



CK Reporter of the Week  
Reese Ascoine, Golden

## Author urges kids to say something

For a while now, people all around have felt unrepresented and neglected in things they feel are important, or that important issues were being ignored.

We have had young people speaking out, but some adults do not support these young voices.

However, Susan Skog, the author of "Your Voice Matters: Stand Up, Speak Out", believes kids and young adults need to be supported, and that people should listen, and learn from young voices.

If you had a microphone under your chin, what would you say?

I got to sit down with her before her book signing at Tattered Cover Book Store in Littleton. (*Fun Fact: Susan Skog is from Colorado!*)

When she was asked about the stories of inspirational people in her book, she said, "I did not interview everyone. I tried and tried and tried but I couldn't snag an interview with them. So, I gathered stories from the media accounts and press sources for about a good two-thirds of my book. The others were one-on-one interviews."

Aside from the interviews, she also wrote the book because she felt that having adults standing by to help guide the young voices of the future sets up a path to success.

Skog also said that she wanted this book to actually be used and needed.

To see if that was true, she would go into classrooms and learn from the kids.

She would ask them this question: "If you had a microphone under your chin, what would you say?"

She also asked them if they wanted or needed the book.

She said there was a teen in a high school she visited who said something she would never forget.

As she was talking to the class he stood up and told her, "Our generation knows more than you might assume. Our generation has seen more than you might imagine. Our generation will do more than many will expect. However, we will need help



Susan Skog, sitting below the "thumbs up" boy in the Colorado shirt, with her new friends at the Tattered Cover, Aspen Grove. (Photo by Tattered Cover staff)

from your generation to find the right path and guide us to our success."

That statement was the push she needed to get writing her book.

She said she was drawn to being a student leader as a kid, though she never liked the idea of there being one person to lead everyone else.

"In high school, I decided to major in journalism," she said. "And I was very grateful for the women before me because they opened doors that were shut."

Skog also admitted her fear of speaking in front of people. "But," she said, "After I did it the first time, I realized how much I was needed in speaking. I haven't stopped since."

She is also a terrific interviewer who has collected stories from Asia to Africa and whose work has been featured in some of the top media in America, including The New York Times, Huffington Post and NBC Nightly News.

Now, she has spoken to almost 2,000 kids and continues to do so, letting kids know just how much their voices can impact and change the world for the better.

At her speech that day, she added a discussion with the crowd, which was made up of young people, so that they could talk with fellow audience members about advocacy and what they want to change in the world.

She also spoke about some of the inspiring voices in the book, from Mari Copeny to Greta Thunberg.

Skog talked about being the change agents for the future. "If we never did anything, how much would we regret, if we submitted to fear?"



By Sophia Levy,  
11, a CK Reporter  
from Denver

## Learning to recognize truly good friends



"Bad Best Friend," by Rachel Vail, is a wonderful, well-written book that tells the story of Niki and her apparent "best friend," Ava.

When Ms. Andry, the gym teacher, tells everyone to stand next to their best friend, however, Ava moves closer to Brittany, leaving Niki feeling abandoned and alone in front of the whole class.

But what seems to be the end of the world for Niki is actually a whole new beginning for her as she learns that she isn't just the shadow of Ava.

Further on in the book, Niki starts to meet her new-old friends that she left behind to become friends with Ava.

Niki starts to see the fun and good in them and regrets leaving them behind.

There were so many huge events in the story that I was like, "Wow! Did that really just happen?!"

We also start to understand the personality traits of Niki's little brother, Danny.

This book helped me realize how important friendship is.

I feel as if I have experienced friendship problems like these, and I suspect that many other people have experienced things like this, too.

I really learned a lot from this novel about how people change and you can't control it.

I also learned that the people you really ought to care about will always be there for you, too. No matter what, you can always count on them.

Niki learned, and so did I, that you never really lose your true friends

I really enjoyed this book.

The novel is very lifelike, and includes friend drama, boys, and the Popular Girl clique.

Middleschool will always be a roller coaster for everybody, but Niki learned, and so did I, that you never really lose your true friends and that they will always be there for you.



By Addy Vandel,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Aurora



## Writing Is Fun!

### How Would You Like To Be A Real Reporter?

Find out about all the cool benefits when you apply to be a Colorado Kids reporter at ColoradoNIE.com or by emailing [dplewka@denverpost.com](mailto:dplewka@denverpost.com).

# Introducing young people to opera



The opera was great and the cast members, starring Winona Martin (*The Cat*) and Nathan Snyder (*Miller*), really fit their roles.

