



CK Reporter of the Week
Essie Lamar, Denver

When holidays end, training begins

Receiving a puppy for the holidays can be a great surprise. Other times, it can be a disaster.

If you got a puppy as a present, you should have also gotten the supplies you need for your pet, and budgeted correctly so the cost of owning a pet doesn't take your family by surprise.

It requires a huge amount of responsibility to be a pet owner.

Dr. Kerry Hoobler-Riek, a veterinarian at Countryside Animal Hospital in Fort Collins says that, "Owning any pet can be a 12 to 15 year commitment. Having a dog is a *big* responsibility and you have to plan your life around taking care of them."

It is important to make sure you can care for your new pet and that you have enough responsibility to do so.

While your new pet is adjusting to your home, and even after it has been in your family for a while, you need to make sure you give them attention and spend time at home with them.

You need to keep them fit and on a good diet for their needs based on age or breed.

It is also important to recognize the cost of any pet before you make the decision to get one.

Dr. Hoobler-Riek says an important question to ask yourself and your family is, "Can you afford to adopt and care for a puppy right now?"

If the answer is no, it would probably be best to wait until a more appropriate time to adopt a pet.

If your family budget doesn't include plans for a new pet, costs can spiral out of control and sometimes unexpected health costs might pop up.

You might be ready for your new pet, but is your home ready?

There are a few essentials that are required to own a dog.

Dr. Hoobler-Riek says, "You should have a crate, food and food bowls, leash, toys, etc. The house should also be puppy-proofed – just like having a baby crawl or toddle around, you need to keep things out of reach of the puppy."

Without these essentials at hand and puppy-proofed furniture, it is difficult to properly care for your puppy or dog.

It is just as important to talk to a veterinarian for advice and tips to help care for



"Having a dog is a *big* responsibility and you have to plan your life around taking care of them." -- Dr. Kerry Hoobler-Riek photo/Donna Baker

your new pet.

Dr. Hoobler-Riek states, "Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian for the first couple of days after adopting your pet. The veterinarian will look for any health concerns, advise you on vaccine schedules, nutrition, heartworm testing and prevention, parasite deworming, and flea and tick preventatives."

Going to the vet's office will help to treat your dog properly, now and in the future. It can also help answer your questions.

Adopting a puppy in winter can be a struggle for both the pet and the owner.

Potty training is a long process and during winter, it can be cold and even snowing, yet you still have to take your pup outside.

Not all the information about your dog that you need to know is on the Internet. It is important to get records from either the shelter or breeder.

Dr. Hoobler-Riek says, "Take this paperwork with you to your vet appointment. Get dog advice from your veterinarian, not from 'Dr. Google!'"

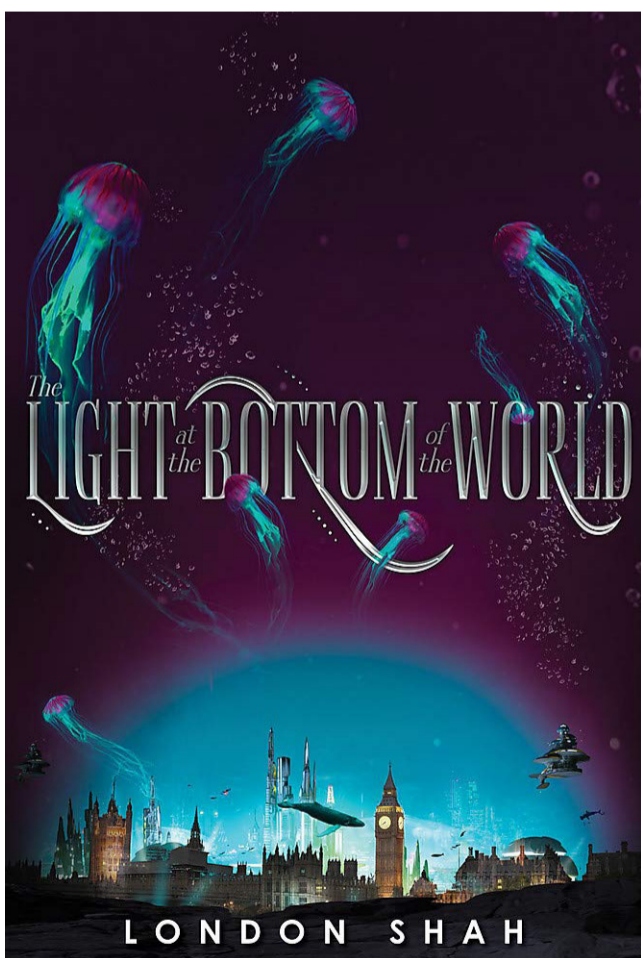
It is important to know what medication your pet might have previously been on and its past medical history, so that you don't repeat procedures that your dog already has had.

