



CK Reporter of the Week  
Avery MacKenzie, Fort Collins

## Shining a light on our dark past

**T**he Promise of Change” by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy is a book written in the form of a poem and is about Jo Ann Allen’s true experience in 1956 as one of the “Clinton 12.”

This is the nickname of the first group of African-American students to be integrated with white students at Clinton High School in Tennessee after the Supreme Court rules segregation unconstitutional.

This book would be great for a teacher to read to students during Black History Month.

But just because the Supreme Court has ruled it unconstitutional doesn’t mean that Clinton High will make things easy for the Clinton 12.

Protesters line up to picket with signs protesting the Clinton 12’s first day of school and things aren’t going to get better soon.

As the year progresses, instead of just being able to walk to school, they have to be driven by the sheriff because of all the violence.

At the climax of the book, Labor Day riots break out as white mobs terrorize African-Americans that come through their lines.

It becomes so violent that the National Guard has to be deployed after that Labor Day weekend.

When the Clinton 12 returns, the school is almost empty because parents are

scared to send their kids to school.

Then a brave white pastor named Paul Turner decides to walk the Clinton 12 to school.

Everything goes smoothly until Paul Turner starts to walk back to his church.

What happens? Read the book to find out.

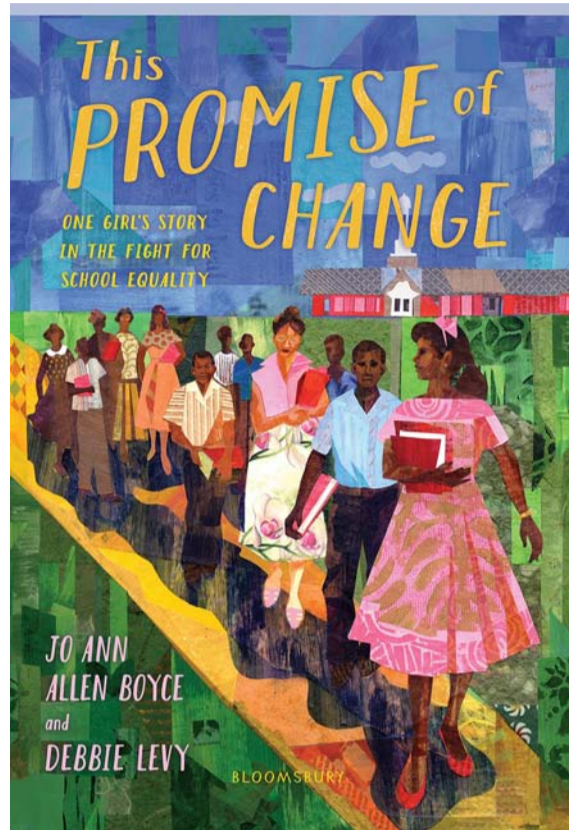
I would rate this book a 10 out of 10 because it showed me how America wasn’t always a “free country” but that it also has elements of a dark past within the last century.

This book would be great for a teacher to read to students during Black History Month.

It would be good for ages 11 up, the reason being there are some harsh words and it’s a roller coaster of emotions going from sad and angry to happy and excited within a page.

I also think that the book isn’t the best way to introduce segregation to younger students. It’s a confusing concept to understand.

After reading this book I wanted to learn more, and, after browsing around I found out that Jo Ann Allen Boyce’s grandson is Cameron Boyce, an actor on Disney who has been in many movies and TV shows.



By Christopher Smit, 12, a CK Reporter from Boulder

## Living with Jim Crow

**S**outh Carolina, 1946. Most white families have many opportunities and lead prosperous lives, but black communities are struggling due to the Jim Crow laws.

In “The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA” by Brenda Woods, the reader is sent back in time to the middle of the Civil Rights movement and learns to understand the effects of racism from both sides.

Gabriel Haberlin is celebrating his twelfth birthday riding his brand-new bicycle around Birdsong, the small town where he lives.

What starts out as a normal day almost turns into disaster when he accidentally rides his new bike into the path of a car driven by Betty Babcock, who Gabriel thinks of as the worst driver to ever sit behind a wheel.

Fortunately, a black man named Meriwether Hunter is able to push him out of the way in time and even repair his damaged bicycle.

To repay him for saving both his bike and his life, Gabriel gets Meriwether a job at his father’s auto shop.

