



CK Reporter of the Week
Katie Hangland, Centennial

Newest 'Panda' is father-friendly



than you are now," the audience knows that Po is on another epic journey to become the true Dragon Warrior.

Po does this with the help of his fathers, both natural and adopted, as well as help from others.

Through many battle scenes and much comedy, we learn about panda asthma, we witness father and son playing with Master Rhino's battle armor, we observe how pandas eat a dumpling "snacklace," we discover a secret panda village learning kung fu, we experience an awkward father-son reunion, and we learn what it is to be a true panda.

The official movie website (www.dream-works.com/kungfupanda) has lots of fun things to do for Kung Fu panda fans, including extra videos, five online games including Kung Fu Panda Minecraft World, an interactive mobile game, and exclusive downloadable content.

I really enjoyed this movie because it is funny, action-packed, and very entertaining. I highly recommend it for kids of all ages.

"Kung Fu Panda 3" is the latest in the series, an animated 3D movie by DreamWorks, and all of the main kung fu fighters from the previous two movies are back, including Po (*Jack Black*), Master Shifu (*Dustin Hoffman*) and the legendary Furious Five.

The story is about Po, also known as the Dragon Warrior, but two new characters are introduced:

Po's father, Li Shan (*Bryan Cranston*), finds

his son.

Kai (*J.K. Simmons*) is a power-hungry warrior in the Spirit Realm who comes back to Earth to take the *chi*, or life force, from all who oppose him.

Kai has spent 500 years absorbing his power, and Po must take all that he has learned and will learn if he wants to defeat this master warrior.

When Master Shifu says to Po, "If you only do what you can do, you will never be more



By Ben Vanourek,
10, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

Grabenstein scores with thrill-packed sequel

Kyle and his teammates are back in the funny, quirky sequel to Chris Grabenstein's bestseller, "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library."

Now, in "Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics," they must reclaim their winning title from the earlier game; but this time, against bookworms from all over the country

"Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics" takes place a couple of months after the first book.

Kyle and his friends are now celebrities and star in the Lemoncello commercials, but not everything is going well.

Charles Chilton, a bookworm and smart aleck who lost in the library escape game, has organized a protest with his mom against the Lemoncello Library. He believes libraries should be "no fun" and is determined to shut down the library.

At the same time, Mr. Lemoncello has been receiving complaints from all over from bookworms who want to compete against Kyle and his friends.

Teams are chosen from the other regions and the Library Olympics begin.

However, something suspicious is going on. Books are missing from the library and they can't find the thief.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Chilton has gathered more people for the protest and is gaining power over the library.

Between figuring out overwhelming challenges, all the participants will have to band together to get to the bottom of the mystery.

It's not just a game anymore. Can Mr. Lemoncello find the thief, stop the Chiltons, and determine the real winners of the games; all before everything goes out of control?

This is a realistic, fantastic, thrilling novel that is as good as its predecessor.

It makes you feel as if you were in the book because it allows you to see the riddles that the contestants were given and the answers once you've read further.

However, as with most sequels, you need to have read the first book at least once, though, if you need a refresher, there is some explaining and redundancy.

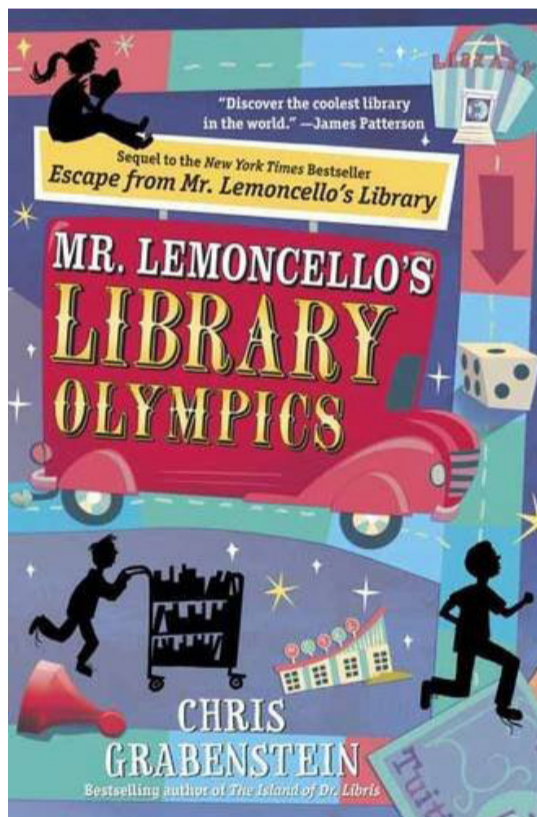
The novel has a very big and unexpected plot twist that is surrounded by tons of emotional moments and clues.