They had beautiful voices and did an incredible job in singing their roles. I sat behind the orchestra, and it was really interesting to watch what they were doing. I was awed at how good they were.

The opera was great and the cast members really fit their roles. They had beautiful voices and did an incredible job.

I enjoyed the opera, but it was a little confusing; and I had read the "Puss in Boots" story!

My mom, who hadn't, was completely confused. We admitted that it would've been good for us to have read the synopsis in the program!

I didn't really understand why they said for ages three and up, because I know my cousin wouldn't have followed, and technically she was the right age.

I noticed, however, that there were other little kids in the audience, and they seemed to enjoy it, although the question and answer at the end showed that they were little confused.

The most confusing thing that popped up in the Q&A was if Puss was a boy cat or a girl cat.

In the story, Puss is referred to as a male, and in the opera they referred to him as a male, but the long hair and the higher pitched voice was a giveaway that Puss was played by a female actress.

I thought she was the perfect person for the part, but I can see why there would've been confusion.

Another confusing thing for some of the kids was if the Princess was the Queen.

The maids in the background made it a little more confusing, just because you wonder who they are, so you aren't sure who is the Princess.

Other than these confusing parts, however, the show was fabulous, and a fun show to see with family.

This was a good first opera.

The Boulder Opera Company works hard to keep this classical old art form alive.

Bravi!



"Puss in Boots," presented by the Boulder Opera Company, was a very good opera to start out with.

This was my first opera, so I didn't exactly know what to expect.

At the beginning, I was a little confused about what was happening, because there were students performing on some instruments like violin and cello.

I wasn't sure how it directly related to "Puss in Boots," but that was clarified through the performance.

Dr. Ashley Gulbranson, the Music Director, explained that what we just saw were performances from the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras.

She also told us some things about opera that were very interesting, and very comforting for me, seeing as how I knew very little.

Dr. Gulbranson told us that it is definitely okay to clap, and what to say to congratulate one of the singers.

For a male cast member, you would say, "Bravo." For a female cast member, you would say, "Brava."

For multiple cast members you would say, "Bravi."

It was helpful and made me more comfortable.

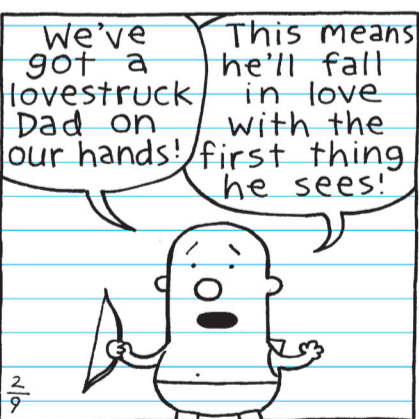
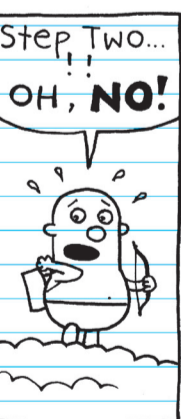
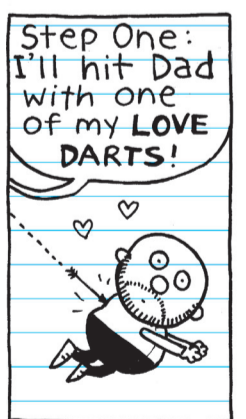
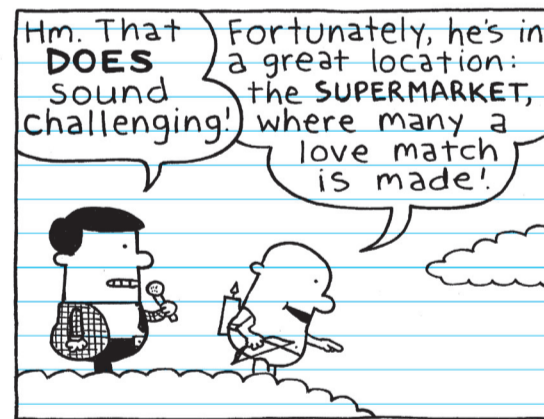
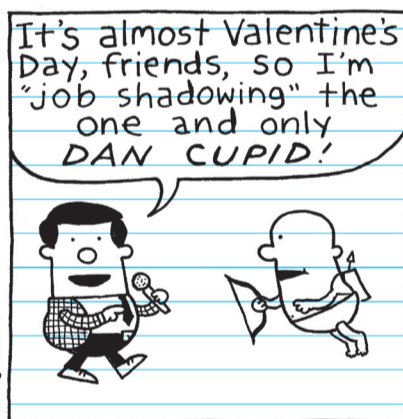
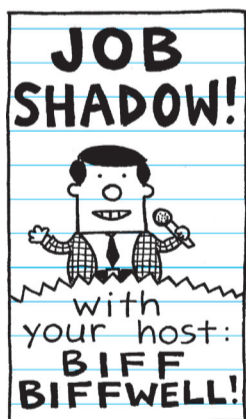
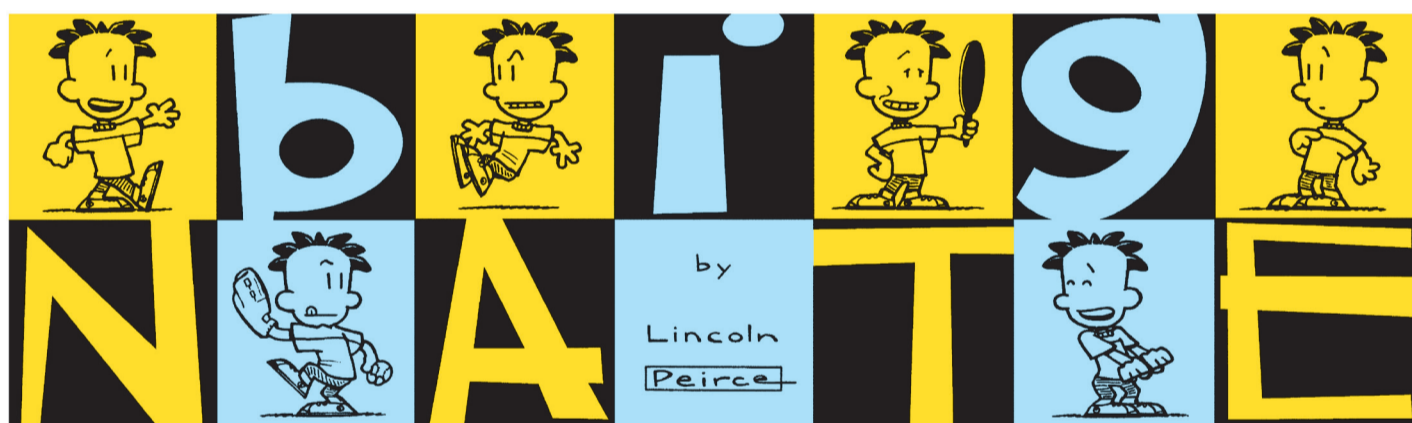
Then, she explained what our orchestra did.

