



CK Reporter of the Week  
Essie Lamar, Denver

## Talented cast sparks 'King and I'

**R**odger and Hammerstein's "The King and I," which is playing at DCPA's Buell Theater until Sunday, is a wonderful production.

It's the 2015 Tony-winning Lincoln Center Theatre revival that just recently went on tour. And if you love to perform, or just go see musical productions, I think you'll like this show.

"The King and I" starts when Anna Leonowens comes to the Kingdom of Siam to teach the King's children.

The King first seems impenetrable, but Anna soon finds a way to get into his heart.

I won't spoil the end, but overall the show was one of the best productions I've ever seen!

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The cast performed very well. They all had really good voices, and large ranges, which I really respect, and the emotions they brought to the play really made it enjoyable for me.

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Mrs. Leonowens (*Madeline Trumble*) teaches some of the King's many children. (photo/*Jeremy Daniel*)

Anna really helped the King see a whole new side of the world. She nailed her song "Shall I Tell You What I Think of You?" and it made me really support her views.

My dad, who went with me to the preview, really liked the relationship between Tuptim and Lun Tha, and thought that their voices were really beautiful.

I really appreciate the dances in a show, and "The King and I" had very hard-to-pull-off choreography.

In various songs, I saw dances that looked very complicated, but I think the ensemble members did a very good job!

This is a family friendly musical and is appropriate for kids eight plus.

However, there are sensitive and very outdated topics in the show such as polygamy, sexism, and a

stereotypical portrayal of Asian culture.

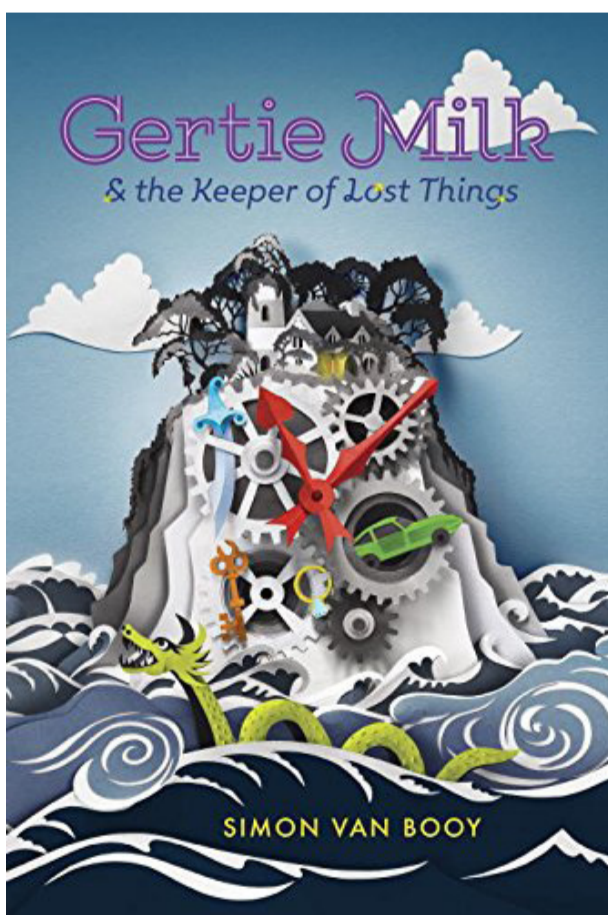
But, it pokes fun at all of it, while the songs and light-hearted choreography make it more appropriate for children.

For more information, visit <https://www.denvercenter.org/>



By Talia Schanman,  
9, a CK Reporter  
from Cherry Hills Village

## Fantasy and mystery combine to make a point



**W**hile reading "Gertie Milk & the Keeper of Lost Things," by Simon Van Booy, it feels as though you are part of something bigger than yourself.

It all started when Gertie Milk was taken away from her old life with no memory of what she looked like, who her family was, where she was from, and any other basic knowledge a child her own age would know.

All of a sudden this giant monster attacks her with the thought of her death in mind.

She then notices a little bird that tries to save her, but has no luck.