This book keeps you on the edge of your seat and is action-packed, a great book with many surprises and puzzling challenges, especially with its quick start and hilarious jokes.

It's very detailed when describing how things look and sound, along with having very different and individual personalities for each of the characters, which helped me visualize the book.


This 278 page book is best for 8-12 year olds as middle-schoolers might think the plot is lacking and kiddish, but there are some harder words that you may need to look up.

The next time you're online or at a bookstore, be sure to check out "Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics" (after you read "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library," of course.)



By Kayla Mitchiner,
11, a CK Reporter
from Golden

Summer Plans



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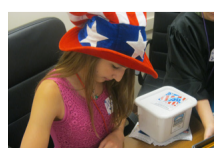
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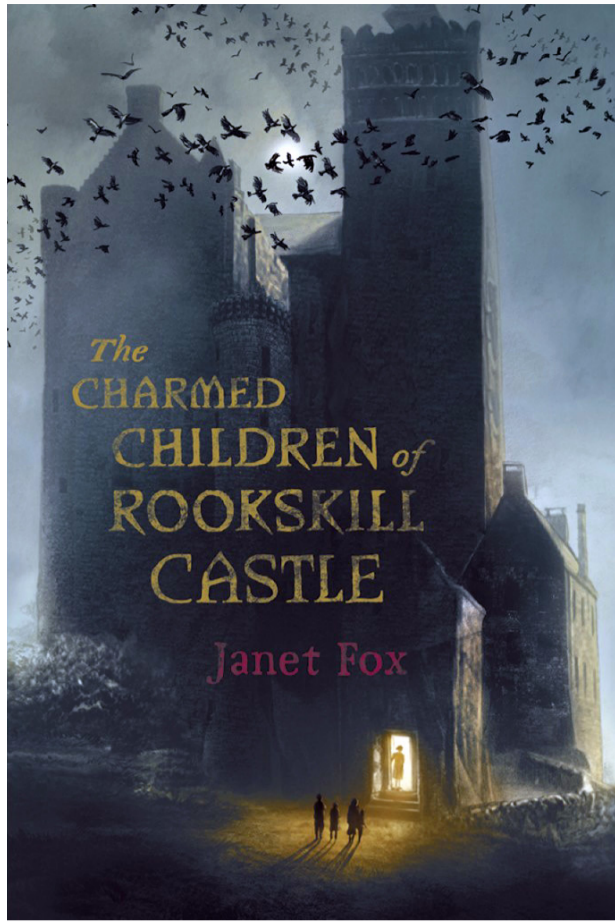
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 Young Americans
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Good novel struggles to find right age group



“The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle,” by Janet Fox, is both a story of children torn from their homes during the most devastating war in history, and also a story of charms, magic, mystery, and ghosts, subjects that take the forefront in this complicated and spooky tale of something more frightening than war.

Kat Bateson is one of many children sent away from London during the bombings in World War II, and is charged with protecting her siblings while they reside at Rookskill Castle, a home for children like the Batesons who have been sent away for safety.

She is determined to do her job well, keeping the younger ones out of trouble and in school while staying her father’s “logical girl.”

Kat meets Peter, an American boy who wound up in London at the wrong time. Together they discover the youngsters need to be protected from more than frostbite and missed lessons.

Determined to prove that logic will always rule, she tries again and again to discount the strange occurrences, but it is obvious that many things are awry at this quaint Scottish castle.

It is up to Kat and Peter to find out who (or what) is causing the strange noises at night,

the appearance of spy equipment just outside, and the seemingly empty children who wander the castle.

This novel presents the idea “what if there was something even worse than the war” in an enthralling way that surprises and thrills.

Though an amazing and potentially “5 out of 5” star book, I can’t recommend “The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle” for everyone.

It seems to aim itself towards younger readers, but quickly turns dark, and, for this reason would probably not be suitable for the average child under 9.

To all over that age, however, it would make an enjoyable read, though possibly not as engaging for someone of a higher reading level.

However, for those who have not completely let go of magic, or wish they had not done so, this is the book for you.



By Thandi Glick, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

Pinkerton: Civil War hero without a uniform

The United States in the 1860’s was a crazy world of rebellion, gangs, robberies, and murderers.