Because his bicycle has been confiscated for two weeks, Gabriel also decides to work at his father’s shop so that he can get some experience working and spend more time with Meriwether.

Meriwether is shown to have a

knack for engineering and is soon the best engineer at the shop; He starts to develop a good reputation among many people in Birdsong ... except for Lucas Shaw, the only other engineer at the shop.

Lucas looks down upon all “colored” people in Birdsong, and there are rumors that he might be associated with the Ku Klux Klan.

Luckily, nothing too serious happens between him and Meriwether, and they are able to avoid each other most of the time.

One day, Meriwether decides to let a secret slip to Gabriel.

At first, Gabriel doesn’t quite understand why it’s so important to keep private, but he still vows not to tell anyone.

However, he quickly learns that if anyone finds out about it, it could result in an event even more tragic than the day he was almost run over on his bike.

“The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA” is a great piece of historical fiction.

The book is only about 195 pages, but is still perfect for anyone ages 9 and up.



By Nandi Strieker, 12, a CK Reporter from Antonito

## Homeless children in a major Indian city

**T**he Bridge Home: by Padma Venkatraman seemed boring and hard to understand at first.

The book is set in India, so you’ll have to get used to a few things like names, but it gets easier, and more interesting, as you read.

The story is about Viji and Rukku, two girls living in Chennai. After their abusive father beats them and their mother, they steal a small amount of money and run away to Delhi.

The money goes quickly, and the girls are soon left with nothing.

On the first night, they find a footbridge with an abandoned tent on it. They set up their stuff, and then one of the two kids already sleeping in the tent returns.

Another kid follows soon after, but the young boys are not harsh to the girls.

They soon become friends, and agree to help provide for each other.

Rukku has some mental disability, so it is up to the rest to help out.

On the first day together, the boys take Viji and Rukku to “The Himalayas,” which are not actually the Himalayas.

That is the boys’ nickname for the mountains of trash that they sort

through every day.

They are given a sack by a man, and then the kids sort through the piles of rubbish looking for glass and metal.

They collect these recyclables and then give them to the “Waste Mart Man” who pays them. This is how they keep themselves fed.

When the girls were still alone, they had broken a glass at a tea stand, and worked off the money to pay for it.

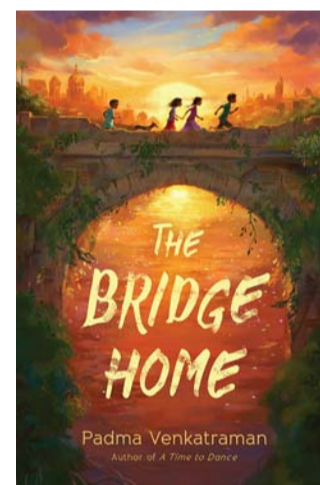
While working, they met a nice lady who gave Rukku materials for beaded necklaces.

Rukku mindlessly makes these while the others sort trash, but is later able to sell them for 150 rupees a piece to a few college girls.

Compare this to the 200 rupees they started out with, and this is incredible.

The rest involves a graveyard, an ally turned enemy, and a fight against the cruel reality of a large city.

This was a terrific book, and clocking in at only 187 pages, an easy read for anyone.



By Jack Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton



## Writing Is Cool!

### 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 Colorado NIE.com or by emailing [dplewka@denverpost.com](mailto:dplewka@denverpost.com).

# After nearly 15 years, 90-day mission is over

Last Wednesday, NASA officially admitted that the mission of the Mars Rover Opportunity had ended.

To say that the announcement came later than expected would not even begin to capture the story.

On January 24, 2004, "Opportunity" landed on the Martian surface, with a mission of exploring the Red Planet for 90 days, three weeks after its twin, "Spirit" had landed elsewhere on the planet.

They became a NASA legend when they filled out their 90 day missions and kept going, slowly rolling across the planet, sending back images and analyzing soil and rocks.

An early mission had landed the first American rover, "Sojourner," on the surface in 1997. Like Opportunity and Spirit, Sojourner did better than expected.

It was supposed to be active for seven "sols" or Earth days (*Martian days are 37 minutes longer than Earth days*). Instead, it continued to explore and send back data for 83 sols.

Spirit was active on the Martian plains for 2,623 sols, or six years, nine months and 12 days.

