



CK Reporter of the Week
Penelope Vaughn, Denver

You can still be isolated outdoors

A lot is going on in our communities right now, and, with so many closures or activities suddenly off limits, what should we do or what can we do?

You can head outside, of course!

What is great about Bear Creek Park is that it's only about 30 minutes away from downtown Denver, with light traffic.

Editor's Note

As of press time, the Visitor's Center and campground at Bear Creek Park were closed due to the coronavirus, but trails remained open for hiking.

For current conditions, visit <https://bit.ly/3aditlq>

Bear Creek is in Lakewood, but it really feels as if you're in another world.

And you can also bring your (*leashed*) dog on some trails, and your horses, too!

During the summer, Bear Creek provides many outside activities near Big Soda Lake, which is known for hiking, picnicking, fishing, boating, swimming, and having lots of other fun ways to enjoy yourself.

Year round, the park offers hiking, running, mountain biking, fishing, boating, camping, horse riding, and much more.

Bear Creek Park has 2,624 acres of climbable rocks and beautiful land to hike on.

There are paved trails throughout, and the most incredible thing is the wildlife sightings you'll have when you explore the park on one of the six



photo/ Jessica Gersey

soft-surface trails.

There are more than 15 miles of trails in all. We followed Cottonwood Trail, Mt. Carbon Loop, and Owl Trail, which treated us to many wildlife sightings like an owl, some large fish, a herd of female elk, an eagle, and prairie dogs.

On Mt. Carbon Loop there is a golf course and bathrooms, with a drinking fountain at the very top, though it might be wise to bring your own water.

Along the way, I found many stones and rocks.

Being out in nature, hearing the crunch of gravel under our feet, and the warm sunshine on our faces reminded me that there is lots to be

grateful for.

This also reminded me that nature and its unexpected surprises have the power to recharge and reground us now matter what we are going through.

So go outside to enjoy the experience!
You won't be disappointed!



By Eve Gersey,
9, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Summiting the world's most dangerous peak

Many people think that, since Mt. Everest is the world's tallest mountain, it's also the most dangerous.

Think again!

A lot of climbers consider K2, the world's second highest mountain located in the Himalayas, more dangerous than Mt. Everest.

"Into the Clouds," by Tod Olson, is set in 1953, and is about three expeditions, each attempting to be the first to climb K2.

(T)here are many photos, which show what the expedition looked like.

They face high winds, lack of oxygen, bad news, storms, and much more during their long, hard trek.

"Life there is impossible," the author states.

For example, when the climbers hear that an expedition has reached the top of Mt. Everest, they know that they won't get much attention when they reach the top of K2, but they still push for the summit.

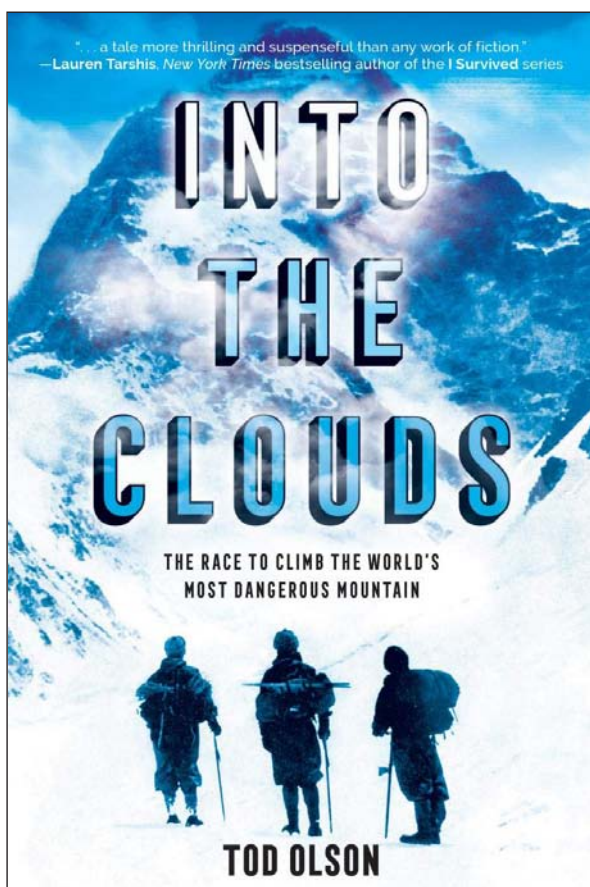
Although they had these setbacks, they had each other to depend on, making their lives much easier.