The Chamber Ensemble Woodland Quintet played the flute, bassoon, horn, clarinet, oboe throughout the performance.

Aric Vihmeister accompanied them on the piano, and together they created a really cool and unique sound.



By Izzie Intriago, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora



## Texting while walking a real danger

Texting while driving is extremely foolish and dangerous and causes way too many accidents.

However, just because you're not old enough to drive, that doesn't mean texting can't get you seriously injured or even killed.

Paying attention when you cross the street matters. Researchers at Calgary University went through the results of several studies of pedestrian accidents and discovered that smartphones pose the same sort of danger for pedestrians as they do for drivers.

Listening to music is not a big problem, and talking on a smartphone is only slightly less safe, they found.

But texting is different, because it keeps your eyes focused on the phone instead of on the road, and it doesn't matter much if you are driving on that road or trying to cross it on foot.

People who were texting might glance up, but they didn't really look to the right and left very effectively, and they often made poor decisions about when to start crossing a street.

There are plenty of videos on YouTube of people texting and walking into telephone poles or falling into fountains, and they can be really funny.

But walking into a car is not.

Don't text and walk!

# Telling a forbidden story in a forbidding nation

**T**he Story That Cannot Be Told," by J. Kasper Kramer, is set in 1989 Romania before the communist dictatorship lost power.

Ileana, age 11, has always loved stories. She listens to them, collects them, and tells them.

Ileana even has a giant encasement of handwritten stories called "The Great Tome."

"The Story That Cannot Be Told" appears to be historically accurate.

I would rate this book 9/10 because it was interesting, suspenseful, and engaging.

Before December 1989, Romania was ruled by a dictatorship, so Ileana's parents know danger is never far.

Ileana's uncle had published a poem criticizing the dictatorship, so her home was under surveillance: An electrician put microphones in the house so communist agents could hear everything that was said.

Ileana's parents send her to Mamaie (*grandmother*) and Tataie's (*grandfather*) village in the mountains, but not before burning the Great Tome.

The Communist Party wants the land of their village for resources, so they send the army to destroy the houses.

