

What would
Raina read?
She's got some
suggestions!



Whether you're shopping for holiday gifts or making a list of things you'd like to get, your choices probably include at least one graphic novel or memoir.

If you're stuck for suggestions of titles, why not ask a real expert: Raina Telgemeier? She illustrates the "Baby Sitter Club" books and has written and illustrated her own popular graphic memoirs, "Smile," "Drama," and her latest, "Sisters," about her sister, their family and a car trip they all took to Colorado Springs. (See NextGen for our review of that one!)

Her own books are a pretty good choice themselves, but she's just put a list on her blog (<http://goraina.com>) of graphic novels and memoirs that she recommends specifically for her fans, readers between 8 and 13. We've got a live link at ColoradoNIE.com

Illustration/Raina Telgemeier

ColoradoKids

December 9, 2014



CK Reporter
Thomas Krumholz,
Denver



UNWELCOME GUEST FOUND IN UPPER MISSOURI RIVER

Lewis and Clark Lake is an artificial lake made by damming the Missouri River as it crosses the border between South Dakota and Nebraska.

That's not the river's source: By there, it has already gone through most of Montana as well as both of the Dakotas.

But it's high enough upriver that naturalists were very upset to find a zebra mussel recently in the lake's waters.

Zebra mussels are an invasive species that have been a real problem in other parts of the country, since they not only eat plankton needed by native species but can clog water pipes and do other serious damage.

Only one mussel was found, but that is how infestations begin, and it is a good reminder to boaters and fishermen of how easily they can carelessly bring a little hitchhiker along and seriously harm a major body of water. *photo: USGS*

ALLY CONDIE'S NEW BOOK HAS DEPTH

Ally Condie, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling "Matched" series, was recently at the James H. LaRue library in Highlands Ranch to speak about her new novel "Atlantia," and she spoke with Colorado Kids.



By Lauren Hill,
13, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

Condie said she had wanted to become an author ever since she was a teenager. She loved to write, and wrote for her school newspaper, but that was where her professional experience ended.

As a child, she lived in a town a few hours away from Salt Lake City, Utah, and grew up to become a high-school teacher.

Asked if she got any inspiration for her books from her own life, she said that only some of the smaller, less significant characters were based on people in her life.

For instance, the character Vick in "Crossed" was based on her brother, and the grandfather in "Matched" was based on her grandmother.

Otherwise, everything came from her own imagination.

Condie's new novel, "Atlantia," is a gripping story set in a domed underwater city, about a girl named Rio, who is forced to stay down Below

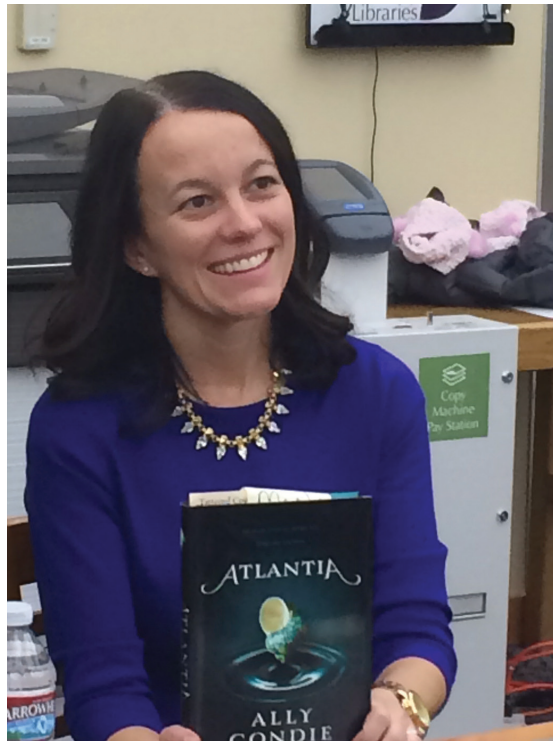


Photo by Juli Hill

while her sister, Bay, makes a selfish choice to go Above.

For this book, Condie took inspiration from the original story of "The Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen, but not a lot.