When her life is about to end, she barely escapes the giant monster by ducking into a cave, and who knows what is in there?

Gertie is guided by a key that has the letters K.O.L.T. inscribed into it.

When Gertie finally sees light again she collapses on the ground hoping there aren't anymore monsters like the one on the beach.

A voice speaks to her and takes her to an overstuffed cottage. The voice turns out to be her savior from a monster so terrifying that it destroyed its own name so that nobody knows what it is.

When they go inside the cottage, the two talk over

some peach cake, when Gertie begins to find out what the inscription on the key means, and what it means that she has been guided by it.

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(E)ven in the worst of situations  
you can return some hope  
to the world

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I would recommend this book to eight and ten year olds because this book shows how even in the worst of situations you can return some hope to the world, which may be a topic that would be harder for younger readers to understand.

If you like challenging books, this may not be the best choice because it is very easy to follow.

I liked it because it shows that even though you may not always believe in yourself, the things you do can make others believe in what they can do.



By Suhani Agarwal,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Centennial



## Writing Is Fun!

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

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# Messy and bizarre, but also a lot of fun

**N**ail polish. I don't use this stuff (*at least not yet*). Having confessed that, I don't want you to think this will influence my review of this toy, which is all about nail polish.

The "Num Noms Nail Polish Maker" is in the shape of a milkshake shop. (*Why not?*)

There are two sides on the toy: one where customers sit, and another where the "milkshakes" are made. It's a bit larger than a shoebox and can fit on a pizza platter.

It also includes three empty nail polish "Noms"; and one cotton candy scented "Num".

In this set, the Num has a name, Heavenly Froyo, but the Noms do not. This is actually a neat feature for fans of Num Noms, as you get to create your own characters.

Num Noms are tiny, scented toys that resemble food and have animal ears. There are two types of Num Noms: Nums and Noms.

Nums are hollow, squishy, and can sit on top of a Nom (*or another Num*).

Noms can almost never go on top of another Num Nom, but can be stamps, erasers, or even light up.

There are a lot of scents that Num Noms come in, ranging from cucumber to cheese bean burrito.

Okay, this is all very bizarre; welcome to the world of Num Noms.

The box the nail polish maker comes in is very easy to open. It has a handle at the top and can be used as a carrying case.

However, removing all the plastic coverings on it is another story. It's very hard to remove them, even with very small, sharp scissors.

But now, you can start making nail polish!

The first thing you need to do is put the nail polish base, or "milk", into one of the Noms.

After that, you can choose from any of three scented flavors for your nail polish:

strawberry, banana, or blueberry.

You can also mix the flavors and add glitter "sprinkles!"

Finally, close the bottle and mix the nail polish.

This might sound easy, but don't be fooled.

The area you're working in should be completely covered with a towel or a sheet, as this toy can make a huge mess.

On my first try, the nail polish spilled everywhere and turned gray.

On my second bottle, however, everything came out perfectly.

This gave me more confidence, but when I tried my third bottle, it spilled again and the bottle got covered in glitter.

The plastic nails and nail stickers didn't work properly, either. I never found the adhesives for the nails.

Unfortunately, you can't make more than three nail polish bottles, and there aren't replacements for the set.

So I just mixed the remaining nail polish base with water to make it more like milk and used the set as a milkshake shop.

Overall, this is a nice toy for anyone who likes Num Noms or nail polish. It can be pretty messy, but it's still a lot of fun.

It's compatible with other Num Noms and small toys.

I already had both, so my café got lots of customers.

I would recommend this toy for kids ages 5 and up, as younger kids might eat the polish or plastic nails.



By Nandi Strieker, 11, a CK Reporter from Antonio

We asked you, you told us:

## Movies: There's no problem as long as there is one!

**T**he holiday movies have been launched and theatres right now are full of big expensive movies and quiet little movies and all sorts of movies.

