



CK Reporter of the Week  
Adriana Armstrong, Centennial

## Visiting the slums of an Indian city

Over winter break, my family and I went on a trip to see my grandparents in Pune, India.

While we were there, we did a lot of interesting things like going to museums and even visiting a palace.

However, the most life-changing experience there was when I went to see one of the thousands of slums across India with my grandma, mom, and sister.

When I first saw the place, I was surprised by a few things.

People were walking around with i-phones and there were even satellite dishes on top of some of the houses.

The women were wearing beautiful dresses called saris and the men were dressed with nice collared shirts.

Unfortunately, the rest of their conditions were pretty terrible.

The buildings were small and cracked and their neighborhood was not sanitary.

There were wood-burning stoves outside used to cook small meals and only a dozen or so toilets for about 100 people.

On top of that, the showers were in small rooms and all of the young children bathed outside.

During the day, the men would go out to work on their motorcycles.

They drive these not as fashion statements, but because they can't afford any sort of car.

The minimum wage in India is only 160 rupees a day, or a little more than two dollars.

*(To put it in comparison, if a Coloradan worked minimum wage for 8 hours a day, they would earn about 90 dollars.)*

While the men went to work, the women would stay at home cooking, cleaning, and taking care of



The room at the Anganwadi is about the size of a large bathroom and holds about 20 kids. You're also required to take off your shoes before you go in. (Photos by Ahilya Kotwal)

their children, but sometimes they would work as maids or construction workers.

In most of the slums in India, there is a sort of day-care called an Anganwadi.

It's basically childcare for three- to six-year-olds held in a small room.

The parents can drop their children off at the Anganwadi for the day while they go off to their jobs.

The kids receive lunch and spend most of the day learning and playing with each other.

I was surprised how much fun 20 kids had sharing a small bucket of toys.

The place received a bag of lentils and rice each month to give out to the kids and kept track of the kids height and weight to make sure they were healthy.

We interviewed an old woman with a beautiful yellow shirt with mirrors attached to it.

She's part of a gypsy group called the Lamanis and she speaks a language that nobody else could speak in that slum.

Although her clothes were already really amazing, she said she wished she could have change into better clothes.

These clothes were actually her everyday clothes which she used



for working and going to sleep in, but she had more traditional clothing that she'd have worn if she'd known we were coming.

After visiting the slums, I learned that the people who live there are all super close.

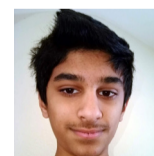
They operate as one large family and always help those in need, even if they can barely feed themselves.

They celebrate weddings and holidays together as well.

On a blackboard of the Anganwadi, I saw a message that made me happier than I'd been in a long time:

"Smiling is the best medicine."

Even though these people have so little, they keep on smiling.



By Rohan Kotwal, 11, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch



## YOUTH JOURNALISM DAY

For Kids ages 8 to 14

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Metropolitan State University of Denver

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



# Make yourself a sweet treat from Ecuador

Over spring break, my mom and I learned how to make bizcochuelo! Bizcochuelo is like a cake, it's pretty sweet, but not overpowering.

This is an Ecuadorian recipe that my grandma (*who lives there*) has been making since she was a little girl.

The recipe is really simple, and doesn't take too long to make.

You just need eggs, sugar and flour. This recipe is very flexible, which makes it hard to mess up.

To make bizcochuelo, you need three tablespoons of sugar and flour for each egg.

My grandma suggested starting off with three eggs, so we put in nine tablespoons of sugar and nine tablespoons of flour.

The first step is to prepare the eggs.

To do this, you have to separate the egg white from the egg yolk. If you don't have an egg separator, what you would do is over a large bowl, pass the egg yolk from one broken egg shell half into the other.

This causes the white to fall out into the large bowl.

Then put the yolk in the smaller bowl. If a piece of the yolk falls in the white, take it out as best as you can.

The first one you will mix is the white. Because you have to mix well, it is best to use a mixer, though you can mix it with a spoon.

You mix the egg white extremely well until it forms peaks when you take out the mixer (*or spoon*).

The reason you can't mix the white with the yolk is because the egg white won't peak if it's mixed along with the yolk.

Once the egg white has peaked, you can



photo/Tamorlan

move on to mixing the yolk. The yolk doesn't need to be mixed as well as the egg white.

After mixing them separately, beat the eggs together.

When they're mixed together, start to add the sugar and flour.

