



CK Reporter of the Week
Katherine Gagner, Boulder

'Sing' appeals to wide audience



Illumination Entertainment brings you the one-of-a-kind family animation, "Sing."

This movie was made for those who enjoy comedy, a portion of realistic drama, fun, and the right dose of reality, balanced out by the main characters, who were all types of animals.

The film is about how a theater-enthusiast koala named Buster Moon (voiced by Matthew McConaughey) struggles to keep his theater going, showing humorous ways he's scraping up money until he gets the idea to put on a singing competition.

The singing competition includes a grand prize of \$1,000 dollars, mistaken to be \$100,000 dollars by all of the contestants.

Lured in by the promotional flyers, animals of all kinds come and audition for the show.

After a lot of comedic auditions that are sure to entertain the audience, the finalists get selected.

Immediately, the family troubles and dilemmas facing each character start.

Illumination Entertainment executed this story perfectly. It isn't a complex tale, but it is a simple story done well.

Ash (Scarlett Johansson) faces a boyfriend who may be sliding away from her and growing closer to another.

Johnny (Taron Egerton) faces his father's law-breaking gang and must choose between a dream and family.

Rosita (Reese Witherspoon) faces all of her energetic 25

children and a way to get all of them to school with a meal without her there, and also working with a great dancer that may have the 'spiciness' she does not.

Meena (Tori Kelly) faces a very basic fear: Public speaking, or, in this case, public singing.

Mike (Seth MacFarlane), small as he is, plans to win,

and puts the truth at stake.

Throughout, the Number One thing on Buster Moon's list is to get money, and from the fiercest grandmother ever.

Picking back up the broken shards, and setting down the sponge, the finalists and Buster need to give the performance of a lifetime, and it's a beautifully produced climax that was bursting with a blast of energy to end it phenomenally, not to mention a heartfelt act of kindness that ties the knot at the end.

I thought it flowed and fit amazingly well together to make an enjoyable movie that would probably be most enjoyed by people who understand that a business is a lot of work.

Nothing is without flaws, and the prime question I was pondering was simply why was this story represented by animals? I concluded that it was perhaps to add a comedic look to it or more of an appeal to young viewers.

Either way, they used animation to their advantage to add jokes and more to the plot line.

I think Illumination Entertainment executed this story perfectly. It isn't a complex tale, but it is a simple story done well.

They used every single character's point of view and trait to their advantage to make "Sing" a smooth-running and worthy movie.



By Abby Greiner,
12, a CK Reporter
from Golden

New Star Wars fills in more details of the saga

Rogue One" is the new Star Wars movie in theaters this month.

"Rogue One" is its own story which takes place in the time period between the third and fourth Star Wars episodes, so whether this is your first Star Wars movie or you have seen all seven prior movies you will be entertained and not left out.

There is not one minute you are bored, every second is action-packed and filled with suspense on steroids!

However, there are a number of violent fighting scenes that younger viewers, seven and under will find too scary.

And prepare yourself for heartbreak, but hope is on the horizon.

Think of a super cool roller coaster and you will have emotions swing in this movie: Happy, sad, mad, scared, nervous and relieved, it's all there.

I liked the movie very much and enjoyed it because, to reiterate, there is not a second of boredom.

The movie also showcases many planets and points of views, so make sure to keep close attention.

The movie digs deeper into each side of conflict in the realm of the worlds during the timeline of the movie: The Empire and its evil generals, the



Rebellion and the Alliance and its senators.

And especially the main character Jyn, whose family is right smack in the middle of both sides.

All the motivation behind main characters comes forward so that you know why they do what they do whether you agree with it or not.

And although there is a host of new characters to meet in this movie, some familiar faces will be in this new story.

Darth Vader makes his appearance, but there is no sign of Anakin!

I think watching this movie will definitely be worth your money, so think about putting tickets to "Rogue One" on your holiday list this year!

And may the Force be with you!!!!



By Abigale Morris,
12, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

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

Crafty way to keep the mess controlled



MessMatz is an 18" by 24" silicone craft mat designed to protect surfaces from arts and crafts projects.