The soldiers have orders to demolish the buildings, regardless of whether the people were in the homes, or had vacated past a certain date.

To try and save them, Ileana decides to tell the soldiers the story of a legendary mountain village protector, which becomes "The Story That Cannot Be Told."

You will have to read the book to find out how the soldiers react to the legend of

the ancient protector.

The folktale "Cunning Ileana and the Three Princes" is intertwined in the plot of the novel.

Ileana was named after the protagonist of this folktale, which is about a princess, her sisters, and three villainous princes.

The folktale is recounted in parallel with the novel: when "novel Ileana" faces a challenge, "folktale Ileana" faces a challenge of a different variety.

It is as if the name predestined Ileana to follow a similar path as her namesake.

The entire time I read this novel, I was looking forward to the excerpts of "Cunning Ileana," and to Ileana's connections to them.

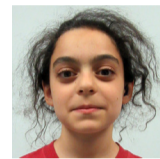
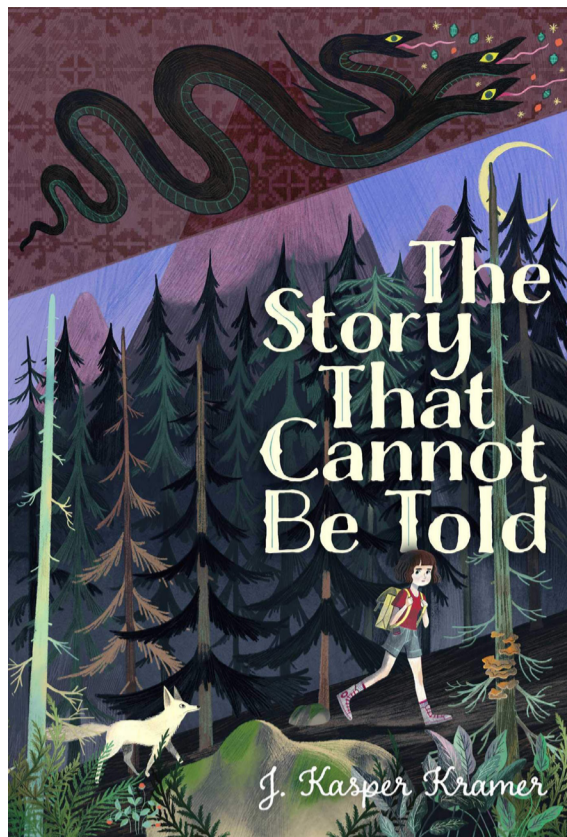
J. Kasper Kramer is an exceptional author, and the way she wrote this novel is engaging.

This is her first book, which makes her phenomenal talent even more impressive.

However, she failed to include physical character descriptions, which I think would improve the book.

I would rate this book 9/10 because it was interesting, suspenseful, and engaging.

I would recommend it for ages 8+ because it is easy to understand, and the novel is a good piece of literature.



By Carl Krim, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

# Cave turns up evidence of ancient dwellers

**T**housands of years ago, a series of caves on the Yucatan Peninsula, just south of the modern Mexican resort city of Cancun, provided people with shelter.

However, sea levels eventually rose and, today, those caves are underwater.

The people moved on, but the flooding meant that things they left behind were largely undisturbed, and now archaeologists are able to explore those caves.

There have been bodies discovered, or, more properly, skeletons, and the most recent discovery has left experts re-thinking not just when people first came to the Americas, but how.

The latest skeleton is of a woman who was about 30 years old when she died, probably from being hit in the head.

How long ago?

Her bones were too long underwater for DNA to be there, but after they became skeletons and before the water rose over them, they got a crust from minerals from water that dripped down from the cave ceiling.

Using that crust, a German archaeologist was able to

tell that the bones had been there at least 9,900 years and maybe as long as 13,000 years.

That's earlier than most archaeologists expected humans to be in this hemisphere, but that's not all the skeleton told them.

Its teeth showed decay from a sugary diet, while most ancient skulls show grinding from a diet of rough food.

The old theory was that people had crossed a land bridge between what is now Russia and Alaska, and then scattered throughout North and South America.

But the skulls in the cave are of a different shape than skulls found elsewhere, which means there were people from at least two different ethnic groups, eating very different diets, living in America some 10,000 years ago.

They weren't all the same people, and so perhaps they didn't all come from the same place, and maybe they didn't all come at the same time.

Science is very good at answering questions, and the exploration of these caves has answered many.

But science is also very good at asking questions, and now archaeologists have discovered some brand new questions to answer about some very old people.