As I said before, you just have to multiply the number of eggs you used by three.

Because we used three eggs, we used nine tablespoons (*not teaspoons!*) of both flour and sugar.

Mix that in with the eggs one tablespoon at a time.

If you want, add a pinch of baking soda, and you can also add a little vanilla or a drop of lime. (*One or the other, though, don't do both.*)

Again, that part is totally optional.

Because the baking time varies by how many eggs you use, there is actually no exact baking time.

We put it in the oven (*preheated to 350 degrees*) and kept checking on it until it rose and was brown.

Then you can do the toothpick check; put a toothpick in it and if the toothpick has a lot of batter on it, you need to keep it in the oven longer.

Keep testing until the toothpick comes up clean.

That's it!

## Add a sweet topping!

You can enjoy bizcochuelo with many toppings, but we put caramel on it.

To make your own caramel (*also called dulce de leche*), simply put an unopened can of sweetened condensed milk in a crockpot on low for eight hours, with enough hot water in the crockpot to cover the cans.



photo/Dirk Ingo Franke

After eight hours on low, take the cans out -- Don't burn yourself! -- and put them in a bowl of cold water.

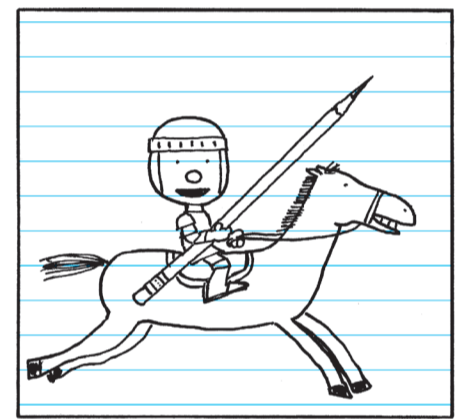
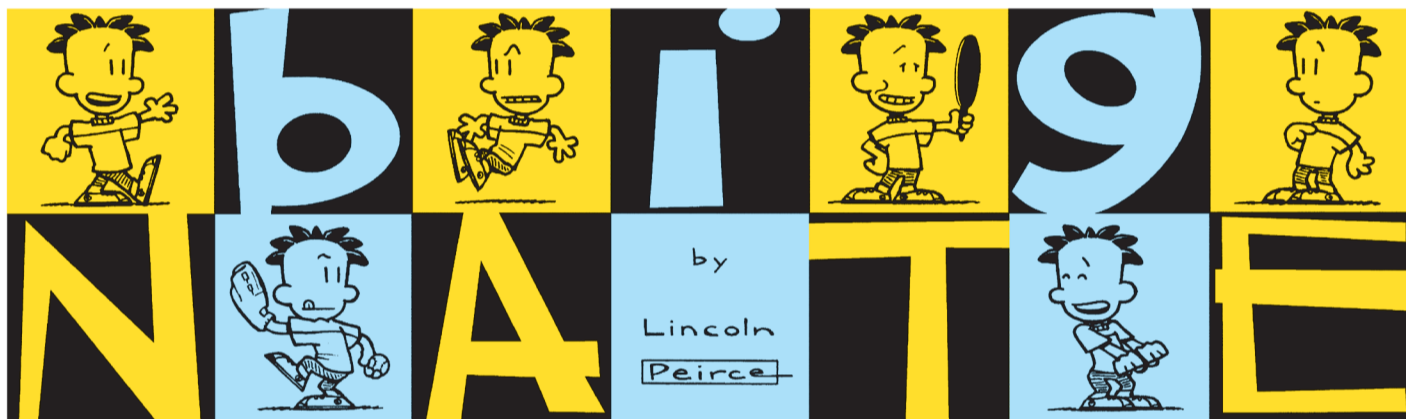
Do not open the cans while they are hot!

After they've cooled, you can put the contents in a container where your dulce de leche will stay good for up to a month in the refrigerator.

Enjoy with apples, on bread and on bizcochuelo!



By Lizzie Intriago, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora



# Advice from experts on living with isolation



If you're feeling a little squirrely after being cooped up at home for a couple of weeks, imagine being stuck in a much smaller area for nearly a year.

Astronaut Scott Kelly knows about isolation: After piloting a Shuttle mission, he was commander of three missions to the International Space Station, including one in which he remained aboard the ISS for almost a full 12 months.