One of my favorite features is the edging around the entire mat. This protects things from rolling away and keeps the mess contained.

I found this particularly useful, especially when working with beads or other objects that are easy to lose.

I also enjoyed how simple it was to clean the surface. Once it gets dirty, you can wipe it down with a wet cloth and all the mess will disappear.

This product is also a convenient size, and can protect surfaces large and small.

Another pleasing feature is the silicone material.

Because of this, sticky, difficult materials, such as hot glue can be easily peeled off the mat.

This also makes the mat bendable and able to be roll up and be stored without taking up much space, which is essential if you have a lack of space to store materials such as this.

One downside to this product is that if little ones are not careful, they could easily cut into the mat with scissors.

Also, small materials such as glitter or thread stick to the mat, however this can be easily taken care with a wet cloth.

I would definitely recommend MessMatz as a gift for any age. While it is marketed toward a younger audience, it would be an appreciated gift for any crafter in your life.

Made in blue, pink, and green, you can pick one to suit whoever you are giving it to, whether that be friends, family, or even yourself.



By Lauren Walters,
13, a CK Reporter
from Denver

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

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

Whenever the animal-people got into trouble, they always sought Old Man and told him about it. All were busy working and making a living, when one day it commenced to rain.

That was nothing, of course, but it didn't stop as it had always done before. No, it kept right on raining until the rivers overran their banks, and the water chased the Weasel out of his hole in the ground.

Yes, and it found the Rabbit's hiding-place and made him leave it. It crept into the lodge of the Wolf at night and frightened his wife and children. It poured into the den of the Bear among the rocks and he had to move. It crawled under the logs in the forest and found the Mice-people.

Out it went to the plains and chased them out of their homes in the buffalo skulls. At last the Beavers' dams broke under the strain and that made everything worse. It was very bad, indeed.

Everybody except the fish-people were frightened and all went to find Old Man to tell him what had happened. Finally they found his fire, far up on a timbered bench, and they said that they wanted a council right away.

It was a strange sight to see the Eagle sitting next to the Grouse; the Rabbit sitting close to the Lynx; the Mouse right under the very nose of the Bobcat, and the tiny Humming-bird talking to the Hawk in a whisper, as though they had always been great friends.

All about Old Man's fire they sat and whispered or talked in signs. Even the Deer spoke to the Mountain Lion, and the Antelope told the Wolf that he was glad to see him, because fear had made them all friends.

The whispering and the sign-making stopped when Old Man raised his hand and asked them what was troubling them.

The Bear spoke first, of course, and told how the water had made him move his camp. He said all the animal people were moving their homes, and he was afraid they would be unable to find good camping places, because of the water.

Then the Beaver spoke, because he is wise and all the forest people know it. He said his dams would not hold back the water that came against them; that the whole world was a lake, and that he thought they were on an island. He said he could live in the water longer than most people, but that as far as he could see they would all die except, perhaps, the fish-people, who stayed in the water all the time, anyhow. He said he couldn't think of a thing to do -- then he sat down and the sign-talking and whispering commenced again.

Old Man thought hard. Finally he grabbed his magic stone axe, and began to sing his war-song. Then the rest knew he had made up his mind and knew what

he would do. Swo! he struck a mighty pine-tree a blow, and it fell down. Swo! down went another and another, until he had ten times ten of the longest, straightest, and largest trees in all the world lying side by side before him. Then Old Man chopped off the limbs, and with the aid of magic rolled the great logs tight together.

With withes of willow that he told the Beaver to cut for him, he bound the logs fast together until they were all as one. It was a monstrous raft that Old Man had built, as he sang his song in the darkness. At last he cried, "Ho! everybody hurry and sit on this raft I have made," and they hurried.

It was not long till the water had reached the logs; then it crept in between them, and finally it went on past the raft and off into the forest, looking for more trouble.

By and by the raft began to groan, and the willow withes squeaked and cried out as though ghost-people were crying in the night. That was when the great logs began to tremble as the water lifted them from the ground. Rain was falling -- night was there, and fear made cowards of the bravest on the raft. All through the forest there were bad noises -- noises that make the heart cold -- as the raft bumped against great trees rising from the earth that they were leaving forever.