For instance, some climbers gave up their own dreams of reaching the summit, cooperating so that no one would die on the mountain.

With a bit of luck and skill, they knew it was possible to reach the summit.

"Maybe the gods will be with me..." one climber states, hoping for luck.

What I liked about this book is that there are many photos, which show what the expedition looked like.



The photos show campsites, how steep the mountain is, their route up the mountain, and so forth.

The author put in immense amounts of details that will force you to read more.

For example, when the climbers got frostbite, I could feel that I was getting frostbite, too, which made me clearly understand how the climbers were feeling, making the book easy to follow.

Also, the huge amount of dialogue let me know exactly what everyone was up to.

If you've read a book with no dialogue, you might've found it harder to understand than a book with lots of dialogue, and so I'd say "I'm very proud of you," to this book.

However, at some points, the author doesn't offer enough detail.

He doesn't talk about certain characters enough to let me know how that person contributed to the attempt.

Also, the author sometimes makes an event unclear, making me wonder about the significance of that particular event.

Still, I would highly recommend this book to kids who love reading about adventure and history.



By Ethan Jung,
9, a CK Reporter
from Denver

YOUTH JOURNALISM DAY

For Kids ages 8 to 14

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Cost for the day is \$65 and includes breakfast and lunch.
Spend the day with professionals and learn journalism skills:
interviewing, story writing and photography.

Limited to the first 75 students

Register today! Go to [ColoradoNIE.com](https://coloradonie.com) for more details, FAQs and registration form.



‘Nat Enough’ good, but not excellent

Have you ever felt like you really just don’t fit in? I’m pretty sure that Natalie could relate to you. In the graphic novel “Nat Enough,” Maria Scrivan tells the story of one girl trying to survive middle school without her best friend, who ditched her for the “cooler” group.

Through the ups and downs and highs and lows of middle school, Natalie recognizes the talents that she has instead of looking at what she cannot do.

I really liked the fact that most of the stuff that Natalie goes through are real-life friendship problems that people can relate to.

In “Nat Enough,” Natalie and Lily have been best friends since second grade, but Natalie didn’t seem to notice that Lily wasn’t really her friend.

Having that be a theme all throughout the book really takes the sugarcoating off of the friendship problems that Natalie is experiencing.

That detail for me felt very important and helped bring a depth to the book.

I also thought it was interesting how determined Natalie was to get her best friend back.

Even though readers may be able to tell that Lily honestly doesn’t care, the shock and hurt that Natalie goes through is pretty similar to how anybody else might take it.

The way that Lily bullied Natalie was pretty realistic.

All the time, Natalie would find notes on her locker that said “Nerd!” and “Loser!”

Talk about rude!