Who was there to silence the foes and restore order to the U.S.A.?

None other than Allan Pinkerton, Abraham Lincoln’s elite spymaster.

The book “Lincoln’s Spymaster,” by Samantha Seiple, is informative, action packed, and, at parts, tear-jerking.

Pinkerton was born into a poor family in Scotland and was a part of an organization called the Chartists who wanted equal rights and fair working conditions for all Scottish workers.

However, protests sometimes got Pinkerton into hot water and before he knew it, he was a wanted man.

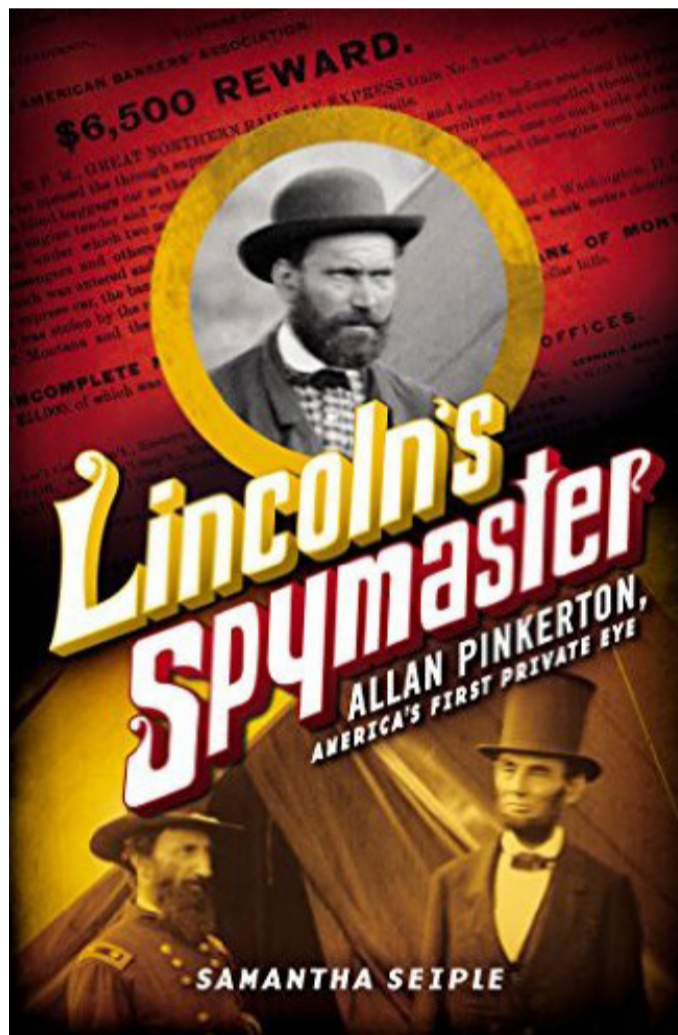
He fled Scotland to America with his wife, Joan. Seiple’s description of Pinkerton’s early life helped establish Pinkerton’s hard working and determined personality.

Once in the U.S., he came to Illinois to become a cooper (someone who makes wooden barrels and buckets).

Later, he discovered that his true passion was detective work.

Pinkerton went to Chicago to join the police force, and soon after, opened his own detective agency.

Pinkerton’s National Detective Agency became well known and he was hired to pro-



tect soon-to-be-President Abraham Lincoln.

There was a plot to murder Lincoln in Baltimore before his inaugural address. Pinkerton, who had traveled to Baltimore to investigate, warned Lincoln in time and was able to prevent it.

Winning Lincoln’s trust, Pinkerton went on to bust Confederate plans, capture wanted criminals, and help President Lincoln throughout the Civil War.

Seiple intertwines Pinkerton’s legacy and heroic sacrifice well and I enjoyed the description of his commitment to the Union.

Based on the incredible true story of the American hero Allan Pinkerton, I give this book 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Readers ages nine and up who want to uncover an unsung hero of the American 1860’s will be entertained by Lincoln’s Spymaster and the guts and grit of Allan Pinkerton.



By Lincoln Boyd, 11, a CK Reporter from Louisville

Quest story blends realistic animals, adventure

Foxes are known for being tricky and sly, mysterious and cunning. However, they must learn their secrets of survival some way or another.

“Foxcraft: The Taken” by Inbali Iserles captures this thought skillfully.

This book is a great read for students nine to twelve years of age.

Isla is a young fox who lives with her family. She enjoys exploring with her brother, Pirie, and is happy to have the company of her family.