Above, the skull of the woman, with arrows showing where she seemed to have been injured. (Photo/Rennie Stinnesbeck)



## Sudoku

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

**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

Today is the traditional date of the founding of Japan by Emperor Jimmu in 660 BC, so our answers this week will begin with "J."

1. This president's place on our money will soon be taken over by Harriet Tubman.
2. The northernmost town in Colorado, you'd pass it on I-76 before crossing over into Nebraska.
3. The third branch of our national government, besides Legislative and Executive.
4. A noisy celebration, especially with lots of music, or a gathering of Boy Scouts
5. When John F. Kennedy was assassinated, he became president.
6. The career field of reporters, editors, and news photographers.
7. A type of saw used for cutting shapes, especially to turn pictures into puzzles.
8. Middle Eastern nation bordered by Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria
9. Roman god with two faces, one seeing the past, the other seeing the future.
10. When his mother the Queen baked some tarts all on a summer's day, he stole them!

(answers on Page Four)

## We start out life as pretty generous people

**H**ow do people become selfish?

According to some new research, they aren't all born that way.

Researchers from the University of Washington's Learning & Brain Sciences studied 100 19-month-old babies and discovered that most were kind and generous, to each other and also to the researchers.

Each baby was placed in a room with a researcher that he or she had never met.

In some rooms, the researcher tossed a piece of fruit onto a tray on the floor but didn't try to pick it up. A few of the babies picked it up and handed it back.

But if the researcher pretended to drop the fruit by accident and then try to pick it up, most of the babies got it and gave it back to them.

Then the researchers had the parents bring the babies back right before they should be fed, to see if they acted differently when they were hungry.

In those cases, the babies looked at the food that had been "accidentally dropped" as if they'd really like to eat it themselves, but, even then, over a third still gave it back.

Not all the babies were that kind, but the experiment shows that most of them were pretty nice people.

photo/Dmitry Makeev



# 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

Texting While Walking

Ancient Americans

Kind Babies

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

# Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



## A pair of America's favorite artists



"Natural Forces: Winslow Homer and Frederic Remington," will debut at the Denver Art Museum March 15 and be on exhibit until June, when it will begin a tour that includes Portland, Maine and Fort Worth, Texas.

Both Homer and Remington were very popular painters, with Homer beloved for his work depicting the Atlantic Ocean as well as the Adirondack Mountains, and Remington best remembered for his depictions of life in the early West, with cowboys, vaqueros and native people.

In fact, both were based in the East, and the exhibit will show their similarities as well as their differences.

Watch CK for news of the opening of this exhibit, or visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).  
(*West Point - Prouts Neck* courtesy [clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu); *Buffalo Runners* courtesy [Sid Richardson Museum](http://SidRichardsonMuseum.com))

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. (Andrew) Jackson 2. Julesburg 3. Judicial 4. jamboree  
5. (Lyndon) Johnson 6. journalism 7. jigsaw 8. Jordan 9. Janus  
10. Jack of Hearts

## CK Calendar

### Wednesday, February 12

Patricia Blocker, owner of Peaceful Paws Dog Training and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer will discuss and sign her book, "Letting in the Dog: Opening Hearts and Minds to a Deeper Understanding" at Tattered Cover Book Store, Aspen Grove, 7 pm. Apart from discussing how to read canine body language, this book takes a light-hearted yet earnest approach to exploring how to connect with dogs.

### Sunday, February 16

Last official day for the Downtown Denver Rink at Skyline Park. Open Sunday from 11 to 6 or, earlier that weekend, 10 to 10. No charge to skate; inexpensive skate rentals available.

### Sunday, February 16

Stay up late at the Denver Museum of Science and Nature and explore the incredible Colorado night sky. After dinner at the Museum, watch planetarium shows, see some of your favorite constellations through high-power telescopes (weather permitting), warm up with a hot chocolate bar and make your own star-studded crafts. All ages welcome; programs designed for K – 8 families. 6 – 9 p.m. • member: \$20 adult, \$15 youth; nonmember: \$25 adult, \$20 youth. For more information, visit <https://www.dmns.org/>

### Sunday, March 1

Low-sensory session at Denver Museum of Nature and Science. By limiting attendance and by turning down some of the ambient noise, an enjoyable low-sensory morning for neuro-diverse children to play with their families. This event is free, but registration is required. Visit <https://www.dmns.org/> for details

### Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8

Monte Vista Crane Festival. Cranes, raptors, photographers and conservationists come together in a weekend of nature-based tours, fun events and serious workshops. For a full schedule, visit <https://mvcranefest.org/schedule-2020/>

# ColoradoKids

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