Higher and higher went the raft; higher than the bushes; higher than the limbs on the trees; higher than the Woodpecker's nest; higher than the tree tops, and even higher than the mountains. Then the world was no more, for the water had whipped the land in the war it made against it.

Day came, and still the rain was falling. Night returned, and yet the rain came down. For many days and nights they drifted in the falling rain; whirling and twisting about while the water played with the great raft, as a Bear would play with a Mouse. It was

bad, and they were all afraid -- even Old Man himself was scared.

At last the sun came but there was no land. All was water. The water was the world. It reached even to the sky and touched it all about the edges. All were hungry, and some of them were grumbling, too. There are always grumblers when there is great trouble, but they are not the ones who become great chiefs -- ever.

Old Man sat in the middle of the raft and thought. He knew that something must be done, but he didn't know what. Finally he said: "Ho! Chipmunk, bring me the Spotted Loon. Tell him I want him."

NEXT WEEK: The Animals Search For Land

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



Seahorse made odd gene changes work

Evolution is often summed up as "survival of the fittest," because, when an individual is born with a change in its genes that works, it can succeed and, because it lives well and passes on its new genetic pattern, that becomes the "normal" form for that plant or animal.

In most cases, when an unexpected change isn't an improvement, the individual dies and the species goes on unchanged.

But geneticists have been studying the seahorse, which seems to be a case

of an animal whose genetic changes simply made it stranger and stranger over thousands of years.

Not necessarily "better." Just, well, very, very different.

For instance, the males carry the fertilized eggs in a pouch, so that they are the ones who give birth.

And it swims upright rather than horizontally like other fish.

And it has a prehensile tail, which it uses to grasp plants in order to keep still when predators are near.

And it has no teeth: It simply sucks in its food through a tube-like mouth.

And it's covered with plates, almost like armor or an insect's external skeleton, but it's not that protective.

What the seahorse is very unusual, and yet it is a successful animal.

To learn more about how evolution works, geneticists have broken down the seahorse's genome to examine how an animal could undergo so many completely strange changes and yet be successful.

photo/ Nick Hobgood



'American Girls' unveils dolls for a younger set

The American Girl Doll company has a new line of dolls called "the WellieWishers."

The WellieWisher dolls include Willa, Cimore, Kendall, Ashlyn, and Emerson. They are aimed at younger audiences and are meant to help teach friendship and other morals through books, dolls, and play sets.

At this moment, there are three books starring the WellieWishers: "The Riddle of the Robin," "The Muddily-Puddily Show," and "Ashlyn's Unsurprise Party."

These books include very large fonts with pretty easy reading, and many illustrations that are beautifully colored to go with upbeat rhyming words and songs.

The books' page counts vary from around 80 to 100 pages, with around six short chapters dividing the book.

One main theme of the books is the friends working together to solve a problem using each of their talents.

At the beginning of each book, you learn about each of the WellieWishers, which will help later on, and at the end, there are a couple of pages about kid's activities for parents to look at.

These stories really add to the playing experience, so I would suggest reading them.

This line of toys also has different playsets including the "Giggles and Grins Play Set."

Once you have read "The Muddily-Puddily Show," you will understand that this set goes with the doll, Emerson, from that book.

In this set you receive a case, a nose, a cushion, a mask, a pair of glasses, a chicken, and a set of stickers. The point of this toy is to help your doll dress up in silly ways that will definitely make younger kids laugh.



There is not a significant difference in the quality of the toys compared to the normal American Girl Doll.

Everything is very well-made and realistic, which will make your child like it even more.

Emerson is one of the WellieWishers.

She loves to perform and create music in front of crowds of people.

The Emerson doll has jet black, curly hair that is styled into pigtails with bangs covering her forehead.

She has very high-quality facial features including dark brown eyes, painted on eyelashes and eyebrows, a nose, lips showcasing her front teeth, and ears.

Unlike the standard American Girl dolls, she has painted on eyelashes that do not allow her eyes to move and blink and her body is completely vinyl unlike the soft midsection of other dolls.