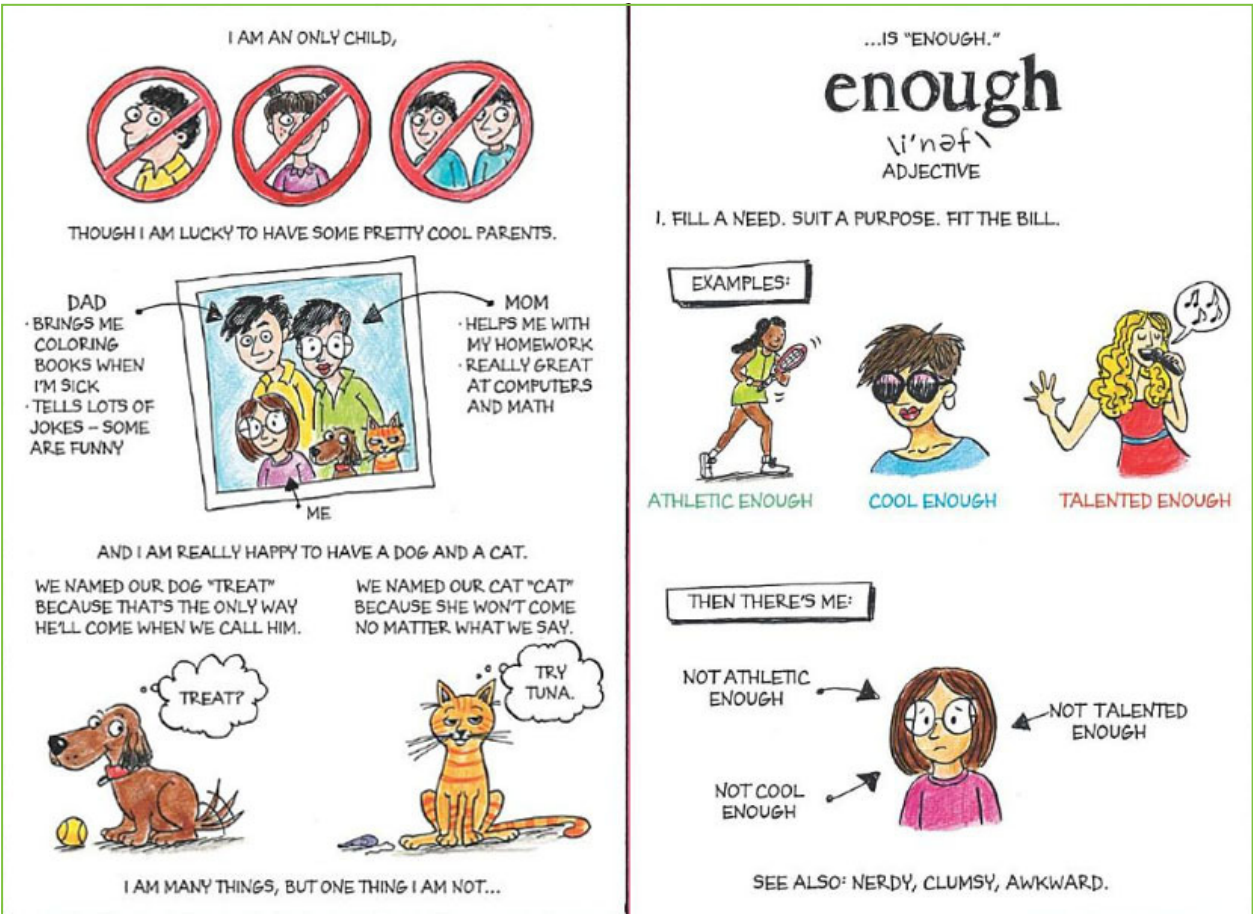
Natalie does end up finding some true friends in the midst of everything.

Her new friends Zoe and Flo help her recognize all of the talents that she has, and because of their encouragement, Natalie really learns to shine.

But what good is a book about middle school without crushes and drama?

I enjoyed reading about Natalie’s crush on a character named Derek.

Seeing Natalie lovesick and swoony was funny and made the book a little lighter so all the stuff that was happening with Lily wasn’t so intense.



A part that I thought helped the plot was Natalie’s ALP classes. It was like a gifted-and-talented class, which you don’t usually see in graphic novels.

That detail about her academics was a good way to let the book flow, especially when it came to parts with Derek, who was also in the ALP class.

Even though Lily criticizes Natalie a lot, I notice that Natalie seems to be her own biggest critic.

The way that she thought of herself -- not athletic enough, not stylish enough, not talented enough -- seemed to affect her through the entire book.

Though the book was good, there were some parts I didn’t like.

I felt like another character, Shawn Dreary, who bullied her, was a little unnecessary.

Natalie was already going through all this hard stuff with Lily, I honestly don’t think she needed another

thing slid onto her plate. The graphics in the book were okay, though it looked water-colored, which I didn’t really like, and the drawings were kind of basic for a graphic novel. The plot of her story was a little too realistic which made it boring. Because of these flaws, I didn’t really like the book as much as I thought I would.


I would, however, recommend it for 4th grade and up, since some stuff wouldn’t make sense for younger readers.

Overall, I would give “Nat Enough” 2 out of 4 stars.




By Sophia Levy, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver





Learn with real artists, writers

You can’t spend all your time on school-work, and a group of authors and artists are providing free online workshops and fun for kids who are stuck at home. “Stimola Live” is a website that features live streaming events for little guys, middle schoolers and high school students. Over the next few weeks, they’ll have special programs that will entertain you and provide the kind of advice and guidance that can make you a better artist or a better writer or teach you a new craft! For example, this Thursday at 2 pm, fantasy author Sam Taylor will offer a look at how she creates the fantasy worlds for her novels, one of which you can see illustrated at the right. Then, at 4 o’clock, nature writer Naila Moreira, who is also a professor of writing at Smith College (*that’s her at the left*) will have a 45 minute workshop on nature journaling for kids from 8 to 12. There are also art lessons and sessions in which writers read from their latest books, geared to different age groups. To see what’s available and how to log on and enjoy them, (and maybe learn), go to <https://www.stimolalive.com/>



Korman’s latest explores heroism and reality

“War Stories,” by Gordon Korman, follows Trevor, a war fanatic and passionate listener to his great-grandfather’s stories.