Signing up for classes can be helpful to take care of your dog. Dr. Hoobler-Riek says, "Sign up for obedience classes very soon after adopting your puppy. There are 'puppy kindergarten' classes, or if your dog is older, a beginning obedience class will help you and your dog learn good habits right away."



By Avery MacKenzie,
14, a CK Reporter
from Fort Collins

Interesting story leaves reader guessing



"The Light at the Bottom of the World," by London Shah, takes place in the future in the year 2099 and is about a girl named Leyla McQueen who lives in an underwater world of London.

Leyla's father is arrested by the English government and Leyla decides she must do something.

Leyla, 16, leaves behind all of her familiar securities in London and risks everything, including her own life to go find and save her father.

Throughout the book, Leyla meets new friends who help her with her mission.

As we start to learn more about the numerous conflicts between characters, the reader discovers how each character is contributing to the rescue of Leyla's father.

Parts of this book definitely kept me on edge, however there were a few times when I couldn't follow entirely, and I had to go back a couple of pages and reread to find the information I was missing to appropriately understand what was happening.

I wish that this book were a little bit more detailed as I felt as though the author skipped some important aspects of the story.

I had many questions like, How do they live here? Has the human race adapted to this?

Is this a worldwide habitat?

Most of my questions were not answered, but

I made my assumptions of how the characters in the future world survived.

If you decide to read this book, you should be a fan of futuristic sci-fi and dystopic fiction where you, as the reader, have to speculate.

I prefer books where I do not have to speculate, it

makes the book much easier to understand and I am not a huge sci-fi fan.

But if you are, I would recommend her book.



By Addy Vandel,
12, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

I wish that this book were a little bit more detailed, as I felt as though the author skipped some important aspects of the story.

From the Creators at 

Two Totally Awesome Activity Books!



Meet the Koala
MIND-BOGGLING ANIMAL PUZZLES
A Kid's Guide to Drawing Cartoon Animals

Different personalities form firm friendship

You've often heard people say "Nobody's perfect," and Jen Wang's "Stargazing" really brings that out.

Through incredible drawings, dialogue, and storytelling, Jen Wang brings her creativity to life on paper.

Using parts of her own childhood, Wang tells the story of a girl who erases her pressure to be perfect and finds her true passions all through an unlikely friend.

Moon and Christine's relationship gives the book a sense of finding freedom, making "Stargazing" a wonderful read.

Their relationship becomes strong and both girls discover new things about themselves.

They realize that even when life throws challenges at them, they will be there to get each other through.

Christine has parents who expect a lot of her.

She has a little sister, lives in Los Angeles, and loves to watch with her dad when the Ravens play.

She takes Chinese classes with her friends and has a good violin group.

However, she has never painted her nails or used makeup, and is constantly studying, no matter how good her grades are.

She escapes her all-perfect world through music.

I liked how the author made her a little lost. It is something that affects her throughout the story, and it adds a little extra drama.

