved, especially with the knots. The pictures were the most helpful part of the instructions.

Also, some of the lengths given in the instructions were too short or long, making an odd sized bracelet.

I found it helpful to put a weight on the ends of the strings, so that they don't get out of order.

Keeping the strings organized is really important, and if you make a

mistake, it's nearly impossible to fix.

Also, you can't start the hard designs without doing the others first, because it references things explained earlier.

Going in order is helpful.

One big downside of the kit is that each bracelet takes about an hour to make, and that there is not enough string to make one of each design, much less matching pairs.

I did like how you could use the techniques learned to create your own design, though.

I thought the kit had a lot of downsides, but it also had a lot of upsides, and I think the good things outweigh the bad, making this a good gift.

I would say that kids over 10 should be able to figure it out, but kids under 10 might need some help with it, and I recommend getting it.



By Kaitlyn Pierce, 13, a CK Reporter from Arvada



### HEY COLORADO KIDS!

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# A brilliant solution for depressing times

“Brilliant” by Roddy Doyle will take you on a brilliant chase through Dublin.

The story begins with a conversation between two dogs. The dogs are upset because the Black Dog of Depression has come to Dublin and is making all the grown-ups sad.

Raymond and Gloria are feeling the effects of the dog, even if they don't know what it is.

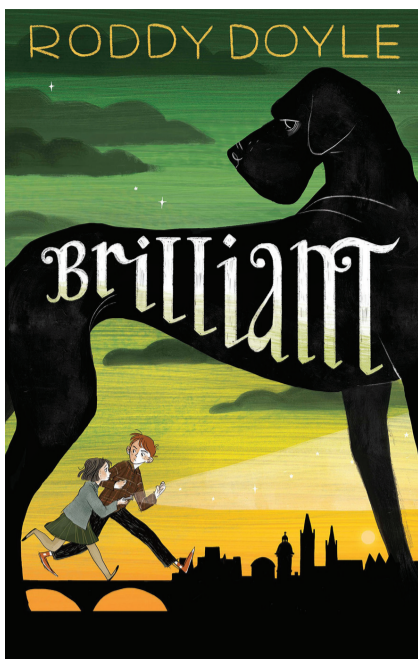
Their uncle Ben has lost his job, and everyone seems sadder than usual.

Then, the night before Saint Patrick's Day, they hear their grandma say that the black dog of depression has stolen Ben's funny bone.

Raymond and Gloria leave their house to find the dog and get the funny bone back, but they encounter a problem: It's just too dark!

Could the word “brilliant” light the way?

During the adventure, Raymond and Gloria are joined by hundreds of other kids, who's parents have also been affected by the Black Dog.



“Brilliant” is brilliant!

The writing is great, and the story is enjoyable. If you like animals and vampires, mysteries and love, smiles and laughter, and very confused adults then you will think this book is brilliant.

Roddy Doyle develops a brilliant story in this brilliant book.

I would recommend this book to people ages 8 to 108 who like a good mystery.



By Anja Mook, 13, a CK Reporter from Northglenn

## Going bats!



Fred the Flying Fox impresses the crowd at the Denver Botanic Gardens photo: Photo by Scott Dressel-Martin/Denver Botanic Gardens

Rob Mies talked to about 400 people at the recent “Bat Encounter: Live” program hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens.

He not only talked about bats and had an interesting slideshow/video, but brought out four live bats!

Mies works in Michigan as a bat expert for the Organization for Bat Conservation and is an author of two books, an ecologist, and an

international expert on bats.

He was able to answer every question that the audience asked.

Why?

Because he has spent 24 years studying bats!

Bats, he explained, are grouped into two general categories - microbats and megabats.

Microbats are smaller, eat insects like moths and beetles, and use echolocation, navigating

using sound waves.

Megabats are larger and also called fruit bats or flying foxes.

They are herbivores (*They love fruit!*) and do not use echolocation.

Mies brought a bat detector hooked up to an iPad, and the audience could see and hear the bat using its echolocation.

Mies talked about a few myths and facts about bats.

Bats are not the main spreader of rabies: Dogs are.

In fact, only about 1 person a year in the US dies from rabies from a bat.

He informed everyone of the true nature of bats: They eat insects and fruit, pollinate plants, and spread seeds through their droppings, called guano.

The four live bats Mies had with him were a microbat from Colorado and three megabats from Africa and Asia.

