



CK Reporter of the Week
Ariana Bates-Ehrlich, Arvada

Second baby sloth expected soon

The Denver Zoo is expecting a new baby sloth! The sloths live in Bird World. The outside of the building doesn't look too special, but the inside is a South American paradise.

The sloths are in Bird World because it already has trees for the birds who live there, so the sloths can just climb up and make themselves comfortable.

Also, the rooms are very humid so that it models a rainforest. This makes the sloths more comfortable than if they were to be in an outdoor exhibit because their native countries only have one season.

On the day that we went, the sloths were up in the trees. They were hard to spot, so we had to look up high. There we saw Charlotte, Elliot, and Baby Ruth.

The sloths are in Bird World because it already has trees for the birds who live there, so the sloths can just climb up and make themselves comfortable.

Zoo Keeper Anton Morrison explained to me the ways that the Denver Zoo will care for the second baby.

Charlotte and Elliot, are a species called Linne's Two-toed Sloths (one of the seven sloth species still alive), and already have one youngster named Baby Ruth.

This will help with the birth of the second baby, because the keepers now know how the birth will go over.

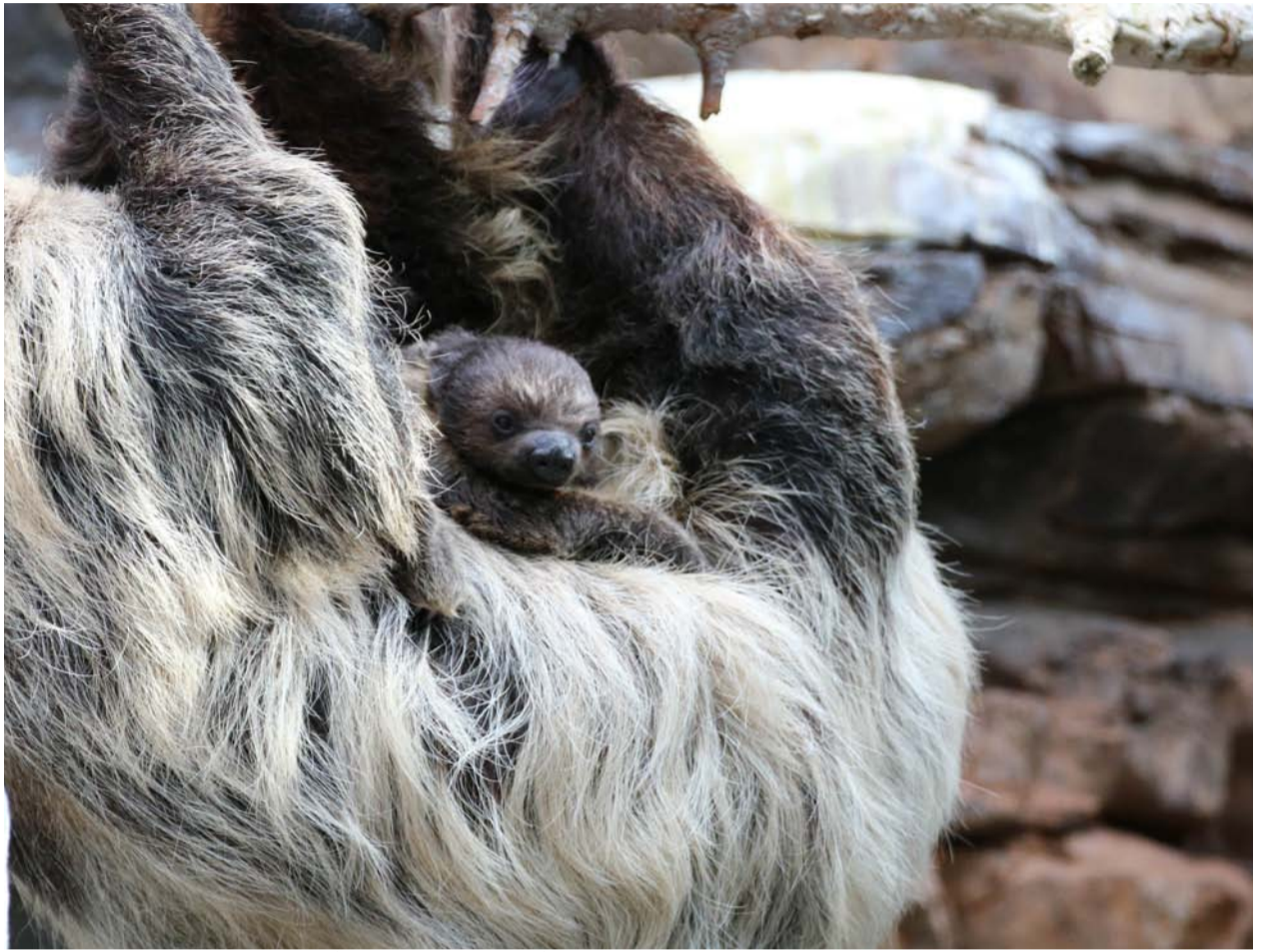
There is no specific mating season for sloths.