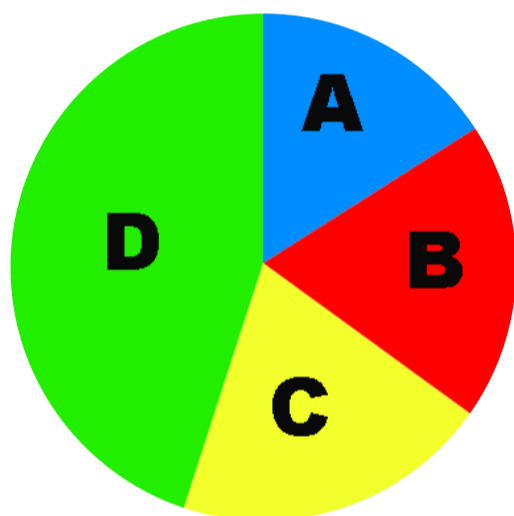
We wondered what kind of films CK readers like best, and, according to the kids who answered our question, it isn't even close:

There are plenty of kids who like comedy and action and romance, but more than half of our readers who responded said that they particularly like a movie in which someone has a problem to solve.

Here's what we asked you, and what you told us:

**Of these types of movies, which one is your favorite?**

A. Wall-to-Wall Comedy 17%



B. Fast-Paced Action 17%

C. Happy Ending Romance 9%

D. Character With A Problem 57%

Now here's our next question:

**How do you feel about the way you read books?**

A. I enjoy reading books on my phone.

B. Electronic reading, yes, but on a Kindle, Fire or tablet.

C. I prefer to read books in print.

D. I don't really have a strong preference.

To answer this question, go to

<http://nextgen.yourhub.com>

## Big Nate



## Could chocolate become extinct? It's quite possible



**W**hile everyone seems to be watching the polar regions for signs of melting ice, climate change is also threatening to change things near the Equator.

And that could threaten your ability to get a Hershey bar, or, at least, your ability to get one for your grandchildren.

Climate change involves the whole planet, and cacao, the plant that produces chocolate, grows in a fairly narrow band near the

Equator, not much farther than 10 degrees to the north or 10 degrees to the south.

If it were just a matter of the temperature, it might be possible to simply start planting cacao trees farther north and south, so that, as global temperatures rise, it would be just right for them in their new homes.

But it's not that easy, because it's not just about temperatures. Cacao needs a lot of moisture

and it needs to be sheltered from the direct sun by taller trees.

It needs to be in a rain forest, and that means doing more than just replanting cacao in different locations

Agriculture experts are hoping to find types of cacao that can live in new places and ways to make that new environment more like a rain forest.

It won't be easy, but it would be sweet if they can do it! photo/spoospa



# Story tells of different approaches to grief

Will Kostakis' American debut novel, "The Sidekicks" is an exploration of grief.

Although that may sound heavy, Kostakis weaves in all aspects of friendship, sexuality, internal thoughts, and family to create a story that is lighthearted and hopeful.

Chronicling the events of the death of Isaac, a wild joker, the author writes in three different perspectives of the three different boys who were connected by Isaac.

In the contrasting sections of the book we learn about the swimmer (Ryan), the rebel (Harley), and the nerd (Miles), otherwise recognized as the Sidekicks.

Each section discusses how they deal with the loss of their connecting friend.

Whether they attempt to drown their pain through sports, turn to drinking to both forget and remember the times spent together, or become a hermit, isolated through thoughts, the whole range of emotions which surround grief are shown through the experiences of each boy.

This novel is purely human. The writing is simplistic and the characters are so real.

Additionally, the work was practical, showing how grief disconnected the characters, yet through their grief they were also drawn together into a strong friendship.

Much of this is due to the fact, that as a teen, Will Kostakis lost his best friend in a similar way as Isaac was killed, and Kostakis lets each of the characters reflect a bit of himself and the way that he translated his grief.

The author delves into each of the characters, approaching them as being wholly different, which allows them to be more interesting to read about.

Kostakis definitely shows these characters in contrasting ways, down to even the way in which they speak.

This was one of the most appealing parts of this story, as well as being an interesting study in the human brain and human emotions.