Private Jacob Firestone was part of Bravo company, an American unit that helped in the liberation of the small town of Sainte-Régine.

He and his friends Leland, Freddie and Beau made their way from Fort Benning in Georgia for basic training to England to cross the English Channel and onto Omaha beach on D-Day.

When the 75th anniversary of WWII and the proposal of a three-week trip across Europe comes into the picture, Trevor is bursting at the seams.

He and his great-grandfather are planning to retrace his steps from the war to the village of Sainte-Régine, where Jacob is to be honored as a hero and receive a medal.

He is the last living member of Bravo Company and is ready to step foot back in France for the first time in 75 years, until Trevor’s father notices threats and comments on social media that could expose the truth of Jacob Firestone’s past.

Korman provides a gate into the reality of WWII, making sure the reader understands the tragedy, destruction and severe and serious repercussions of war.

Trevor believes that war is serious, but his father still thinks that Trevor’s idea of war is too glamorized.

By switching between settings, time periods, and perspectives, Korman is able to foreshadow things, to indicate the place where Trevor exists because of his great-grandfather recounting stories from the war.

During the story, a split-second reaction is later explained to be a grave mistake, leading the characters to have beefs with one another.

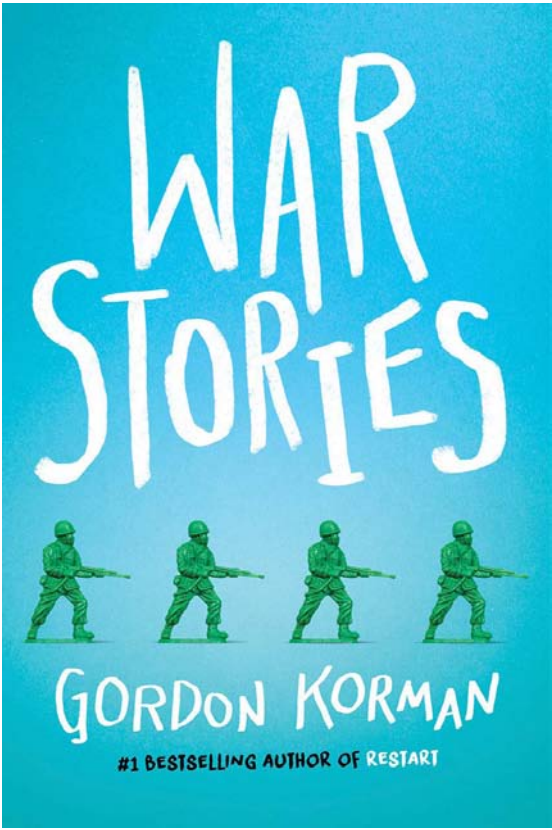
The Lafleur cousins, Juliette and Phillip, create a group called *La Vérité* (The Truth) to discourage the Firestones from coming to France and Sainte-Régine and, when the Firestones leave the U.S. and board the ferry across the English Channel, the Lafleurs await them on the other side.

The Lafleurs begin to follow the three Americans, and along the way, as they send threats, plant a fake bomb reading “it could have been real” in a neatly wrapped package, and chuck a stone through a hotel room window.

The characters become well developed during the combination of current-day and flashbacks, making the reader attached to both Jacob’s friends from Bravo company and feel negative emotions toward the Lafleur cousins.

World War II becomes the segue to deepening Jacob into a life-like character with real feelings and easily recognizable changes in character from the effects of war.

Meanwhile, the characters each have small flaws, making them relatable to the reader as they fight battles and travel across the expanse of Europe.



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

Covid-19, lost rocket don’t stop Space X plans

Elon Musk has had better days than he did last week, but the Space X leader isn’t letting the loss of a veteran rocket get him down.

The company did well with the launch of an additional 60 Starlink satellites into orbit, bringing the current total of the small communication satellites over 350.

An exact total is difficult because a few of the earliest Starlinks have had problems and been taken out of service.

The goal is to have some 12,000 Starlinks orbiting the Earth, providing high speed Internet service for customers in the US and Canada.