Sloths don't have any genitalia, so they do a DNA test using fur to determine the gender. Those results take a few weeks to come in.

Once they know the sloths' sexes, the keepers find out if a female is pregnant by using an ultrasound.

To get the sloths to come down to be cared for, each day the keepers train them using positive reinforcement.

That means that, if the sloth responds well to the training, they are rewarded with fruit or sweet potatoes.



Baby Ruth snuggles in the comfortable hammock of her mother, Charlotte. Baby Ruth is older now, and will soon have a younger sibling to take up that warm, furry resting spot. (Photo/Denver Zoo)

If they don't, the keepers just ignore it and try again. The zoo has cameras around the room. Sloths are nocturnal, so these cameras can see in the dark.

Most sloths give birth at night, but Baby Ruth was born in the middle of the day.

For Baby Ruth's birth, they shut down Bird World and all the keepers were there to help.

Charlotte is an experienced mother now and will be able to do it on her own. All the keepers need to do is to stay there in case something goes wrong.

Sloths stay in their mother's body for ten months.

When a baby is born the keepers will make sure that everything is happening naturally.

For another sloth to be born, the older sibling has to be independent. Now, one-year-old Baby Ruth will be okay if Charlotte spends time with the new baby.

As for the father, if they have to take Elliot out of the

room so that the baby can bond with Charlotte, they will.

Anton Morrison says that the Denver Zoo's hope for Baby Ruth is that she will eventually become a mother herself, at their zoo or possibly another.

The baby is expected between now and March.

This February the tickets are half off if you order online.

So, I suggest you buy a ticket and head over to see the gem of Bird World soon!



By Izzie Intriago,
11, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

Story from dog's point of view nothing special

"Shelby's Story - A Dog's Way Home Tale" by W. Bruce Cameron is about a dog named Shelby and her adventures.

The first setting that Shelby is in is her owner's backyard with her siblings and her mother.

One day Shelby and her sister decide to go under the fence to the outside world to grab a piece of chicken. Luckily their mom is watching, yells at them, and they come back.