However, Spirit was not moving that entire time, and its "death" came after it got stuck in Martian sand and then had its solar panels covered with dust in a storm,



Graphic: NASA/JPL-Caltech

cutting off its power.

Opportunity nearly met the same fate: In April, 2005, it got stuck in a sand dune.

Back on Earth, engineers worked carefully to send commands that would move the rover out of the sand rather than dig it in any deeper.

It took nearly two months, but Opportunity escaped the dune and went about its mission.

In the end, Opportunity had traveled about 28 miles, carefully recording each step.

But last June, a large storm on Mars left a layer of dust on Opportunity's solar panels and it began to lose power.

NASA scientists waited out the Martian winter, hoping that, when the days grew longer and there was more sunshine, enough light would hit Opportunity's solar panels to power it back up and shake off the dust.

However, despite winds they hoped would help, Opportunity did not respond to NASA's pings or any of its commands, and, on February 13, its heroic mission ended.

There were tears among the scientists who had worked with the rover for so long, but there was also celebration. Opportunity had accomplished so much!

Meanwhile, "Curiosity" continues in its sixth year exploring the Red Planet, and a new rover will land on Mars in 2020.

## Big Nate



## Sudoku

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

**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 3.



## Brainteaser

**Author/Illustrator Jeff Kinney was born on this date in 1971, so our answers this week will begin with "W" for "Wimpy Kid."**

1. A small breed of extremely fast dog similar to a greyhound.
2. Common chemical substance made up of two atoms of hydrogen for every atom of oxygen, Opportunity discovered that there's some of it on Mars.
3. President whose birthday is this coming Friday
4. Part of the United Kingdom, along with Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.
5. A group of small predators, including ferrets and minks, in a family that also includes otters, badgers and wolverines.
6. Tool used for gripping and turning bolts, pipes and nuts
7. A northwest suburb of Denver, it's in Adams and Jefferson counties and is bordered by Northglenn and Broomfield.
8. Salad made of chopped apples, celery and walnuts mixed with mayonnaise
9. The wave created by a motor boat
10. Day of the week named for the king of Norse gods

(answers on Page Three)

## Reality TV show on Mars has been canceled

They said it couldn't be done. They said it would never work. Apparently, they were right.

In 2012, a Dutch company announced the Mars One project, which would take selected volunteers, train them, fly them to Mars and have them set up a colony there by 2025.

Everyone on Earth would get to watch on television and that would pay for this exciting project.

Not everybody thought this sounded like a very good idea, including some researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the top engineering schools in the world.

They studied the idea and pointed out that we have not yet discovered ways to take moisture from

Martian soil to provide water for the colony.

They also said that the plants needed to grow food for the colony would produce far too much oxygen and would soon destroy it.

And that getting four settlers and all their gear to the Red Planet would take \$5.4 billion and about three times the number of rockets the Mars One people were planning on using.

Still, Mars One said they had 200,000 volunteers (*a number they never proved*) and narrowed it down to 100, from which they planned to select the final four.

Except that Mars One has apparently run out of money, so, if you were hoping to move to Mars, you're out of luck.

So you still have to do your homework. photo/ESA



# 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 Colorado Kids Reporter!

[tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter](http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter)



### To read the sources for these stories

Opportunity Ends Its Mission

Mars One also ends

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

# Au Pays d'en Haut (To the High Country)

## Chapter Twelve – En dérrouine

(Our story so far: While the other voyageurs continue up river in the remaining canoes, Antoine and Marcel lead horses with some of the supplies towards the fort, stopping at the Beaver village.)

The Beaver village was a combination of individual family tepees and brush-covered summer lean-tos, and none was large enough for a crowd, so the meal that night was outdoors, around a cheerful fire.

Everyone wanted to meet Antoine and Marcel, not just to make plans with them for trade but because Antoine was to be part of Alexis's family.



The guests were given pieces of partridge and rabbit in addition to the caribou pemmican and salt pork that everyone was eating, and Small Owl and her mother brought out little cakes made from dried choke cherries and made sure Antoine and Marcel were given them just after the elders had been served.

Small Owl's grandfather made a long speech of welcome, which Alexis translated, and then her uncle gave a speech, and her father another. The children had been seated at the edge of the circle and drifted away quietly so they could play without disturbing the adults, and their mothers went to find them as darkness fell over the village.