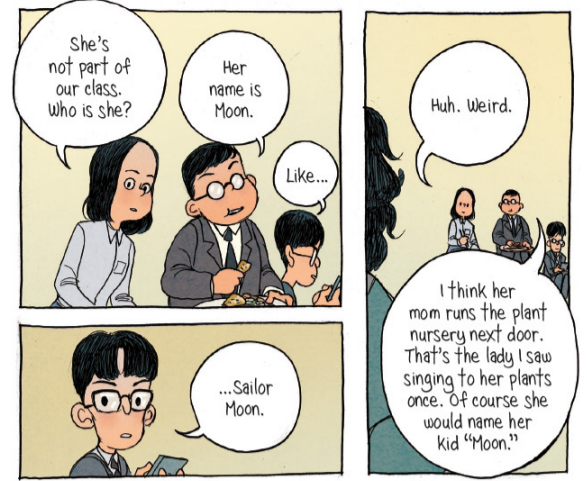
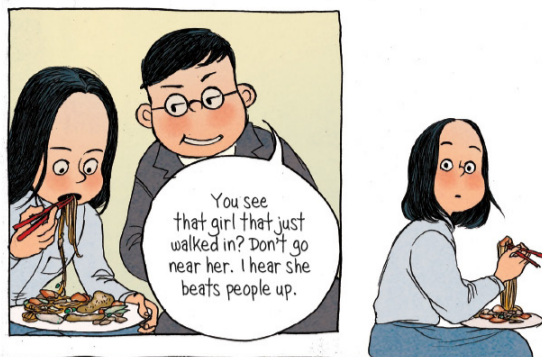
You can tell that Christine tries to believe in herself, but it can be hard. She is pretty much constantly pushing herself, and she doesn't notice she isn't enjoying life at the fullest.

I really loved the brilliant character Wang made.

Plot Twist!

Here comes Moon, the exact opposite of Christine. Moon sure turns Christine's world upside down!

She is impulsive, a dreamer, confident, artistic and most surprising, Buddhist.



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Moon and her mother also stick out in their neighborhood for having money problems.

However, Moon and Christine's relationship gives the book a sense of finding freedom, making "Stargazing" a wonderful read.

It is good that, in the book, Moon and Christine make a perfect team, helping each other learn new things.

Moon introduces Christine to K-pop and dancing, while Christine helps Moon be comfortable with her friends and community.

They sign up to dance in the talent show together.

Heck, Christine even paints her nails for the first time with Moon!

I loved Jen Wang's other graphic novel, "The Prince and the Dressmaker," so I was excited when I saw this book, and my favorite thing about "Stargazing" is how it met all of my expectations.

Moon and Christine change each other's lives!

It does get intense. Moon gets violent, Christine's parents worry she's going to lose herself and forget to become successful, and Christine worries about her friend, especially when she sees that Moon is more popular with everyone than she is.

"Stargazing" is a great read.

The details are good, and you can tell that Jen Wang put some thought into it.