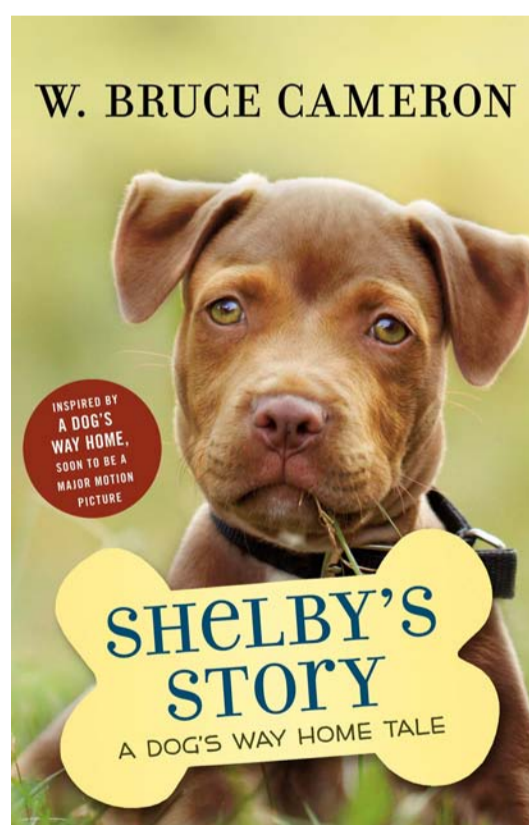
Another day, they again go under the fence and out into the street. They start to wander around the neighborhood and immediately learn a few important things, the first one being that cars are bad for dogs.

The next thing they learn is that plastic grocery bags have food inside them and can be torn apart.

One day Shelby's sister is captured while they are out roaming the streets, and Shelby ends up at a landfill and spends a year or two there where she is well fed and able to survive.

This is just the beginning of a series of places and experiences the two dogs encounter.

Being targeted towards a 10- or 11-year-old reader, the story is easy to read with only a few difficult words and concepts for the younger readers to understand, and



there are enough details that you can imagine what each of the characters looks like without a lot of pictures.

I didn't necessarily find the book to be very exciting, but there was enough action to pull the reader into the story.

I am so-so on this book.

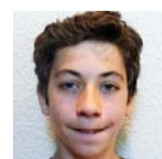
I don't strongly recommend it, but I also don't advise against it.

This is a book about second chances and new beginnings.

I think they could have improved on the storyline by adding in more characters and interactions between the characters and not having Shelby's thoughts be the only point of view.

After all, there is only so much that Shelby's attitude can portray: A dog's attitude is basically "Hey I'm here, I'm happy, give me attention."

It doesn't trigger a lot of different emotions.



By Ben Vanourek,
13, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

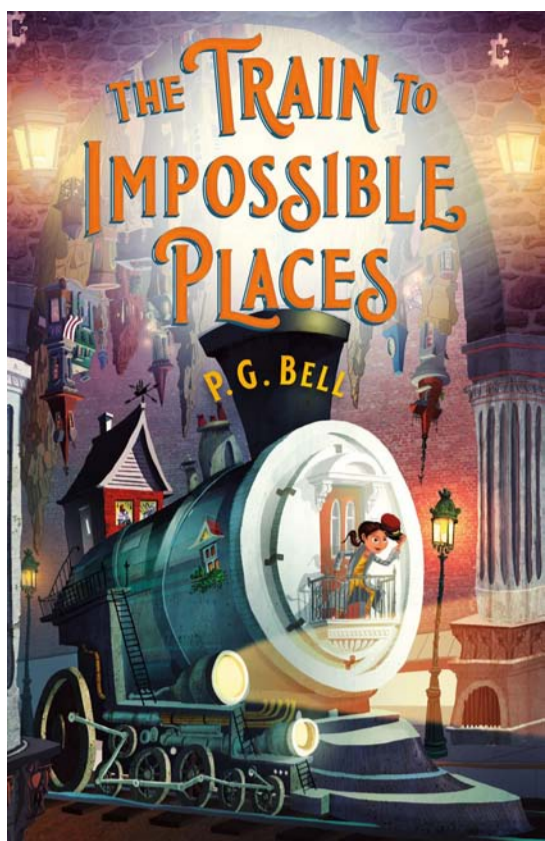


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Take a ride on a crazy fantasy adventure



Interested in fantasy and other worldly destinations? Then this is the book for you!

In "The Train to Impossible Places" by P.G. Bell, Suzy embarks on a truly crazy adventure.

This book mostly consists of fantasy and fictional characters.

The main characters are Suzy, a young human girl; Fredrick, a snow globe; Fletch, a troll that works as engineer for the train lines; Stonker, another troll who drives the train; a white bear named Ursel; and Wilmot, the postmaster of the Impossible Postal Express.