He says that long mission helped prepare him for sheltering at home now. He told himself:

"This is my reality, this is where I live, this is where I work. I'm not exactly sure when it's going to be over, but I do know it will be over some day and, when it is, I want to be able to look back on that experience with pride and understand that I did the best possible job I could do to complete my mission, to meet my responsibilities."

He provided a lot of advice in a column for the NY Times that is linked on our links page. It includes things like keeping to a schedule, taking some time for fun and going to bed at the same time each night.

Other astronauts have also offered advice for getting through the lockdown.

Peggy Whitson, who holds the record for most total days in space, said working hard to communicate with each other matters.

"We want everyone to play well with others on board the space station," she said, adding that this applies equally well to families stuck at home.

And Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield says you should research why you are there and understand why this is going on and what your goals should be.

For more specific advice, and some videos of the astronauts, check the link on Page Four.

photo/NASA

# A magically fun, easy-to-read mystery



**"T**he Unbelievable Oliver And The Sawed-In-Half Dads," by Pseudonymous Bosch and illustrated by Shane Pangburn, is a hilarious novel about Oliver and his two friends, Bea and Teenie.

Throughout the story, the group goes on an adventure through Hauntington Mansion, uncovering hidden passages and doors better left unopened.

The story follows the trio as Oliver, an up-and-coming magician, prepares to do a magic show at Bea and Teenie's fathers' wedding.

All is going well until one of the fathers goes missing.

The three friends and Benny (*Oliver's talking rabbit*) go on a hunt through Hauntington Mansion for the missing dad.

The troop goes on the search while trying not to get distracted by the paintings, trapdoors, and, in Benny's case, by the garden, on the way.

Bosch incorporates humor and suspense to make an entertaining and captivating mystery.

The story is somewhat predictable, in the sense that what happens in the book is common in mystery novels.

The characters are relatable tweens who make

some bad decisions throughout the novel, but they learn from them and improve as the tale goes on.

The pictures are a fun addition to the novel.

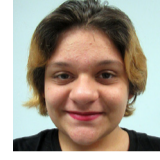
Pangburn adds to the humorous story, making the characters and setting come to life.

The illustrations also add some clues so that you can guess who did it before the characters figure it out themselves.

I would rate the book a nine out of ten because it is very entertaining (*even though it is predictable*), funny, and has many detailed pictures that add to the hilarity of the novel.

Bosch incorporates a behind-the-scenes look to magic, adding some do-it-yourself pictures for the magic trick shown in the novel which most readers can do at home.

I would recommend the story for children ages 7-10 because Bosch uses simple language to create a fun and easy to read mystery.



By Jaden Sutherland, 14, a CK Reporter from Denver

# Unseen monsters in a seemingly normal world

Imagine that you could see monsters in a world where most people do not believe in supernatural creatures.

In Rebecca Roanhorse's book, "Race to the Sun," a seventh grader named Nizhoni (*pronounced NI-jhoh-nih*) Begay can spot monsters, whether they take a human form or not.

(T)his book has a stunning plot and is entirely worth reading.

Nizhoni is an unusual teenaged girl with a strange gift, having the ability to see, and the duty to slay, monsters.

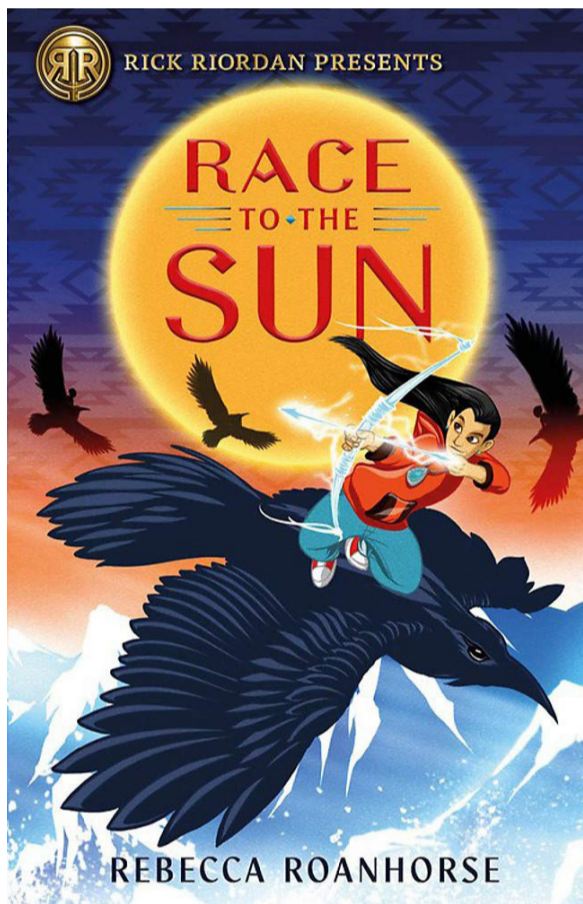
When she figures out that her father's new boss is a monster, she freaks out.