All four were rescue animals.

Their names were Radar, Champ, Roddy, and Fred.

Fred, the last one, is the Malayan Flying Fox who weighs 2 1/2 lbs, is 18 years old, and has a wingspan of about 6 feet.

Fred was very impressive up close!

If you want to help save the bats you can install a bat house in your garden or become a member of the Kids Club of OBC, which costs \$10.

To learn more interesting facts about bats and why they are important to the earth, go to [batconservation.org](http://batconservation.org).



By Ben Vanourek, 10, a CK Reporter from Littleton

## Ghostly sibling leads sister on adventure

“The Poe Estate,” by Polly Shulman, is an exciting adventure story of a girl whose sister passed away and left a ghost in her place to keep a promise.

It's really a great book for all fantasy lovers and goes down to the very roots of literature, especially haunted house stories.

The main character, Susannah, Sukie for short, misses her sister Kitty dearly and feels like she can't live without her.

Sukie's world was an endless black pit that she couldn't get out of.

And then, Kitty's ghost comes around.

Even though Kitty is there, it isn't the same, and both of them know that it never will be.

About one third of the way through, it takes a turn.

You'll have to find out for yourself what it is!

Sukie and her annoying classmate Cole end up going on a wild fictional adventure with so much feeling and emotion that it's hard to believe, but not hard to imagine.

I loved this book.

I'd probably recommend it to

almost anyone, unless they have no idea who Edgar Allen Poe was.

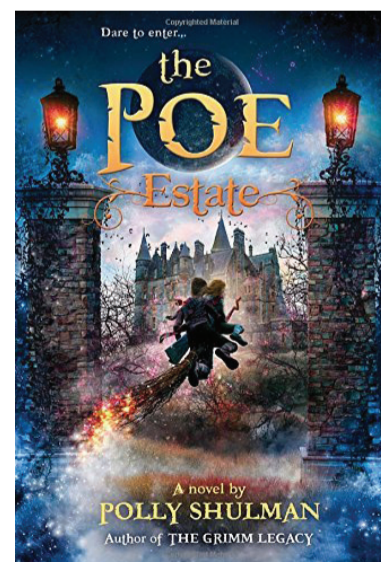
If you enjoy any kind of fantasy, however, this novel's for you.

I adore fiction and I had heard of Poe, so naturally, I got a kick out of it.

I think you will, too!



By Avery Lankford, 12, a CK Reporter from Broomfield



## Burning the candle at both ends before it was invented



When people hear about someone “burning the candle at both ends,” they often think of a candle on its side, with both ends lit.

Edna St. Vincent Millay even wrote a poem based on that idea.

But the expression originally meant to stay up long after the sun had set, and then get up well before it rose again: To burn the candle at both ends of the day.

That was the sign of working too hard, and an unhealthy lifestyle quite different from the advice of Benjamin Franklin: “Early to

bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise!”

However, now a study suggests that, if our ancient ancestors had had candles, they might have burned them at both ends, too.

We can't go back and tell when cavemen went to bed and got up, but researchers from UCLA studied hunter/gatherer people in Bolivia, Namibia and Tanzania who live traditional lives without modern conveniences.

It turns out that, as far apart as they are on the globe, they have

very similar schedules that involve staying up two or three hours after dark, and getting up before dawn.

The three groups averaged about six-and-a-half hours of sleep a night, much like people in more modern settings and less than the eight hours experts recommend.