He also delves into all of the different stories that people have, demonstrating how the masks people wear in society are much different than the tale beneath the surface.

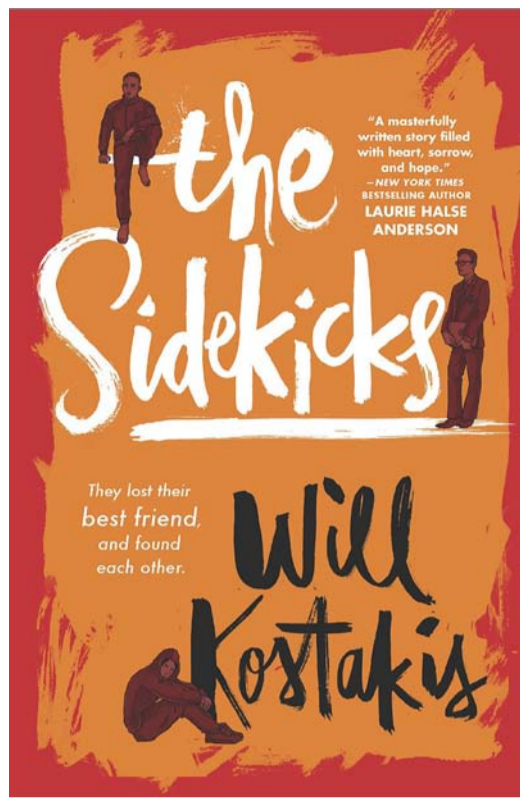
This novel was largely riveting and an easy read, though it by no means tackled an easy topic.

This novel was largely riveting and an easy read, though it by no means tackled an easy topic.

It was thought-provoking and charming and thoroughly enjoyable.

I recommend this book to everyone, as it gives a hopeful perspective on grief and leaves the reader feeling whole and happy.

It has definitely earned a spot on my bookshelf!



By Clarise Reichley, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

# Iran protests leave rest of the world watching

The old year ended, and the new year began, with protests and demonstrations throughout Iran.

It is one thing to protest in a free society, to go into the streets and shout anger over a lack of jobs or a government you feel is not listening to you.

But in Iran, it is a very dangerous thing to do, and, until recently, a very unusual thing.

Since 1979, Iran has been a theocracy, which means a nation led by religious leaders.

The United States had supported the previous government, and, when it was overthrown in a revolution, the new leaders blamed the United States for the problems of the nation.

But Iran had more problems yet to come, because the new government did not live up to its promises.

The idea was that a religious group, the Guardian Council, would be in charge.

The Guardian Council is made up of conservative religious leaders, but they were supposed to be balanced by a legislature, the Majlis, which was elected by the people.

Some Iranians are very conservative in how they dress and live, but others are quite modern. The Guardian Council objected to modern legislators being elected to the Majlis.

They began to declare that this person or that person could not run for office.

They even declared that some people who had already been elected to the Majlis could not run for office again.

In 2009, many Iranians protests elections they said were not fair and honest. Many went to jail and others were shot in the streets.

But most of those protests were in Tehran, the capital, which has more college students and other young people who are modern in their attitudes.

In the rest of the country, Iranians tend to be more conservatively religious.

But the protests going on now are happening not just in Tehran but throughout the country.

People are demanding that the religious rulers keep promises of jobs and a better economy, and it will be interesting to see what happens as new attitudes clash with old ones.



A young woman raises an angry fist while using her hijab to protect her nose and mouth from tear gas during a protest in Iran. (AP Photo)



## Sudoku

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

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 1839, Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre officially introduced the first way of making photographs, so our answers this week will each begin with "P" for "picture."

1. Lima is the capital of this nation.
2. The gland that produces insulin. If it isn't working well, you might be diabetic.
3. There are two names for the cougar which begin with "P." Choose either one!
4. Bacon comes from this animal
5. Queen Elizabeth's husband, who recently retired from public appearances
6. Small fish that can be quite vicious when it gathers in large schools in the Amazon River
7. Author of "Bridge to Terabithia" and "The Great Gilly Hopkins"
8. Lamar is the seat of this county out on Colorado's Eastern Plains
9. Half the size of a standard flute, it plays the same but an octave higher
10. Popular vegetable grown in the ground and also known as a "spud."