The characters in "Atlantia" are air-breathers, and not based on any characters from the Little Mermaid.

I rate this story 5 out of 5 stars, because the plot is flawless and the description is so realistic in a dystopian novel.

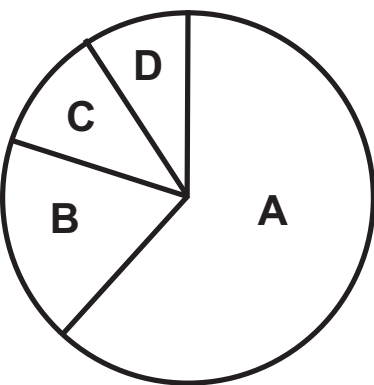
As with many other popular books, the "Matched" series now comes with fans who create fan pages, fan

art, and fan fiction.

"I'm not mad that these things are out there, but I just think if I read them, they would mess with my head," she said during the Q&A section of her presentation at the library.

Though she doesn't read the fan fiction, she loves that people take the time to write these things and make these special pieces that are about her books.

"The fan fiction stories are theirs," she explained, "and the 'Matched' stories are mine."



CK readers echo the song: "Let it snow!"

Colorado without some real winter weather just wouldn't seem right, according to CK readers.

We asked you what you were hoping for in the way of weather this winter, and a huge majority of those who responded said they want snow.

More than two-thirds of you would even be happy to see a whole lot of it, though others are hoping for a little break

from the stuff now and then.

Here's what we asked you, and what you told us:

Winter is on the doorstep.

What are you hoping for?

A. Lots of snow! That's what winter is about! 68%

B. I like winter, but mix in some mild weather. 20%

C. Snow on the ski hills, but not on my lawn. 12%

D. Palm trees. Well, you asked! 10%

Now here's our next question: How does spending money come into your hands?

A. I have a regular allowance.

B. I get a set amount but have to complete specific chores to earn it all.

C. I bargain for it through special chores or good grades.

D. I ask and hope for the best.

To answer this question, go to www.nextgen.yourhub.com

ck Kids and adults can find live links to information about stories in Colorado Kids at www.ColoradoNIE.com

Colorado Kids

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 "eEdition lessons" at: www.ColoradoNIE.com

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Denver Post Educational Services
101 W. Colfax Ave.
Denver CO 80202
(303) 954-3974
(800) 336-7678

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.

Over 70,000 years, a new whale is formed

When Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands in 1835, the birds he collected there showed him something unusual: Although they were similar to some species of South American birds, there were real differences.

The birds might have come to the islands long ago in a storm or perhaps because of a land bridge that no longer existed.

However they got there, Darwin realized, they had been apart from other birds and had changed over many generations: They were no longer the same as their relatives on the mainland.

For nearly 200 years, scientists have been keeping track of other cases of groups of animals that have been kept apart so long that they have evolved into different types of the same basic animal.

The latest discovery is among the most surprising: The Arabian Sea humpback whale.

Humpbacks are well-known for their long migrations, which can take them as far as 5,000 miles, the farthest that any mammal migrates.

What direction they migrate differs, because those in the Southern Hemisphere have a different winter than those in the Northern Hemisphere.

In summer, humpbacks live in either the North-



Special case Humpback whales look much the same the world over, but, after centuries of isolation, those in the Arabian Sea have become different. *photo/Whit Welles*



ern Atlantic or the Southern Pacific, depending on when summer comes in their hemisphere.

There, they eat plankton along the coastlines until the cold weather, when they head for warmer water near the Equator. There they meet other humpbacks and mate.

But for some reason, the humpbacks in the Arabian Sea, at the mouth of the Persian Gulf and between India and Africa, stay in the same limited region throughout the year.

Scientists think there may have been times during a glacial period or when the Indian monsoon season was different that they couldn't get out of the area.

Whatever the reason, they have stayed by themselves for 70,000 years, and so, like the birds of the Galapagos, they have not mated with humpbacks from the other parts of the world.