One day, there is an event that changes her life tremendously.

She finds her den covered in flames and eerie foxes.

Isla has no choice but to escape into the world of the furless -- humans.

The young fox must learn the secrets of the foxes, known as foxcraft, if she wants to survive in her new, ruthless environment.

“Foxcraft: The Taken” is a book that manages to successfully capture the reader in its story of adventure; you join Isla in her quest to find her family, and learn the secrets of foxcraft.

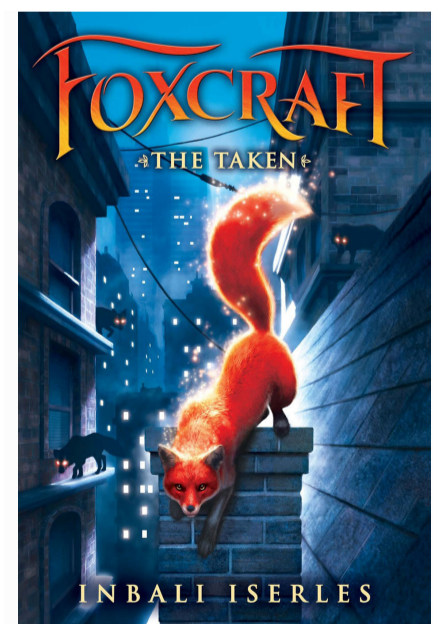
This story mixes the adventures of realistic, normal animals with a drop of its own lore.

The young fox not only has to master navigating and surviving the city, but she has to learn the history of her race as well as her fellow canines.

Will Isla, the young fox, be able to find her family?



By Jasmine Douglas, 11, a CK Reporter from Thornton



Rover’s three-month Mars mission now up to 12 years



When the Mars rover Opportunity touched down on the Red Planet on January 24, 2004, it, and its twin, Spirit, were only expected to explore for 90 days.

But Spirit had spirit, and kept taking samples and sending data until 2010 before finally falling silent.

And Opportunity must have seen even greater op-

portunities, because it’s still rolling across the Martian surface 12 years later, sending back plenty of data besides the photographs from which graphic designers at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory put together this interplanetary mash-up selfie.

Opportunity has been tooling around in the Endeavor Crater’s Marathon Valley, and has, indeed, covered 26.5

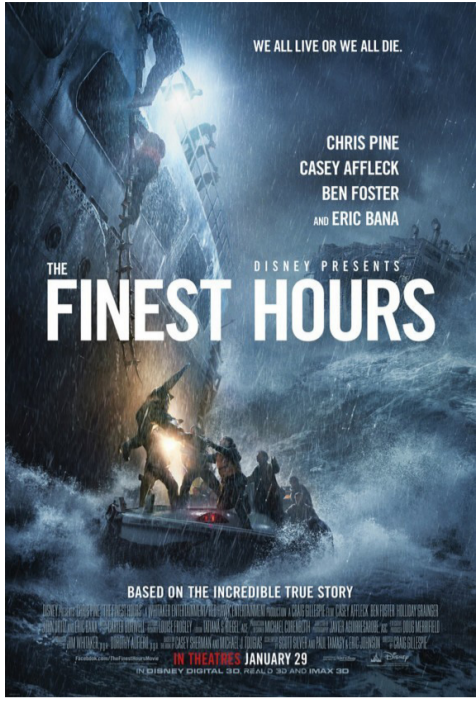
miles in its exploration.

Over the years, NASA has not only learned a lot about Mars from Opportunity, but also about how to keep a rover alive and healthy, such as steering it into breezy places so dust doesn’t collect on its solar panels.

That knowledge has helped keep its other probe, Curiosity, a mere baby of three years, going.

illustration/jpl.nasa

Rescue at sea shows courage and character



Bernie Weber (*Chris Pine*) and Meriam (*Holiday Grainger*) are creating their wedding plans for April 16, 1952.

However, Bernie is serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, and suddenly, he and his team must head out into a storm because of a split oil tanker that is enduring a time of havoc.

The crew must get through a surf with waves sure to annihilate anything in its path.

Can Bernie provide the leadership needed, or will he let down his crew members and friends and fail to rescue the crew of the sinking ship?

The film is shot beautifully with low, high, and even below shots.

The way the director, Craig Gillespie, captured the perfect expressions of the cast was phenomenal!

All the acting was highly professional and perfect for the story. Each actor made their character come to life.

For example, when the rescue team attempts to save the broken tanker, the town is extremely wor-

ried about them succeeding and bringing home everyone.