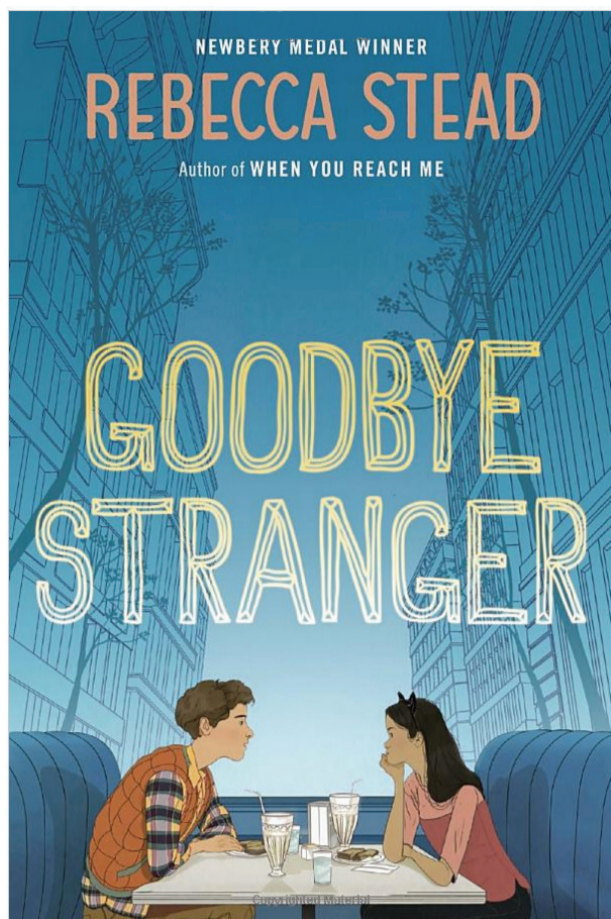
There's more: Not only do they not take naps during the day, but two of the three groups don't even have a word for “insomnia.”

Perhaps the only “modern” thing about how much sleep we get is worrying about it.

photo/Aino Tuominen



# Mature themes in a must-not-miss novel



**M**iddle school can be rough for anyone, but add kisses, crushes, and trying to figure out your purpose in life to your schoolwork and it can become a real mess.

Bridge and her two friends, Tab and Emily, have a pact, though: no fighting.

But soon, Emily has a sort-of boyfriend and Bridge starts crushing on Sherm, a boy in her class, leaving everyone confused.

Meanwhile, a high schooler struggles with friendship and betrayal.

How can they all be expected to keep everything the same when change is the only thing happening?

“Goodbye Stranger” is a brilliant novel that will pull at your heartstrings. Written by Rebecca Stead, author of “When You Reach Me” and “Liar and Spy,” “Goodbye Stranger” will touch anyone who reads it, and stay with them long after they’re finished.

Readers will be able to connect to this book whether they’re in middle school or not.

The novel has many well-rounded characters and a solid plot, making it more enjoyable and easy to understand. It doesn’t have any plot holes, and it is very well-developed. “Goodbye Stranger” would be an excellent

read for anyone who enjoyed “When You Reach Me” and “Liar and Spy,” but it would also be an enjoyable read for someone who hasn’t read the other Rebecca Stead books.

This book is probably better for someone older, though, maybe in the early teen years, because it contains some mature content.

Some parents, depending on how much they choose to expose their kids to, may want to read it before letting their kid read it.

However, the early teens would be an appropriate age for most everyone to enjoy this book.

“Goodbye Stranger” is a must-not-miss.

It is a novel that readers will love, empathize with, and remember for a long time.



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

# Homeless from 2013 typhoon find help, shelter

**N**early two years ago, the island nation of the Philippines was struck by the most powerful storm ever to hit land, Typhoon Haiyan.

The storm, which would have been called a “hurricane” if it had happened in our hemisphere, destroyed half a million homes and killed approximately 7,000 people.

The International Red Cross estimates that 11 million people were affected by the disaster, with 4 million of them left homeless.

Many nations sent people to assist in clean up and medical missions, as well as donating supplies as part of their foreign aid programs.

In addition, a number of companies that normally design maps for on-line and mobile use went into action, creating digital images of the damaged areas so relief groups could quickly tell where help was most needed and would have a sense of what they’d find when they

arrived on the scene.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent (as the organization is known in Muslim nations) responded with groups from more than a dozen nations sending people to the most heavily damaged areas.

Recently, the Red Cross issued a report on the effort to rebuild homes, in which it reports that its aid groups developed a type of home that fits in with the Philippine culture and will be safer in the event of a new storm.

Nearly 4,500 of these homes were built, and another major effort went into providing communities with safe, clean water sources, both after the storm itself and also in the form of permanent systems for the future.

Earlier this month, officials of the United States Agency for International Development visited a school and medical facility built with US aid, and promised to continue to help the region recover and rebuild.



Grateful victims of Typhoon Haiyan expressed their feelings towards the people of many nations who had come to the Philippines to help. photo: MSgt Antoine Robinson, U.S. Marine Corps



## Sudoku

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

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

It’s Women’s Day in Vietnam, so our answers this week will each begin with the letter “W.”