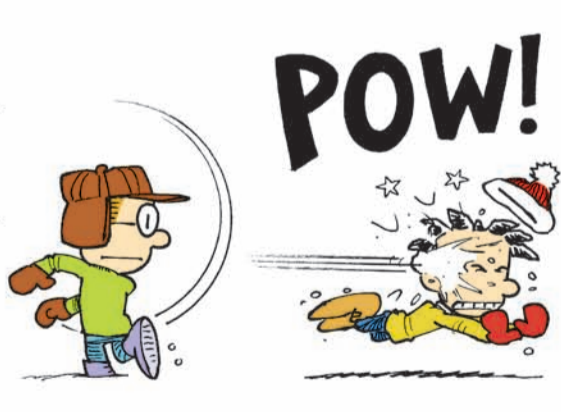
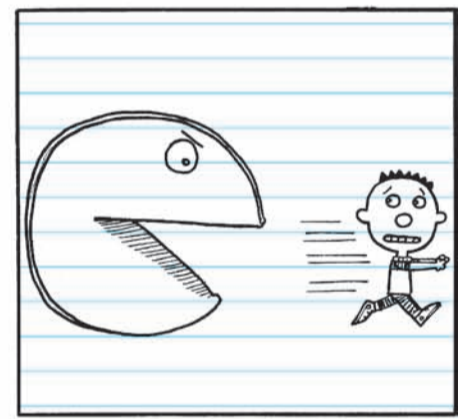
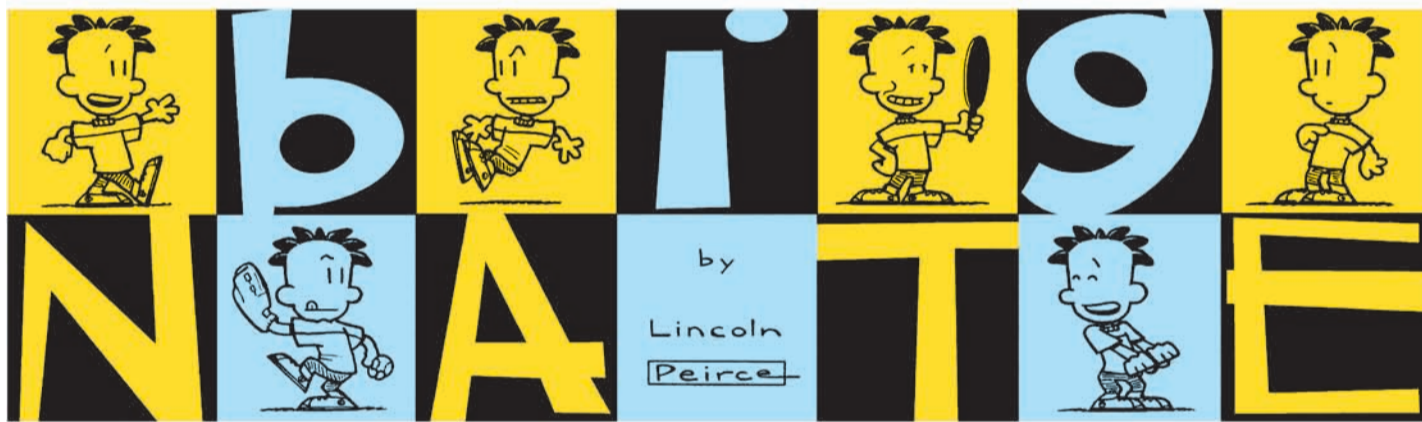
Even though everyone should be reading this, I still think kids grade 5 and up would enjoy this book more.

It's intense and could bring up questions, but otherwise read on.

This book is incredible and another masterpiece from Jen Wang!



By Sophia Levy, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver



What's up (up in the sky) for 2020?

This year's astronomical highlights began Friday with the Quadrantids meteor shower.

It's over now, though you might find a few leftover shooting stars lingering in the night sky tonight.

However, the Moon won't be cooperating, since it's working itself up to Friday's full moon, the first of 13 we'll enjoy this year.

The Moon will be more cooperative with showers later in the

year, at a crescent each time that won't light up the skies and make it hard to see the half dozen great opportunities to lay back and enjoy the light show.

You don't need a telescope to enjoy most of the events of the night sky, though you may get a better look at Mars and Venus this year than other times, since they'll both be a little closer, showing off for Earth-bound observers.

What you might want to do is go to the links on Page Four and check out the articles listing major astronomical events.

Then plan a time when you can get away from city lights and truly see the night sky.

For instance, why not celebrate the last week of summer vacation and one of the year's top meteor showers, the Perseids, with an August 12 camping trip? photo/ Cjp24

Assembly is complicated, expensive toy isn't

Rizmo is an extraterrestrial alien and a morphing/evolving toy. I got to test it out and found out how to use this colorful, musical, toy. Always read the instructions though, otherwise, you won't be able to find out how to make this toy work correctly. This took me a long time to understand and the directions were unclear.

Overall, Rizmo is not the most interesting toy, and I don't think I would buy it if I were getting gifts for people, or for myself.

The toy is bright and colorful, with different stages of evolution.

Rizmo has three stages: Baby mode, Tail Baby mode, and Adult mode.

To reach a new stage, you have to get a certain amount of musical points and song recording, then Rizmo will evolve.

Rizmo is a bit creepy when it evolves because its eyes turn white and it starts making a low beeping noise.

To get to the evolving process, you have to spend up to an hour getting all the musical points and recordings.

It's a bit repetitive and only has 6 games to play, which doesn't change until you get to adult mode.

The few new games added onto it become bland easily.