Unfortunately, her family is not so convinced, and they believe that Mr. Charles is just a normal businessman.

Nizhoni discovers that her missing Navajo mom was a monsterslayer, just like herself.

When her father gets kidnapped by Mr. Charles the next day, Nizhoni, her best friend Davery, and Mac have to get to the House of the Sun and save her father before something worse happens.

"The Race to the Sun" is well, but not exceptionally, written.



The funny tone of "Race to the Sun" did not affect the overall reading experience, and I wish that Roanhorse had put in more character detail, because she never described anyone other than Nizhoni.

She did, however, put a lot of detail into the action scenes.

For instance, the last battle was good enough that I had a detailed action scene going around in my head.

The plot goes forward at a faster than expected pace, though not fast enough for me to get confused about what was happening.

In conclusion, this book has a stunning plot and is entirely worth reading.

Aside from the shortage of character information, "Race to the Sun" will fill almost all your needs in a fantasy book.

Roanhorse did a phenomenal job in this "Rick Riordan Presents" book.

I rate this book an eight out of ten and recommend it for ages 10-15.



By Jerry Krim, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

## Sudoku

4	2				5
5			4		
	1	2			
				3	1
		5			
				2	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

**With so many places closed, let's celebrate something opening: The Eiffel Tower, on this date in 1889. Our answers this week will begin with "E."**

- One of the first of these African animals exhibited in the United States was named "Jumbo," either from "Jambo," Swahili for "Hello" or "Jumbe" which means "Chief."
- The current Queen of England, or the one who was queen in Shakespeare's time.
- "Wapiti" is the Shawnee or Cree word for this animal
- The popular musical "Cats" is based on his poetry book, "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats."
- Local automobile dealer who graduated from Stanford and once played in the NFL.
- There's a recipe from this South American nation some place very close.
- There were eight US Navy ships with this name before Star Trek borrowed it.
- US President who married a girl from Colorado and led the D-Day Invasion of Europe.
- A female sheep
- This Larimer County town is headquarters for Rocky Mountain National Park.

(answers on Page Four)

## Two views of city birds and country birds

Sometimes science attempts to answer a question. Other times, it simply makes observations that help make those questions more clear.

Recently, we came across two articles about how some birds do very well in cities while others do not.

It's not a new observation: Last week, we had an old Japanese folktale here about how sparrows live well among people while woodpeckers stay away.

Now science is examining that sort of thing, and one article in the scientific journal "Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution" notes that, when humans approach, birds in urban areas don't fly away as soon as their country cousins.

Have they learned that city people don't hunt birds? Are they less afraid because there are fewer predators in cities than out in the country?

A second article in the same journal pointed to a possible way to examine the question.

Some birds, like crows and sea gulls, that do well in cities, have large brains, and are smart enough to learn to deal with the fast pace of urban life.

Others that do well, like pigeons, are, well, not that well-equipped in the brain department, but they lay more eggs more often, so that if they get hit by cars or killed by cats, their children can carry on the family tradition of city life.

photo/Muhammad Mahdi Karim



# 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**  
 Astronaut's Tips on Isolation  
 City birds, Country birds  
 go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

# The Water Dance

*A Folk Tale from South Africa*

*(Editor's note: This African story will likely sound familiar to American readers. It is one of many stories Bantu-speaking Africans brought here when they were slaves. There are no rabbits in Africa, however -- The "rabbit" of the American version is, in Africa, a type of hare, Lepus crassicaudatus, and quite a different animal. In African folk tales, however, he is just as troublesome as his American cousin!)*



**T**here was a summer when it did not rain. First the streams stopped running. Then the rivers dried up. Even the springs ceased to pour water from the rocks.

The animals held a meeting, all together, to decide what they should do.

The elephant suggested a water dance. "We have tried stamping on the river bed to make the water come up out of the mud, but it was not enough," the elephant said.