Suzy discovers the train when she hears a strange banging and crashing noise on the first floor of her house in the middle of the night.

She walks down and discovers exactly what the trolls didn't want her to see.

Now that she is aboard, however, there is only one thing to do – hold on tight and prepare for an unexpected adventure!

Throughout the book, the author creates a wonderful, imaginary world.

The elaboration in this novel is so detailed and precise that it is easy for the reader to get lost in the

sentences and chapters and enter a fantasy world.

It is also very creative in that there are lots of different elements of the plot and storyline.

The characters are unique and are very easy to picture, which brings to life their emotions, actions, words and thoughts.

As Suzy travels through the Union of Impossible Places, she encounters the evil Lady Crepuscula, guardian of the Obsidian Tower; ghosts who live in a shipwreck that once sailed the seas known as La Rouquine and many other characters.

And the those characters just might be hiding something. Something important.

If you enjoy fantasy or adventure, this is definitely a good read. It is a very entertaining and will keep you reading to the end.



By Avery MacKenzie, 13, a CK Reporter from Fort Collins

Fun graphic novel set in the hilarious past

"Caveboy Dave: Not So Faboo," a 256-page graphic novel by Aaron Reynolds and Phil McAndrew, is a terrific book, though I wish the graphics had been better throughout.

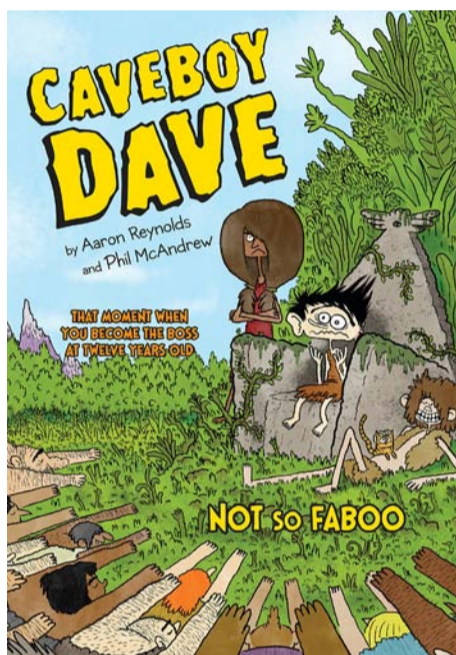
For the first half of the book the black & white pictures were pretty good, but in the second half they were horrible scribbles.

There was no clear reason why the pictures changed but, for a graphic novel you need good pictures.

But I liked how the author describes the characters. For example, he describes one character as 75% chest hair, 23% muscle, and 2% brain. He describes another character as, 100% "Ugh."

The book is set in ancient times and the main character, Dave Unga-Bunga, just invented ice cream and summer vacation.

One day this rock formation, the Balancing Boulders, falls down and Dave sees a fire that had been blocked by the formation.



He goes to tell their leader, Shamar Faboo, but he is gone! Until the village can find Shamar Faboo, they assign Dave, a 12-year-old, to be their shaman.

At first Dave likes the job, but soon he gets bored with it, since that all he gets to do is solve people's problems.

Alas, no one can find Shaman Faboo.

Can Dave and his friends find Shaman Faboo before it is too late?