Once you get to the overall biggest growth in Rizmo's life, Tail Baby mode to Adult mode with a few different new games, the whole point of evolving has been



achieved in around two or two-and-a-half hours and you have to have the same couple of games for the rest of the time you own the toy.

The overall purpose is evolving, but if it will only take a couple of hours, why is it worth your money?

This toy is quite expensive, with a \$60 price tag, which is not realistic for something of such a repetitive nature.

It entertained some of the other kids in my family for about a day, but they quickly lost interest in it after they learned it wasn't going to evolve any more.

Another flaw about Rizmo is that even after you achieve Adult mode -- which is as evolved as this toy gets -- it still goes into the creepy evolving stage after you reach a certain number of voice recordings and musical points.

Overall, Rizmo is not the most interesting toy, and I don't think I would buy it if I were getting gifts for people, or for myself.

This toy is interesting for the first couple of hours but becomes bland after you reach the final evolving stage.

If it had a much lower price tag then it would be worth it, but with at the price it's selling for now, I don't think that's going to happen.



By Eva Perak, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

Stone structures show a mastery of lightning

There's an old saying that "Lightning never strikes twice in the same place," but anyone who knows anything about lightning knows that isn't true.

When a cloud stores too much electricity, it's apt to look for a tall tree or building to discharge its bolt, which is why standing under a tree in a thunderstorm is a bad idea.

Lightning is also attracted to iron, which is how Benjamin Franklin invented the lightning rod: He put up a piece of iron on the top of a building, with a wire to guide the electricity harmlessly into the ground.

Now archaeologists are discovering that, more than 2,000 years before Ben Franklin, ancient people in the Hebrides Islands also knew how to attract lightning to a particular spot.

It's long been known that many of the 4,000 year old stone structures in Britain and Ireland were built with the seasons in mind, so that, for instance, the first ray of spring sun would shine through a particular spot in the rocks.

Now they've discovered that groups of circular stones in the Hebrides, the islands off the west coast of Scotland, were placed where lightning was most likely to strike, and may have been put there to attract it more often.

The large, circular stones in these formations have long since been covered in thick layers of peat moss, but using electronic probes, the archaeologists have found places where the magnetic fields in the ground had attracted lightning before the ancient people created the circular stone formations.

But it's not just a memorial saying "Lightning once struck here."

It seems that the formations made it more likely that lightning would strike there again.

Why they did this, whether it was a religious idea or scientific curiosity or both, no one knows.

But ancient Dakota people did something similar on our prairies, and it's a reminder that we should not judge people's intelligence by whether they were technically advanced.



The Calanais Standing Stones in the Hebrides are easily spotted, but the circular stones are buried in centuries of peat moss and can only be found by electronic probing. (Photo/Sid Bailey; inset map by Kelisi)



Sudoku

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

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 date in 1610, Galileo discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter, the first discovery of space objects that orbited a planet other than Earth, so our answers this week will start with "G."

1. Pennsylvania battlefield where Abraham Lincoln made a famous speech
2. The "lead" in pencils is really made from this non-toxic mineral, a form of carbon
3. This New York Yankees Hall of Fame fastballer is a Colorado Springs native and alumnus of Wasson High School.
4. This sharp-flavored root is one of the oldest spices cultivated and is used in curries, made into candy and used to flavor a popular soft drink.
5. Batman's hometown
6. Western Slope county named for an assassinated US President
7. Species of this silent, gentle vegetarian include Masai, Reticulated and Northern.
8. Mythical beast combining an eagle and a lion; Alice met one in Wonderland.
9. The major river that begins in India and flows through Bangladesh.
10. Because they found this fruit here, Viking explorers named America "Vinland."

(answers on Page Four)

Good advice for puppies is also good advice for that new kitten

The article on Page One discusses holiday puppies, but if you got a kitten instead, most of that advice about dogs is just as good for new cat owners.

If your new cat came from a shelter, you already know that responsible ownership includes neutering your pet and making sure it's had all its shots.

But, while it's rare for people to give away puppies, it's very easy to find a free kitten. If you get a cat free from someone with a litter, you still need to do your best to provide it with a long and healthy life.