1. Large, short-haired gray bird dog, named for the German region it originally came from.
2. The hoop through which you hit a croquet ball
3. The North American elk is known by this Indian name.
4. Teeth that people often have to have removed; some never get them.
5. In “Through the Looking Glass,” the Carpenter’s partner
6. The main mountain range that runs north and south through Utah
7. Author of “On the Banks of Plum Creek” and “The Long Winter”
8. In the book “The Invention of Hugo Cabret” or the movie “Hugo,” the occupation of Hugo’s father.
9. Chewbacca is the best known one of these.
10. Small insect-eating bird, similar to a sparrow but slimmer in build

(answers on Page Four)

## Duckbill nest fossils show baby dinos didn’t have head crests yet

**P**aleontologists are excited about the discovery of a fossilized dinosaur nest from the Gobi Desert of Mongolia.

The nest contains eggs, egg shell pieces and skeletons of Saurolophus, a large species of duckbill dinosaur, that had either just hatched or hadn’t quite gotten out of the eggs yet, which allows scientists to learn about how they developed.

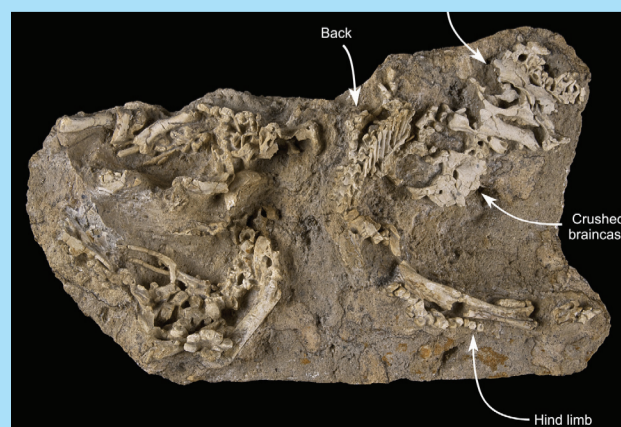
One discovery is that, while Saurolophus is known for the crest on its head, the babies don’t have crests, which suggests that it was something they would develop later.

This isn’t the first example of fossilized dinosaur eggs found in the Gobi. In fact, the first egg fossils were found there nearly a century ago, in 1923, by famed naturalist Roy Chapman Andrews.

Unfortunately, there are things about the nest we will never know, because it was dug up by souvenir hunters years ago.

They sold it to collectors and it has only now come into the hands of paleontologists who would be able to learn more if they knew exactly where it was found and just how it looked before it was removed.

photo/Leonard Dewaele





# 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

A Dinosaur Nest

Ancient Bedtimes

Typhoon Response

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!



1. Weimaraner
2. wicket
3. wapiti
4. wisdom
5. walrus
6. Wasatch
7. (Laura Ingalls) Wilder
8. watchmaker
9. wookie
10. wren

# Folk Tales & Fables

## THE KILDARE POOKA (IRELAND)

There was once a great house in Ireland in which the servants seldom slept well at all. It wasn't that they weren't tired enough to sleep, for they worked hard all day. And it wasn't that they were too hungry to sleep, for it was a prosperous home and they were given good food.

But every night, after they'd gone to bed, they would hear noises in the kitchen. They'd hear doors slamming, and cupboards opening and closing, and the clink of plates and silverware and the clattering of pots and pans.

And yet when they came downstairs in the morning, there'd be nothing out of place, and the whole kitchen would be just as spotless as they'd left it the night before.

It was a great mystery and they used to talk about it in hushed tones, but nobody could explain it, until one night when they stayed up late.

They had been talking of the mysterious sounds while they worked, and once they had finished and the kitchen was all clean, they sat around telling stories of ghosts and suchlike.

It got very late, and there was one little fellow, a scullery boy who used to fetch and tote and clean around the place, who wanted very much to go to bed, for he was very tired. But the stories they told were so scary that he didn't dare to go up to the attic all alone, so he sat and listened, and at last he climbed into the hearth, which was all cleaned out at one end but warm from the day's fire, which was now just a pile of glowing coals at the other end of the big fireplace.

He sat listening to the stories until he fell asleep, and when the other servants finished their talk and went off to bed, nobody noticed the little lad in the dark corner.

It was the sound of the door opening that woke him up, and the sound of hoofs on the floor. He looked out, and there was a donkey, big as life, sitting right in front of the fireplace, warming himself at what was left of the fire.