They still look much the same as those other humpbacks, but scientists sampled their DNA

and found that they are genuinely different.

Unfortunately, being on their own has meant these humpbacks are not numerous, while, because of where they live all year, they are more vulnerable to threats like becoming entangled in fishing gear or struck by ships. Other humpbacks are not endangered, but the Arabian Sea humpbacks are.

BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

There are several holiday traditions mentioned in today's CK both on Page 3 and on Page 4.

Look through the rest of today's paper for stories, photos and ads that mention traditions people enjoy once a year. Find one you have never tried and would like to, and write a brief essay explaining why.

A quick holiday guide to family entertainment

One pleasant tradition at holiday time is live entertainment for the family. Whether you're trying to fit that into a free spot in a busy schedule or looking for a new version of an old favorite, here are some possibilities across the region:

You can find live links to schedules and ticket information at ColoradoNIE.com:

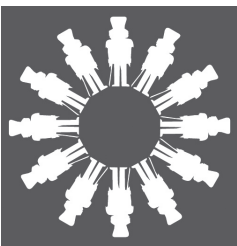
The Nutcracker

Littleton Dance Academy and Littleton Youth Ballet: Colorado Heights University. Dec. 6 and 7, matinees and evenings <http://littletonyouthballet.tix.com>

Moscow Ballet: Memorial Hall, Pueblo, Dec. 10, 7 pm; Avalon Theater, Grand Junction Dec 11, 7 pm; Denver Paramount Theatre, Denver, Dec 12, 7 pm, Dec 13, 1 and 7 pm <http://www.nutcracker.com/buy-tickets>



DanceCenter Noi



Ryan Bergman

Colorado Ballet with Colorado Ballet Orchestra: Ellie Caulkins Opera House, now through Dec. 27, matinees and evenings www.ColoradoBallet.org

Colorado Conservatory of Dance: Pinnacle Charter School Performing Arts, Denver, Dec 13, 14, 19, 20, 21. Dec 19 is a "sensory performance." Matinees and evenings. <http://ccdance.org>

A Christmas Carol

DCPA Christmas Carol: The Stage Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, now through Dec 28. Evenings and weekend matinees <http://www.denvercenter.org/shows>



Scrooge's Holiday Flight: Boulder's aerial dance company, Frequent Flyers Productions, takes the traditional "Christmas Carol" and adapts it for low-flying trapeze, stilts, hoop and aerial fabric. Dec 12-14. <http://www.frequentflyers.org>

Handel's Messiah

The Colorado Symphony and Colorado Symphony Chorus: Boettcher Concert Hall, Sat. Dec 13, 7:30 pm, Sun. Dec. 14, 1 pm <http://www.coloradosymphony.org/Tickets>



The Boulder Messiah Chorale and Orchestra Sing-along: St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder, Sat. Dec 20, 7 pm, Sun. Dec. 21, 2 and 7 pm <http://messiahsingalong.org/>

Colorado Bach Ensemble: First United Methodist Church, Fort Collins, Dec 21, 7:30 pm; Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, Sun. Dec. 22, 7:30 pm <http://www.coloradobachensemble.org/handels-messiah-2/>

Teachers!

It is time to register for the Colorado Literacy conference!

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Brainteaser



On this day in 1886, Clarence Birdseye, founder of the first frozen food company, was born, so our answers this week will begin with "F." (*Don't know what that stands for? Let it go!*)

1. Bird used as a croquet mallet in "Alice in Wonderland"
2. Nation that lies between Sweden and Russia
3. The tallest and most famous mountain in Japan
4. Colorado State University is here.
5. Mr. Tumnus in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"
6. A group of instruments, like woodwinds or brass
7. In 1800, he invented the first successful steamboat.
8. Type of weasel known for hunting squirrels in treetops
9. Mascot of a college that is just north of Colorado Springs
10. He wrote the "Black Stallion" series of novels.

(answers on Page Four)

ANCIENT ENEMIES MEET AGAIN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

P.J. Hoover tells a story of ancient history and revenge in "Tut: The Story of my Immortal Life."