That includes getting all its shots, because it is sad to see a kitten with a disease that might take its life and could easily have been prevented.

But there's something else you need to think about.

One piece of advice for puppies doesn't work very well for kittens: Dogs can learn a lot at puppy classes, but cats don't have the kind of instincts that make kitten classes a worthwhile idea.

However, you can teach your kitten to get used to the idea of walking on a leash, and of being an indoor pet. It's a new idea that -- like crate-training dogs and scooping their poop -- is catching on.

As Amy Dickinson advised in "Ask Amy" two weeks ago, letting a cat go out on its own puts songbirds in danger and makes your cat vulnerable to cars as well as to coyotes, hawks and other predators.



photo/André Karwath

Beyond These 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 CK Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter>



To read the sources for these stories

2010 Astronomy Highlights

Ancient Stones

Responsible Cat Ownership

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

Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



Western Images

Capitol Reef National Park in south-central Utah in the heart of red rock country, is filled with cliffs, canyons, domes, and bridges in the Waterpocket Fold, a nearly 100-mile long wrinkle on the Earth.

For 12,000 years, people have left a rich record of their experiences there, and, in the new book "The Capitol Reef Reader," award-winning author and photographer Stephen Trimble has put together 160 years worth of words by 50 writers, capturing the spirit of the park and its surrounding landscape through personal narratives, philosophical riffs, and historic and scientific records.

The narrative is anchored by more than 100 photographs, including pictures from Trimble's 45 years of hiking the park.

On January 16 at 7 pm at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Trimble will share some of these photos and stories as well as anecdotes from his detective work to unearth stellar pieces of writing to create a one-of-a-kind volume of this special place.

Book sale and signing to follow.

For tickets and information, go to <https://secure1.dmns.org/the-spirit-of-capitol-reef>

CK Calendar

Now until February 17

History and more! For tickets or information go to <https://secure1.dmns.org/cutting-edge-grades-4-6-2> Colorado: Portraits of Courage: Photographs by Shane Sato. See intimate color and black-and-white portraits of Japanese American veterans of World War II, including nine Colorado veterans representing the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service.

Thursday, January 9

Orchid Showcase, Denver Botanic Gardens, through February 16. This annual exhibit presents hundreds of colorful orchid blooms in the Orangery and Marnie's Pavilion. Common and rare species are featured, some even so special they must remain behind the greenhouse glass.

Friday, January 18

"Dolittle," a movie based on the Dr. Dolittle books and starring Robert Downey, Jr., opens in Denver.

Sunday, January 19

Enjoy some low-sensory time in the famous diorama halls at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, from 6 to 8 p.m., with reduced sound, increased lighting, and a supportive environment for families with sensory integration issues. Free, but registration is required. For more information, visit <https://secure1.dmns.org/family-programs>

Sunday, January 28

Middle School Teen Lounge: Sci-Fi Odyssey, 7 to 9 pm, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Sixth to eighth graders take over the Museum at this totally free event. Blast off during a sci-fi, space-themed evening as you explore the stories of a place that continues to capture imaginations and spend some time in Space Odyssey before it closes for its transformation. Includes free snacks, entertainment, and activities.

Sunday, February 2

Last day to see the Monet exhibit at the Denver Art Museum, featuring more than 120 paintings spanning Monet's entire career and focusing on the celebrated French Impressionist artist's enduring relationship with nature. A special dated and timed exhibition ticket is required and you should definitely buy yours in advance. For more information, go to <https://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/claude-monet>

Saturday, February 8

"Cutting Edge," special dissection lab for kids in grades 4-6 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Observe and perform dissections to find out how the human body functions. Dissect hearts and lungs, eyes, brains, and frogs, examine real bones, listen to your own heartbeat. For tickets and information, go to <https://secure1.dmns.org/cutting-edge-grades-4-6-2>

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Gettysburg 2. graphite 3. (Rick "Goose") Gossage 4. ginger
5. Gotham City 6. Garfield 7. giraffe 8. gryphon 9. Ganges
10. grapes

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