She comes in a cute purple and pink dress and her signature Wellies, which are the rainboots these dolls always wear.

The WellieWisher series is definitely designed for younger ages like 5 and 6 year olds, so if you're looking for a present for a child who has grown out of baby dolls but isn't quite ready for full on American Girl Dolls, I would advise getting a WellieWisher.



By Kayla Mitchiner,
11, a CK Reporter
from Golden

Ancient city discovered in 'rural' Greece

Thessaly is a region of Greece with a great deal of history within the myths of that nation.

Jason and the Argonauts began their search for the Golden Fleece from Thessaly, and it is a place that Odysseus, on his long way home from the war in Troy, stopped.

But archaeologists have assumed for centuries that Thessaly was mostly open countryside, with only the sorts of small towns you would expect to find in a rural area.

However, historians may have to rethink their opinions of the region following the discovery by a group of archaeologists from Greece and Sweden of ruins under what had been thought to be an unimportant little town.

Archaeologists have known for about 200 years that interesting materials from ancient times could be found in its hills of earth that covered that little village.

They were, however, very surprised when use of ground-penetrating radar showed that the "little village" was actually part of a large city that covered nearly 100 acres.

"What used to be considered remains of some irrelevant settlement on a hill can now be upgraded to remains of a city of higher significance than previously thought, and this after only one season (of exploration)," one of the scientists said in a press release from the group.

The city includes walls, towers and gates, as well as a town square and other signs of a place that appears to have been quite important and well-populated.

The oldest coins found in the area date back to about 500 BC, but the archaeologists estimate that the city was most active between the fourth and third centuries BC.

They suspect, but have not been able to prove, that the city may have been abandoned when Rome invaded and conquered Greece.

At least for now, the plan -- thanks to modern technologies like the one that revealed it in the first place -- is to explore and study the city without disturbing it with extensive digging.

The initial discovery was made in September, and the team expects to return for further exploration next year.



A fragment of pottery from the ancient city was taken for study, but most of the site will be left undisturbed. Thessaly is a region roughly between the words "Greece" and "Macedonia" on this map.
(Photo/SIA/EFAK/YPOPA)



Sudoku

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | 1 | 5 |
| | 5 | | | | |
| 1 | | | | 2 | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | |
| | | | 6 | 5 | |
| | 4 | | 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 the back page.



Brainteaser

On this day in 1803, the final papers for the Louisiana Purchase were signed in New Orleans, so this week our answers will each begin with the letter "L."

1. Peter Pan's band of merry adventurers
2. Many towns and cities in the US, including one in Boulder County, share the name of this French nobleman who helped the patriots in the American Revolution.
3. Pork fat
4. One piece of a chain
5. The capital of Portugal
6. This plant-based flavor is either very popular in candy or else very unpopular, depending on who you ask and how they feel about black jelly beans.
7. A type of notebook that has clasps to hold individual pieces of paper that are made with holes punched in them to go through the clasps.
8. Author of the "Guardians of Ga'hoole" series of books
9. The first man to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
10. Canadian region known for its eager, water-loving type of retrieving dog

(answers on the back page)

Verizon agrees to 'brick' Galaxy 7 phones first week of January

By now, most users of Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 phones are aware that the company has stopped trying to fix it with updates and has recalled the model entirely.

Galaxy 7's became a news item earlier this year when there were several reports of fires caused by a flaw in the phones that made them overheat.

Samsung attempted to update the phones to repair the problem, but it continued and the company finally decided to take the phones back in the interests of public safety.

Airlines began to check for the phones, particularly after one of them began to smolder during a flight, and other travel companies, like the

Lynx bus line in Orlando, Florida, also asked riders not to use the phones.

Users who liked the phone enough to ignore the recall began getting an unpleasant surprise yesterday, when Samsung put out an automatic update that stops the phone from charging.

With no way to provide energy, the phone becomes, in tech talk, a "brick," and Verizon, a major provider of the phone, had, at first, objected to having their customers who use the Galaxy 7 lose service during the holiday travel period.