And Space X had some good news for the astronomers who have been unhappy with the Starlink project.

Astronomers have objected to Starlink because the satellites reflect light, which creates streaks across the sky that foul up attempts to look into deep space from Earth-bound observatories.

Space X has announced that a version of a darkened satellite, launched in a previous grouping earlier this year, has apparently worked well, though it was not clear that the problem has been entirely solved.



Astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley in their flight suits. photo/SpaceX

However, it was not all good news, as the first stage of the rocket did not successfully land on board a ship poised to receive it.

That particular rocket was on its fifth trip into space, and Musk’s goal is to develop rockets that can simply be refueled and reused like airplanes.

Failure on its fifth flight is well short of the goal of 100 flights per rocket, he admitted, but the nose cone had been recovered, the first time Space X has succeeded in retrieving that \$6 million part, so the flight was not a total failure.

More surprising news came from NASA, which, like many other companies, has ordered its staff to begin working from home in order to avoid the coronavirus.

Despite that caution, however, SpaceX and NASA are continuing plans to launch two astronauts to the International Space Station in mid-to-late May as part of their preparation for a Mars flight in the future.

NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley will fly the Crew Dragon spacecraft to the ISS, according to both NASA and SpaceX. Their length of stay remains uncertain, since they only need to get there and back to test the Crew Dragon, but there could be value in a more long-term mission to keep the station staffed.

Sudoku

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

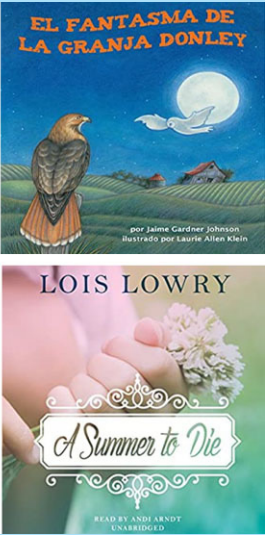
Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.
The solution to this week’s puzzle is on Page 4.



Brainteaser

On this date in 1921, the first international women’s sports competition, “The Women’s Olympiad,” opened, in answer to the Olympic Committee’s refusal to include women’s events in 1924. Our answers will begin with “O” for “Olympiad.”

1. This state is round on both ends and hi in the middle.
2. The most powerful of the Norse gods
3. Mid-sized, spotted and striped wildcat native to the US Southwest and South and Central America
4. An herb often sprinkled on pizza and used in other Italian dishes
5. In “Peter and the Wolf,” this woodwind instrument plays the part of the duck.
6. This empire, based in what is now Turkey, took in much of southeastern Europe, the Middle East and north Africa. It was broken up following World War I.
7. Author of the “Magic Treehouse” series of books
8. It took this Greek hero ten very long years to get home from the Trojan War.
9. Technically, this is a fruit, but it’s often pickled and stuffed with a bit of pimento.
10. The shape of a Stop sign, and of the cage in which MMA fighters compete
(answers on Page Four)



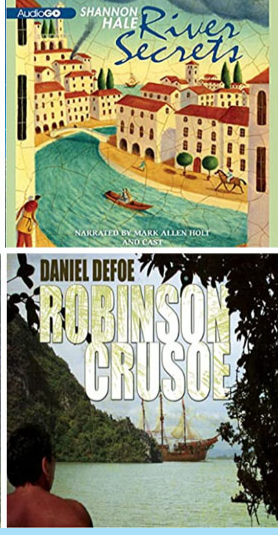
Heard any good books lately?

If you get tired of looking at your screen -- and with distance learning, well, you might -- here’s a way to kick back, stare at the ceiling and enjoy a good book. Audible.com has opened up a free microsite with stories that you can stream and listen to for free.

They’ve put up an interesting variety of stories, geared for “Littlest Listeners,” “Elementary,” “Tween,” and “Teen,” plus “Classics” and “Fairy Tales.”

And if you want to polish a new language or simply settle back in the language-other-than-English that you speak at home, they offer books in French, Spanish, Italian and German as well as in English.

Just go to <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>



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

Audio Books

SpaceX

Art and Writing Tips

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

Sparrow and Woodpecker

A Japanese Folk Tale

In a farming village in the country, there lived a merchant who kept a small store.

He worked very hard, but the town was not terribly prosperous and, though he saved as much money as he could, he was not a wealthy man.

His wife had died some years before, but he had two daughters whom he loved very much.