(answers on Page Four)

## Put on your hardhat. There may be a space station in your future.

There's always something to worry about, and now people who like to panic have a new threat to keep them up at night: China launched its first space station, Tiangong-1, in 2011, and extended its two year mission until 2014.

But in September, 2016, the Chinese space agency announced that it had lost control of the now-abandoned space station.

It's going to come down to Earth in about mid-March, and nobody know precisely when or where.

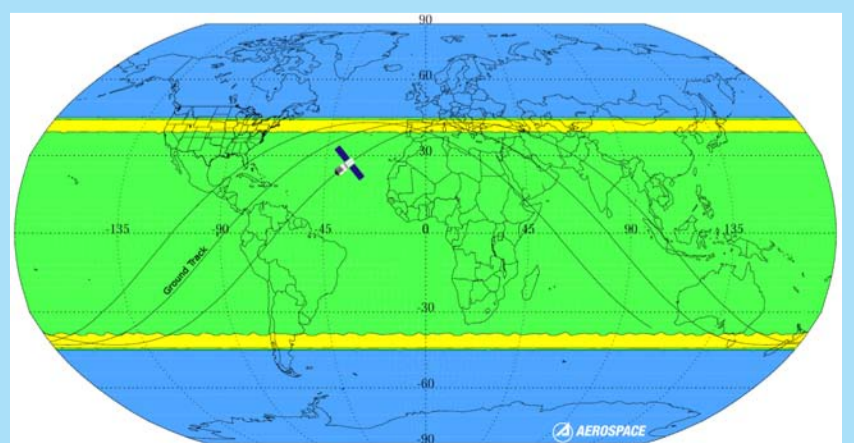
It's probable that it will end up in pieces,

somewhere in the yellow band on this map, which includes much of Colorado.

But here's why you shouldn't worry: That yellow band contains much of a lot of other places, too, most of them water.

The odds of a large piece of it landing on a place with people are quite small and the odds of you being one of those people are so small that you'd be smarter to buy a lottery ticket than to worry about space debris.

The odds of winning the Powerball are about 1 in 290 million. Buy the ticket and don't fret about the space station.





# 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 NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



### To read the sources for these stories

Chocolate extinction?

Protests in Iran

Falling space station

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

# Hooch

## Chapter One – Town Boys

**“Y**our uncle come home scratched up?”

Kenny Rascoe looked up at the group of town boys standing by the door of the junior high.

Frank Ashline was looking back at him, with a laugh already started on his face.

“You can get pretty scratched up running through the woods in the dark,” Frank said.

“I didn’t see him this morning,” Kenny said quietly, and walked up the steps past the group of boys and into the school.

“Tell him don’t worry,” Frank called after him. “Everybody else got home all right.” And they all laughed.

He didn’t even have to ask what they were laughing about.

His uncle Raymond was a customs officer; he must have been trying to catch bootleggers again last night. And, to hear Frank tell the story, the bootleggers had gotten away again.

The rumrunners would go to Canada and buy liquor, then try to bring it back into the United States.

If the customs officers or the state police came close to catching them with a load of hooch, they’d ditch their cars and run away through the woods. The cars usually had phony papers and there was no way to tell who they really belonged to.

Some of the smugglers were from the city, but many of them were from northern New York, local people who knew the back roads that ran across the border.

Even for local officers like Raymond, they were hard to catch, especially since so many people didn’t like Prohibition and wouldn’t help.

Kenny walked down the long hallway until he came to his homeroom, then went in, sat down and put his books in his desk.

He glanced up at the picture of President Coolidge over the blackboard, then looked out the tall windows at the leaves on the tree branches. A few more weeks and school would end and he could go home for the summer.

This had been his first school year in town.

Before that, he lived on his grandparents’ farm in Altona, but P  p   and M  m   wanted him to go to school in Plattsburgh, so now he stayed with Raymond during the week.