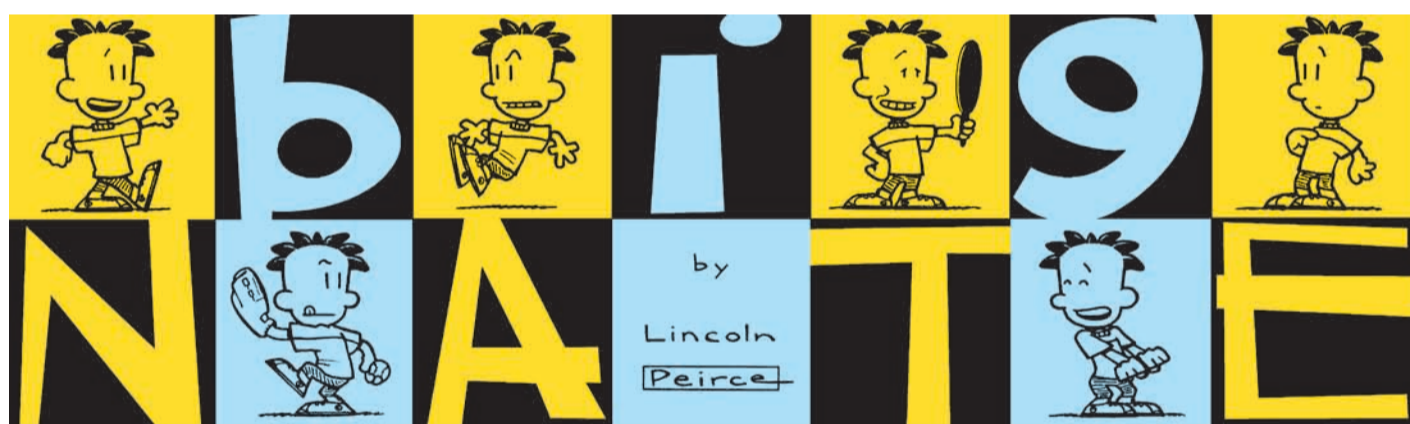
They will have to get past carnivorous birds, lava spewing geysers, and much more to do it!

I would recommend this book for kids around 10 years old who like funny stuff and action-packed adventure.

I am very happy they are coming out with a sequel.



By Wesley Schlachter, 12, a CK Reporter from Boulder



Cavemen hunted small game, too

You've probably seen artist's illustrations in which crowds of ancient men stand around a mammoth or other huge animal, hurling spears at it.

Many archaeologists have thought that, because ancient weapons were so clumsy, people in those prehistoric times could only hunt huge animals.

But in recent times, we've learned that our ancestors were more clever than we thought, knowing a lot about astronomy and being able to make foods like cheese and bread sooner than we thought.

The latest revelations come from digs in the rainforest of Sri Lanka, including Fa Hien Cave, seen in this photo, where people you can truly call "cave-

men" (or, to be fair, "cave people") once lived.

It turns out that people lived in the rainforests much sooner than we thought.

We assumed it would be too hard to hunt the fast, tree-climbing monkeys and squirrels of the deep forests.

But a team of Sri Lankan and Australian researchers working in Fa Hein Cave found tools and garbage that shows people lived there 45,000 years ago.

They not only were able to hunt monkeys, but used the animals' slim, strong bones to make weapons to hunt more, and their teeth to make tools to do many other tasks around their homes.

photo/Rapa123

Snapster Dolls fun, once you figure them out

Snapstar dolls are a mixed pleasure. I must say, they are fun to dress up and play with, but in between these fun parts, there is a lot of set up.

Each doll comes with a stand and a green screen.

Though there were instructions on the box, my sister and I still couldn't figure out how to correctly set them up.

They should be for 7+ because figuring out how the stands and dolls worked was a little bit frustrating.

There is also a stand in the box that is easier to work with, but is very brittle and will most likely snap if too much pressure is put on it.

The green screen connects to an app where one can choose different backgrounds to snap a photo with the doll.

The stand is also green, and blends into the background so you can pose the doll in many different

ways with it.

My sister and I had a lot of fun posing the dolls in flying positions, running positions, sitting positions. It was great!

The actual dolls (We tested two) had some surprises in them too: When I accidentally pulled the hair off of one of them I was mortified.

Then I realized that it was just a wig so that hair could be removed or switched with another doll if preferred.

When my sister and I began to play with the app and doll

clothes, things began to lighten up a little bit.

The dolls were very poseable and fit into their stands well. The clothes on the doll were a different story though.

When we were playing around with one of the dolls and their clothes, I instantly noticed that the clothes were too tight.