Now the men and the older women were ready to talk about why Antoine and Marcel had come, and Alexis began to speak, in French and then again in Beaver, translating for the band.

"You must understand," he said, "that not all of our experiences with white men have been happy ones. Still, there is much at the fort we wish to trade for, and we, ourselves, this band, have not had bad experiences. You, Antoine, are a brother to me, and Marcel, you seem a good and honest man. But we have heard bad things from other bands and we must be cautious."

The others nodded their agreement, and he continued. "We do not like to kill the beaver, because we are the Beaver and so he is our little brother. Still, we can find other furs for you, and we can bring you moose and caribou meat. We are only a small band, but we have cousins nearby who will also want to trade, and they can come to talk with Antoine as well, if he stays with us. We wish for him to stay."

Alexis gestured towards one of the young men. "Tomorrow, you leave for the fort with Spotted Deer, while our best hunters go to seek moose. When we have meat, we will bring it to the fort and, by then, your clerk, Campbell, will have returned. We will talk with him, and trade, and then Antoine will come home with us. This is what I have to say."

The others had listened silently until he said he was finished speaking, and then they all voiced their agreement.

There was more discussion of trade, and of the moose hunt, until everyone who wanted to speak had spoken, and then one of the older men began to tell a long story about a hunter and a talking muskrat.

Alexis had trouble translating it exactly, but, as the storyteller spoke and acted out parts of the story, the Beaver were laughing so hard that Antoine and Marcel couldn't help laughing, too.

They slept in Alexis and Small Owl's tepee, and, in the morning, Spotted Deer, who appeared to be a little younger than Antoine, met them at the edge of the clearing with the four horses, loaded and ready to go.

"It's going to seem like he's taking you a long way around," Alexis explained, "but he knows his way; there are only so many places to cross the river."

He handed them a deerskin sack of pemmican and berry cakes. "I'll see you at the fort, once we have a moose," he said, and then the two voyageurs, with their guide, set off down the deer trail into the river valley.

Spotted Deer spoke no French, but he was able to explain himself with gestures, warning them to watch their footing at a swampy spot or explaining that a trail which looked better than the one they were on would soon hook off in the wrong direction.

He ate the evening meal at the fire with them but then slept on the other side of the clearing. Marcel explained that it was to keep the horses between them so it would be harder for anyone to sneak in and steal them.

They crossed the river on the second day at a wide spot where the water was shallow enough that they didn't need to unpack the horses and carry the bundles across on their shoulders.

Then, late on the third day, they arrived at the fort.

Campbell had not yet returned from the main trading post, but the voyageurs he had left behind were already repairing the palisades, replacing the rotting logs with new ones and propping up any that were sagging in the soil.

"It's better than I thought it would be," Marcel remarked to Toussaint, standing in the middle of the tall grass that had sprung up in the center of the abandoned encampment.

"It's not so bad," Toussaint agreed with a shrug. "No one was here last year, but two years is not so long. We need to re-think the buildings and replace their roofs."

Marcel and Antoine had put the packs from the horses in the warehouse with the ones that had come up in the canoe. Now Marcel opened a bundle of trade goods and brought out a hunting knife and a small packet of beads.

Spotted Deer had tied the horses to a post near the dilapidated stables. Marcel gave him the knife and packet.

"I'll bet a bright fellow like that has someone to give beads to," he said, as their guide walked back towards the trail they had come on.

Text c. 2014, Mike Peterson – Illustrations c. 2014, Dylan Meconis

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. whippet 2. water 3. (George) Washington 4. Wales 5. weasel  
6. wrench 7. Westminster 8. Waldorf 9. wake 10. Wednesday

# ColoradoKids

is produced by  
Denver Post Educational Services  
Executive Editor: Dana Plewka  
[dplewka@denverpost.com](mailto:dplewka@denverpost.com)  
CK Editor: Mike Peterson  
[coloradokidseditor@gmail.com](mailto:coloradokidseditor@gmail.com)  
We welcome your comments.

eEditions of the Post are  
free of charge for classroom use.  
Contact us for information on all  
our programs.

Denver Post Educational Services  
5990 Washington St.  
Denver CO 80216  
(303) 954-3974  
(800) 336-7678

For tools to extend the learning in this feature,  
look under "Youth Content" at:  
[www.ColoradoNIE.com](http://www.ColoradoNIE.com)

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.