The donkey then put a few sticks of wood on the coals so that the fire sprung up fresh. He looked at the boy for a moment, and then reached in and pulled him out of the hearth, away from the growing fire, without saying a word.

Then the donkey began to fetch pails of water from the pump at the sink, and to fill a great pot which he hung over the fire.

When the water was hot, the donkey began to open all the cupboards and bring out all the dishes and cups and glasses and silverware and put them into the hot water. Then he washed every one of them, dried them carefully and put them back where they belonged.

After that, he swept the floor and mopped it, wiped down all the counters and tables and then dumped out the water from the big pot he'd used to wash the dishes. He rinsed the pot, wiped it dry, hung it back where it belonged, raked up the fire and went out the door.

When the boy told the other servants the next day, they didn't believe him at first, but then one of the serving girls said, "Well, if the donkey is going to do all that, what are we bothering with it for?"

And nobody had a good answer, so they decided to give it a test, and that night they went to bed without lifting a finger to clean up after dinner.

Sure enough, the next morning, the kitchen was absolutely spotless. And it was the same the next night, and the night after that, too, until the servants got used to the idea that they didn't have to bother themselves in the evening at all.

This went on for some weeks, until one night the boy decided he'd stay up and see the pooka again (*for that indeed was what it was, and not a real donkey at all, of course*).

When the donkey came in the door, the boy stayed quiet in a corner for a few minutes, watching as he cleaned the kitchen. As the donkey was getting ready to leave, the boy stepped forward and said, "Excuse me. Can you tell me who you are, and why you come here to work every night the way you do?"

"I work here now because I didn't work here before," the pooka replied. "When I was alive, I was a servant here, but a very lazy one who ate the squire's food and accepted his warm clothes and never did a lick of work to pay him back. So my punishment now is to clean the kitchen every night, for being such an ungrateful, lazy soul."

"Well, I hope you won't take it wrong," the boy said, "but you've made our lives very nice indeed. Is there anything we can do to help you out?"

The donkey looked at him for a moment. "Well, the rest of the night I don't stay in a warm kitchen, and it's cold out there in the dark. If I had a nice jacket, it would make me a bit more comfortable."

It took a few days for the servants to make such a coat, but as soon as it was done, the boy stayed up to present it to the pooka as soon as he came in the door.

The donkey tried the jacket on, and turned this way and that, looking back along his gray sides to see how it looked.

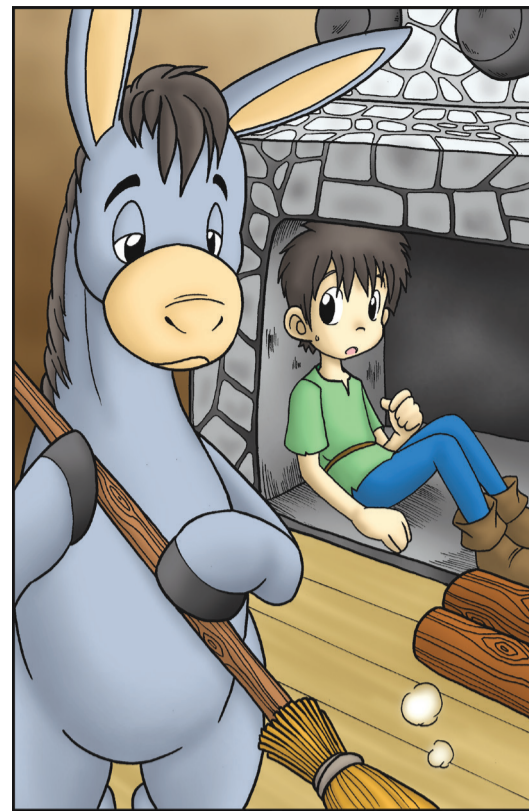
"We just wanted to say 'thank you,'" the boy said, and the donkey smiled and began to leave. "But wait," the boy called after him. "Aren't you going to clean the kitchen?"

"My punishment was to learn the lesson of ingratitude," the pooka said. "I had to work until someone rewarded me for doing my duty. And you have, so now I don't have to do this anymore." And out the door he went.

After that the servants had to do all the work, and to wonder if the pooka had really learned anything at all.

text c. 2005, Mike Peterson - illustration c. 2005, Marina Tay

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



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