The animals shook their heads. If the elephant could not bring up the water, the drought was very bad indeed.

"If everyone takes part, it might work," the lion said. "But everyone must help. If you do not help, and we find water, there will be none for you."

The hare laughed. "I don't like to dance," he said, "but I will drink water anyway." And he went away without offering to help.

All of the other animals gathered in the river bed and began to dance. They danced and danced, the jackal and the hyena and the lion and the rhinoceros. The tiny gazelle danced next to the mighty buffalo, and the screeching baboon danced alongside the silent giraffe.

After a long time, someone shouted, for the crusted mud under his feet was becoming soft and damp. Everyone danced harder, and soon all the mud was wet, and then there were places where it was more water than mud. At last, they had danced the riverbed down to where it turned into a pool of water.

Every animal had a drink, and then they rested. At last, they all went back into the forest and plains, except for the hyena, for he was chosen to guard their waterhole and make sure nobody drank from it except the animals who had worked so hard to make the water come.

The moon was just rising when the hyena saw the hare coming down the path with two gourds. "Don't ask for water," the hyena called out to him. "You'll get none of ours. You didn't dance with us, and you won't drink with us!"

The hare smiled. "I don't want your plain old water, friend," he said. "I have much better water right here." And he lifted one of the gourds to his lips. "Would you like to try it? It's very special water!"

The hare took a blade of grass and dipped it into the honey he had in the gourd. He held the grass up and let the hyena lick a drop as it dripped off. "That is good!" hyena said. "Can I have a sip of it?"

"I don't know if it would be safe," the hare said. "It is very powerful water. You might begin to leap about. You might even try to eat me!"

"I wouldn't do that," the hyena promised. "Just let me have a sip of your special water!"

The hare thought a moment. "Well, let me tie you to this tree first. That way, if the special water makes you go crazy, I'll be safe until you calm down."

The hyena agreed, so the hare took some strong vines and tied him to the tree. "Can you move?" the hare asked.

The hyena struggled, but the vines held him tight. "No, I can't move at all!" he said.

"Good," the hare laughed.

Then he went to the waterhole, filled his other gourd with water and drank deeply. "My, that's very nice water!" he said. "Thank you, hyena! I'll come back tomorrow night for another drink!"

In the morning, the other animals came to the waterhole for a drink and found hyena still tied up. They laughed at him for letting the hare fool him, but then they wondered who could keep the hare from drinking their water.

"I will do it," said the tortoise. "If the hare can fool the hyena with the bee's honey, I will fool the hare with their wax!"

He got the other animals to help spread sticky beeswax all over his shell, then he waded down into the pool until nothing of his legs, head or tail showed above the water. All that could be seen of tortoise was his high, round back.

That evening, the hare came down to get another drink. He looked around to see if there was a guard, and then went to get a drink. "I see they put a rock in the water to keep their feet dry! What a good idea!" he said, and jumped right onto the tortoise's sticky shell.

The hare quickly realized what had happened, but his feet were already stuck in the beeswax. "Let me go, or I'll hit you!" he shouted. He swung one fist, then the other, but he did not hurt tortoise, and now his hands were stuck, too!

"You think you're smart?" he said. "I'll butt you with my head!" and the next thing the hare knew, his head was also stuck to tortoise's sticky shell. And when he tried to whip tortoise with his tail, he had no better luck.

The tortoise turned and slowly walked out of the water with hare stuck to his back, while all the animals came out of the bushes laughing.

"What shall we do with this thief?" the tortoise asked them.

"Cut off his head!" someone shouted.

"Let the elephant stomp him flat!" cried someone else.

"What do you think we should do to you?" Tortoise asked.

"I don't care, as long as it is an honorable death," the hare replied. "I would not want a shameful death, like being swung around by the tail and slammed into the ground."

"That is what we will do, then!" the elephant shouted. And he grabbed the hare by the tail, pulling him off the tortoise's shell and swinging him around his head.

But the hare's tail quickly broke and he flew off into the bushes, while elephant's trunk held nothing but a bit of skin and fur.

"Ha ha!" a voice laughed in the distance. "That part of my body was made to fool my enemies! Thank you for the drink, and for letting me escape again!"

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. elephant 2. Elizabeth 3. elk 4. T.S. Eliot 5. (John) Elway 6. Ecuador  
 7. Enterprise 8. Eisenhower 9. ewe 10. Estes Park

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