The older daughter, Kitsutsuki, was very beautiful and took great care in how she dressed and did her makeup. She was always reluctant to do chores that might mess up her hair or clothing.

The storekeeper's younger daughter, Suzume, was also very attractive but spent her time helping around the store and house and never made very much fuss over herself.

One day, the merchant called his daughters to him. "I know you are becoming young women," he said, "and it is time that you each had a good kimono. One day, you may get married, and there will be other times when you must dress formally. For many years, I have saved money so that, when you came to this time in your life, you could go to the city and have nice kimonos made."

The merchant then gave them each a small purse of coins, and sent them off to the city to stay at the home of a respectable merchant family with which he had done business for many years.

Kitsutsuki and Suzume were very excited. They went to a fine tailor and had themselves measured for kimonos. But when they heard what these dresses would cost, they were heartbroken. They did not have enough money!

The sisters burst into disappointed tears and the tailor was touched by their plight.

"Perhaps there is a way," he said. "It is the beautiful, carefully colored cloth that makes these kimonos so expensive. But you seem like clever girls: If I make your kimonos from good white silk, you can dye and color them yourselves, and then you will have enough money."

The sisters thought this was a good idea, so the tailor began to work on the kimonos and they began to plan the beautiful colors and patterns they would add, once their white kimonos were ready.

It took many days for the tailor to make the dresses, for kimonos are very complicated garments. But at last they were ready, and the sisters tried them on, helping each other to tie the wide obis around their waists.

The kimonos were beautifully made, and the sisters were just beginning to talk about exactly how they would dye and color them, tracing with their fingers the places where the designs would go, when a visitor from their village suddenly arrived.

"Your father is very ill and you must come home at once!" he said.

Without even thinking to take off her new kimono, Suzume quickly gathered up her few belongings and ran out the door.

She hurried down the road towards their village, not stopping to eat or even to get in out of the storm when it began to rain. When she arrived at her home, her new kimono was no longer white, but spattered with mud and covered with dust.

Suzume went directly to her father's bedroom and, although he was very ill, she had a chance to sit by his bedside, hold his hand and comfort him until he finally closed his eyes forever.

Her sister Kitsutsuki, however, had told the messenger that she was not able to leave yet and would come as soon as she had finished dying and decorating her kimono, in case she needed to have it ready for her father's funeral.

Indeed, when she arrived back at the village, she looked very beautiful in the bright, new silk.

But Kitsutsuki had arrived too late to speak with her father before he died, or even for his funeral.

As the two sisters sat quietly together in the empty house, a voice came from the heavens.

"Suzume," it said, "your love for your father and your home caused you to stain your beautiful kimono with mud and dust, but those drab colors shall be for you a badge of honor. Forever you shall live near the homes of people, where you shall easily find your food wherever you look. You will even be able to eat the rice from the harvest fields, and you will always be surrounded by friends."

Then the voice went on: "Kitsutsuki, you are very beautiful, but you have no instinct for living around others. From this day forward, you shall live far out in the forests, away from the homes of people, and you will spend your time alone. As for food, you shall always have to search hard and to dig worms from inside the trees in order to eat."

And ever since that day, the drab, brown and gray sparrow, Suzume, has lived in flocks around the houses of people and eaten cheerfully in their yards and rice fields, while Kitsutsuki, the beautiful woodpecker, has stayed out in the forest alone, seeking her food under the bark of the trees.

Text c. 2005, Mike Peterson -- illustration c. 2005, Marina Tay



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Ohio 2. Odin 3. ocelot 4. oregano 5. oboe 6. Ottoman (Empire)
7. (Mary Pope) Osborne 8. Odysseus 9. olive 10. octagon

ColoradoKids

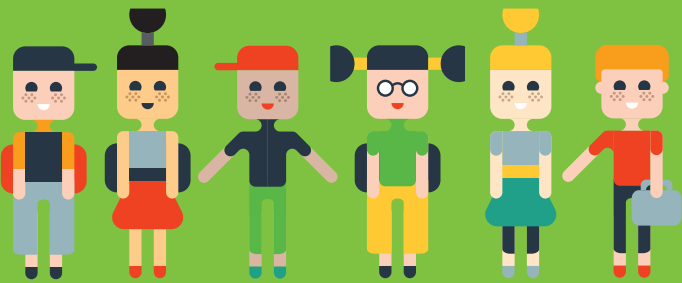
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