But last week, Verizon decided to accept the safety measure. Galaxy 7's will be bricked across the nation by January 8.

photo/elisfk





To read the sources for these stories

Seahorse Genetics
Ancient Greek City Discovered
Galaxy 7's To Be Bricked

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

WEEK
7 CLIMATE CHANGE

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Next Week: Midpoint

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Position: -47.2289, 72.21
Time: 2016-12-14 18:42:00 UTC

Sudoku Solution

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)



10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. (the) Lost Boys 2. Lafayette 3. lard 4. link 5. Lisbon 6. licorice
7. loose leaf 8. (Kathryn) Lasky 9. (Charles) Lindbergh 10. Labrador



By Rich Wilson, Skipper
Great American IV

When we sailed east past Marion Island in the Indian Ocean a few days ago, we were 220 miles further north than when we sailed past here in Vendée Globe 2008. Then, as now, there were course restrictions for safety from icebergs breaking off Antarctica that we had to stay north of. Although we never sailed precisely at those limits, it's interesting to note that the Antarctic Exclusion Zone (Vendée Globe 2016's iceberg protection) is much further north than the series of ice gates in Vendée Globe 2008.

Of course my observation of this, and race management's placing of the ice constraints, do not constitute scientific data. But they compel me to ask our Climate expert Dr. Jan Witting whether there are more icebergs breaking off



By Dr. Jan Witting
Professor of Oceanography

As the Great American IV speeds along the South Atlantic, the ocean will look much the same to Rich as it did during his race in 2008. But if you look closely, there have been some pretty big changes in our global ocean and in the climate of our planet. Let's start with the biggest factor in human-caused climate change: Carbon dioxide in our atmosphere has steadily increased. In the eight years since 2008, its levels have climbed from 385 parts per million (ppm) to 407 ppm. Is this 22 ppm change a lot or a little? Measurements from air bubbles trapped in ice long time ago in the Antarctica show that this increase is much greater than what happened in the 2000 years before our industrial age. It is a lot, and it is happening quickly!

What does this mean for the ocean? Just like our atmosphere, the ocean has warmed also, but not the same everywhere. In places like the Arctic Ocean, the increase has been a lot. But elsewhere, like in the Southern Ocean that Rich is skirting right now, the ocean may actually have cooled a little. Why? The answer is the wind. What makes the wind blow is the difference in air temperature and pressure between two points. Cold air is denser and results in higher atmospheric pressure, and this high-pressure air wants to flow toward warmer, lower pressure, areas. As the planet's atmosphere warms, these differences in hot and cold are getting bigger. An example

Antarctica due to a changing climate, or not? Or perhaps there is another reason that the hazard has moved north?

Research in Greenland tells that the glaciers there are melting and receding. This is known by on-site researchers, who go back year after year to establish trends in one direction or another, and by satellite photographs. Similarly for the Arctic Ocean ice, satellites show that the coverage of ice is getting smaller. The same goes for glaciers in the Himalayas.

Do any of these data persuade on their own that the climate is changing? No, but the consensus of evidence globally is substantive, and one can conclude that, yes, the climate is changing. It all rests on the data, and we must look to those experts in the field for that data, and for their insights. We can wish or hope that the climate were not changing, but we cannot deny facts.

is the difference between the Antarctic cold air and the surrounding sub-tropical warm air, and the result is that the winds in the ocean around Antarctica are getting stronger. These stronger winds cool the ocean through evaporation, just like, if you are a little sweaty, you'll feel the wind start chilling you!

That, though, is climate, and what Rich has to worry about is weather--the storms and calms that our changing climate spawns. From a climate perspective, you'd predict that the storms on average have become a little stronger, but that doesn't mean that all storms are more intense.

Either way, let's wish Rich and all the other skippers luck to avoid the worst ones!



NEWS EXPLORER

Find a newspaper article that focuses on international cooperation or negotiations. Possible topics include trade, climate, natural resources, space, and endangered species. Write a paragraph describing the scope of the issue. Who are the parties? What are the major points of contention? What are the benefits of cooperation? Was an agreement reached, or is one likely to be reached?

Big Nate



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