Meriam and the rest of the town's citizens make their emotions come alive and that is what made this movie spectacular and deep.

I enjoyed every minute of this exciting, moving story.

It made me think of the moral, that the minute you think of giving up, you should think, instead, of why you held on so long.

This PG-13 movie, "The Finest Hours," is an inspiring true story that will bring you so close to the edge of your seat, you may even fall off.



By Reed Haymons, 10, a CK Reporter from Englewood

NASA REPORT

NASA launches problem-solving contest for kids

NASA has announced a competition for students in grades 6 to 12 to solve four challenges between now and May 2. You can enter the competition as an individual or as part of a team, inside or outside of school.

MISSION ImaginaTION, sponsored by Texas Instruments, is offering prizes that include access to a NASA scientist or engineer, TI equipment for every team member and more.

And of course, there are bragging rights!

Each team or individual needs an adult sponsor. NASA has provided a great educator guide to help teams get started: Tips on scientific inquiry, judging criteria and helpful ideas to build a winning entry!

You'll use a "Design Notebook" to complete each challenge. Challenges can be uploaded one at a time, or you can wait until all four are complete.

Design Challenge One: Food on the ISS - How would you resupply a human mission to Mars? If not resupply, then what? Design a plan for feeding astronauts on their journey to Mars (and back home!)

Scientists have already made great improvement in the food used in the early days of space travel.



Astronauts on Expedition 20 had a variety of fresh and packaged foods, some of it floating! But a Mars mission would be hard to resupply than a mission in Earth orbit. Can you design a way to keep them fed and happy?

Today, astronauts enjoy a greater variety of meals, snacks and drinks. Most come in one of three forms:

Freeze Dried (needs water to rehydrate), Thermostabilized (heat and eat) and Natural Form Foods (such as fresh fruits and vegetables.) But what other forms might food take to get people to Mars?

When thinking about what you would design to win this challenge, you'd want to keep in mind: Weight (it costs \$5,000 to \$10,000 per pound to send anything to ISS), Space (even though the ISS is large, there is very little living space), Nutritious (astronauts need to stay healthy and strong to do their jobs) and finally, Delicious (like anyone else, astronauts crave a variety of flavors.)

Get moving! The next Challenge is due to be announced any time now!

Design Challenge Two will be available in February: Keep it clean

Design Challenge Three will be available in March: Cabin fever

Design Challenge Four will be available in April: Shields up!

For more information, catch the link at ColoradoNIE.com

- Dana Plewka is Educational Services Manager for the Denver Post and Executive Editor of Colorado Kids (NASA image)

Sudoku

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



Brainteaser

On this day in 1925, a dogsled carrying medicine to halt a diphtheria epidemic arrived in Nome, Alaska, inspiring the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race, so our answers this week will begin with B for Balto.

1. It's the capital of Belgium and, yes, where the sprouts come from.
2. Another name for the turkey vulture
3. The round-headed kid in the comics who has trouble flying a kite
4. Herb used in Italian cooking, particularly in pesto sauce
5. World War II anti-tank weapon, one of the earliest rocket-propelled grenade launchers
6. Number system used in computers, using only the digits 1 and 0
7. County surrounded by Broomfield, Larimer, Weld, Jefferson, Gilpin and Grand counties.
8. Author of the Oz books, including "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"
9. The straits that separate Alaska from Russia
10. Permanent mark on a steer or horse telling who it belongs to
(answers on Page Four)

Skin cancer in younger women linked to use of indoor tanning beds

The connection between tanning beds and skin cancer has gotten another boost, this time from a study at the University of Minnesota.

Health experts have been concerned that they are seeing skin cancer in more young people, and particularly in women under 50, in recent years.

They suspected indoor tanning beds, which appeared when today's 50 year olds were about 14.

When tanning beds first went on the market, people thought it was a chance to tan without the harmful effects of natural sunlight. But not everyone was convinced.

The researchers in this latest study found 681 people between 25 and 49 who had skin cancer, and 654 who did not.

One of the questions they asked them about was use of indoor tanning beds: If they used them, at what age they started, and how often they tanned.

After they had gathered the data and compared results, they found that women who used tanning beds before 25, and used them often, were between 2 and 6 times more likely to develop skin cancer.

They didn't find a similar connection among men, they said, because men don't use tanning beds as often.