By Adam Hangland, 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial

In this tale, King Tut of ancient Egypt is stuck in Washington D.C., doomed to repeat eighth grade over and over again.

Many years ago, when he was still the ruler of Egypt, his evil uncle, Horemheb, tried to kill him, but instead, the two were made immortal by the gods, which means they will live forever.

Even though it is now the 21st century, Horemheb still wants the throne of Egypt to be his, and he will stop at nothing to get it.

So Horemheb and his ruthless Cult of Set are out to get Tut.

Will Tut be able to evade his uncle?

And on top of everything else, will he be able to survive eighth grade?

P.J. Hoover has created a magnificent book in "Tut: The Story of my Immortal Life."

It starts a little slow, but as I

neared the end, I found myself using all my self-control to not flip to the back of the book to find out what happens.

The way the author included the gods from ancient Egypt to explain things happening in the book really made the novel more interesting.

Two different eras and ways of life collided in a way that was very enjoyable. For instance, things we consider normal like eating Chinese

takeout would be enhanced by having little stone servants tend to Tut's every need.

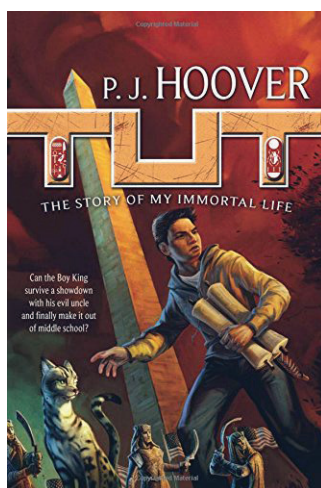
P.J. Hoover entranced me with the mix of modern structure and ancient magic included in this story.

For example, it combined the structure of going to school and of everyday life with little bits of

magic, such as plants growing feet in seconds, or beetles mysteriously appearing and scurrying around the floor.

If you are a fan of "The Kane Chronicles" by Rick Riordan, I would definitely suggest you read this book.

If you are looking for a story full of action and twists and turns, pick up a copy of "Tut: The Story of my Immortal Life," by P.J. Hoover.



TRADITION IS ANNUAL FAMILY CELEBRATION

The eight-day festival of Hanukkah doesn't occur on the same dates each year.



By Samantha Goldin, 11, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

Last year it began on Thanksgiving, while this year it starts Tuesday, Dec. 16, at sundown and ends the following Wednesday.

I'm in charge of the decorations in my family. I set up the fireplace with snowflakes and the presents.

I put the dreidel lights out front, and the menorah on the window sill and kitchen counter.

A menorah is a nine-branched candle holder that is lit during the eight days of Hanukkah.

The holiday is eight days long because when the Macabees went to light the eternal light in the temple after a war, they only had enough oil to last for one day.

The miracle was that oil lasted for eight nights instead

of one, so that, by the time it ran out, they had more and so the lights never went out.

This is why the menorah has eight branches.

The ninth one is the helper candle and you light that one first. From there, you light the candles from newest to oldest.

This year my family will celebrate Hanukkah with my dad's side of the family while we vacation in Mexico, and with my mom's side of the family here in

Denver.

Every year, either my family or my grandparents host this wonderful event.

First, we light the candles, then eat a delicious dinner, involving potato latkes, brisket, and some scrumptious strawberry Jell-o.

After everyone is finished, we gather

around the fireplace, and open our mysterious gifts.

We eat dessert, then we hang out and then unfortunately everyone must go.

This big celebration only happens one night out of the eight; the other seven are more casual, where, after dinner we open presents, and get ready for another day.



photo/Samantha Goldin

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nextGen
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Brain teaser Solution

(see Page Three)

- 10 right - Wow! 7 right - Great! 5 right - Good
3 right - See you next time!
9. falcon (USFA) 10. (Walter) Farley
7. (Robert) Fulton 8. fisher
4. Fort Collins 5. Jaun 6. family
1. flamingo 2. Finland 3. Mt. Fuji (Fujityama)