On weekends, he’d help P  p   and Uncle George on the farm, and then, on Monday, George would give him a ride to school.

On the good days, he’d get a ride in George’s Buick Roadster, and the town boys would watch jealously. On the other days, George would be driving P  p  ’s old Nash farm truck, and they’d all snicker.

When he first came, the town boys would “moo” after him in the hallway, especially on Mondays.

No matter how much he washed up before school, no matter how he kept his school clothes separate from his work clothes, he just couldn’t seem to get all the smell of the milking parlor off.

Or maybe they were just pretending to smell the farm. They mooed on other days, too, when he hadn’t even been back to the farm the night before.

Most of it stopped after Frank tripped him in the hall one day.

Kenny got in trouble, Raymond had to come meet with the principal, and both boys were suspended for three days for fighting.

Raymond made Kenny spend those days at the farm giving the manure spreader a thorough cleaning and then scraping and repainting the shed.

That might have ended things, if the teacher who had pulled Kenny off Frank had simply made them shake hands before marching them down to the principal’s office.

Instead, as he blotted Frank’s nose with his handkerchief, he told him that “a boy who spends his time pitching pennies should think twice before picking on a boy who spends his time pitching hay.”

Everyone had laughed at that, and the embarrassment hurt Frank more than anything Kenny had done.

Frank didn’t want another bloody nose, but he still teased Kenny whenever he could, knowing that Kenny had been ordered by his uncle not to fight again.

Kenny listened to his uncle. Raymond was his father’s little brother, and they had been in France together during the Great War.

Uncle Raymond was with Kenny’s dad at Belleau Wood, and had helped carry him to the field hospital where he died.

Kenny was eight then. He was nine when Raymond came home from the war, and he had just turned 10 when the influenza took his mother.

When she got sick, Kenny stayed with Raymond at his apartment in town, because M  m   and P  p   were old and Aunt Ir  ne and Aunt H  l  ne had babies. Raymond said that, in case Kenny had it, too, he shouldn’t be around little kids or old people.

Raymond wasn’t scared of the influenza. He said that, if he didn’t get it when he was in France, he wasn’t going to get it now.

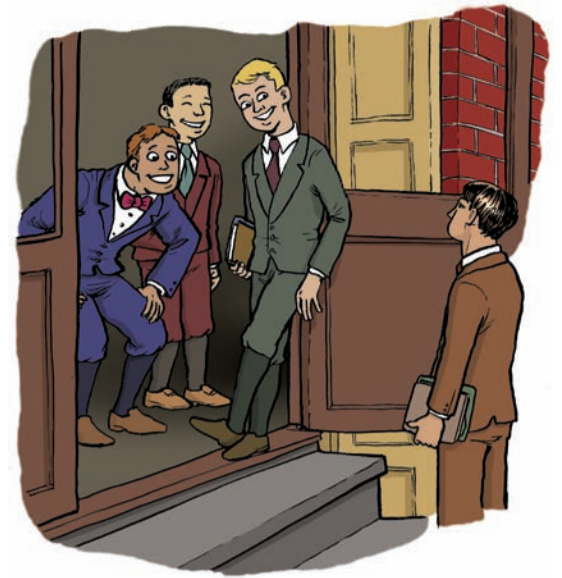
After his mother’s funeral, Kenny went to live with M  m   and P  p   and Uncle George, who was the youngest of the family, only 16 then. Four years later, George still lived with his parents and helped at the farm, though he often went off for a day or two to work construction in Quebec, where the money was good and he had many friends.

But Raymond was the oldest now, and, while P  p   was still head of the family, everyone turned to Uncle Raymond when there was a problem.

If Uncle Raymond told him not to fight with Frank Ashline again, Kenny wasn’t going to fight with Frank Ashline again.

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



## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Peru 2. pancreas 3. panther or puma 4. pig 5. Prince Philip  
6. piranha 7. (Katherine) Patterson 8. Prowers 9. piccolo 10. potato

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