Photo/ Alexis O'Toole

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

Opportunity Rover

Indoor Tanning

NASA's Contest

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

Tales of the Ancient World

PHILEMON AND BAUCIS

Philemon and Baucis were an old couple who lived in a tiny cottage in the land of Phrygia. They had little, but they had each other, and they never paused to think they could be unhappy, for they had, in each other, everything they could ever want.

One day, just as they were about to begin their modest dinner, an old man came to their door, with a younger man who seemed to be his son. "We are seeking shelter for the night," the old man said, "but none of your neighbors will give us hospitality."

Philemon and Baucis opened their door wide and invited the travelers inside. "Here is some bread and cheese, and some olives," Baucis said, as she pulled out a bench for them to sit on. "We have already eaten, so please enjoy yourselves."

The travelers could see that the loaf of bread was uncut, and the table had no bits of food to show that anyone had eaten dinner there, but they broke the bread and enjoyed the couple's hospitality.

While they ate, Baucis took a small piece of meat from the larder and sliced it to cook for her guests, while Philemon mixed dark wine with water.

"This is only a very plain wine," he apologized. "Not really fit for company, but I hope you will accept it."

As he drank from his own cup, however, he realized that it was very good wine indeed. "Well, each jug is a little different," he said. "I think you have brought us luck, though, for this is far better than I had expected!"

The travelers smiled as Baucis brought out some fruit and nuts and placed them on the table. She went back to finish cooking the meat, and Philemon refilled their cups.

As he did so, he noticed something very strange indeed. Although it was only a very small jug, and he had already poured out several cups of wine, it was still quite full.

Philemon went out to the kitchen. "I do not know who these guests are," he said to his wife, "but I think we must serve them our best."

"We would do so, of course," Baucis replied.

"I mean that we should make a special feast," he said. "But we have nothing special at all, except the goose we had been saving."

"If you feel we should serve them the goose, then we should," Baucis replied. "You butcher it, and I will put on water to scald its feathers."

Philemon went to the yard to catch the goose, but it flapped its wings and ran about, escaping the old man each time he was close to grabbing it.

At last the goose ran into the house, where it flew up onto the bench between the two travelers and laid its head on the old man's lap, looking up at him as if to ask for his mercy.

Philemon stopped in the doorway, and Baucis froze where she had been about to put a plate on the table. They both stared at the goose, and then at the two travelers.

The young man laughed. "Your goose has given us away!"

And at that moment, the old couple realized they were in the presence of Jupiter and his messenger, Mercury. Philemon and Baucis fell to their knees and bowed down to the floor, but the gods reached down and gently pulled them to their feet.

"You have nothing to fear," Jupiter assured them. "We came to see if it was necessary to destroy this wicked land. We wanted to meet its people for ourselves."

"None of them would even speak to us," Mercury said. "At each house we visited, they slammed the door in our faces, until we came here."

"Come with us," Jupiter said, and the two gods lead them outside, and then up the steep hill across from their cottage. As they walked, it began to rain, and as they climbed higher, the rain came faster.

At last, when they stood on the top of the hill, they looked back and saw that the entire valley was flooded, and all who lived there were surely drowned.

Philemon and Baucis wept, for even their wicked neighbors deserved some pity. But they saw their own cottage standing alone, dry and untouched amid the water.

And as they watched, it began to grow. Its mud walls turned to marble and its wooden posts turned to golden columns, and it grew larger until it was a great temple.

"Now," Jupiter said. "What can we do to repay your hospitality? Name anything, and it is yours."

"Only let us serve in that temple which was our home," Baucis said. "We will be happy to devote our lives to your service."

But Philemon had one more wish. "We have loved each other so many years," he said. "Can you arrange it so that I never have to bury my dear wife, and that she will never have to see my death, either?"

Thus it was that Philemon and Baucis went to serve Jupiter in his temple for many long, happy years, until one day, Philemon looked at Baucis and saw that her face was growing brown and her fingers had grown long, and her hair was turning to green leaves.

As he saw this happening to her, she, too, saw it happening to him. They clasped their hands together, and Baucis said, "I love you, dear husband," and Philemon, too, declared his love for her, just before the bark formed over their mouths.

And ever after, when pilgrims came to pray at the temple of Jupiter, they stopped outside to marvel at the two trees outside the temple doors, a linden and an oak, growing from a single set of roots.

retold by Mike Peterson, c. 2005 - illustrated by Dylan Meconis, c. 2005

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



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

- Brussels
- buzzard
- (Charlie) Brown
- basil
- bazooka
- binary
- Boulder
- (L. Frank) Baum
- Bering (Straits)
- brand

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