The dress could barely wrap around the doll's waist correctly and the shoes had to be fought to be taken on and off!

Even with these difficulties, though, my 9-year-old sister and I had a lot of fun playing with these dolls, but when we looked at the age limit on the box we were shocked! It said 5 and over!

In our opinion they should be for 7+ because figuring out how the stands and dolls worked was a little bit frustrating.

Overall though, I think that the doll, green screen, and app (all of these are combined in the cost of \$15) are very much worth it and could be purchased for, or even by, any girls who want to learn and have fun doing it.



By Chloe Whiteside, 12, a CK Reporter from Broomfield

Venezuela: Two leaders, who's in charge?

Venezuela has been in the headlines lately, and none of the news seems good.

More than three million people have fled to other countries, mostly to neighboring South American nations, though about 290,000 to the United States.

The nation's health system has collapsed, food is scarce and the value of the money has fallen to the point that it seems nearly worthless.

The United States has sent aid to Venezuela, but it is in storehouses on the Colombian side of the border, forbidden to come into the country.

And Venezuela seems to have two presidents in an argument over which one is truly in charge.

What has happened to this country?

Venezuela has been independent nearly as long as we have, winning its freedom from Spain in 1811.

However, it has always needed to sell its natural resources to other countries in order to have a solid economy, and, while it has other resources, it relies almost entirely on oil.

Venezuela has the largest supply of crude oil of any single nation in the world, which you might think was a great benefit.

But it has meant that changes in the price of oil have a very large effect on the nation, much more than if oil only made up a part of its economy.

In 1980, Hugo Chavez became national leader. He was friendly with Cuba and most of Venezuela's trade was with that country.

But Cuban leader Fidel Castro became old and ill, oil prices dropped and then, in 2013, Hugo Chavez died of cancer.

His vice-president, Nicolas Maduro, became leader of a nation with a lot of problems, and those problems only got worse.

Maduro cracked down on his critics and stayed in power, but many said elections there were fake, and they didn't need a free press to see the shortages and the way money was becoming worthless.

This year, there were elections and Maduro claimed to have won, but the opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, insists that he is the rightful leader.

The United States and many other nations agree with Guaidó. Russia, Iran, Turkey and others say Maduro is still the real leader.

And while the quarrel goes on, truckloads of needed food and other aid wait at the border.



Tons of American aid sit in a warehouse in Cucuta, Colombia, waiting to be brought into Venezuela. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)



Sudoku

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



Brainteaser

Happy 100th Birthday to Grand Canyon National Park! In honor of its becoming a national park on this day in 1919, our answers will start with "C" for "Canyon" and for "Conservation."

1. Bird noted for its bright red color and the crest of feathers on its head
2. Catholic clergyman ranked just above a bishop and just below the Pope.
3. Major League Baseball team based in Missouri
4. Author of books with characters like the Mock Turtle, Mad Hatter and Cheshire Cat
5. Larval stage of a butterfly
6. Also called "Chinese parsley," this herb is used in Thai and other Southeast Asian cooking as well as being mixed with tomato, onion and peppers in *pico de gallo*
7. Former gold mining town in Gilpin County now known for its opera and gambling.
8. Breeds of this domesticated animal include Manx, Persian and shorthair
9. Very popular sport worldwide, though almost unknown in the US, it uses bats, balls and wickets and has positions called "silly midoff" and "square leg."
10. English and French are the official languages of the second largest nation. Name it. **(answers on Page Four)**

Could GMO mosquitoes be answer to malaria?

Malaria is a serious disease that killed more than 430,000 people in 2017, most of them children.

It's caused by a parasite which is spread by specific types of mosquitoes which are particularly abundant in Africa, although the disease is found in tropical areas throughout the world.

Spraying for the mosquitoes is not a very good solution for the problem: For one thing, insecticides kill many more animals than just the specific type of mosquito that carries the malaria parasite.

For another, the areas in which malaria is a problem are far, far too large and too widely distributed for bug spray to be a sensible solution.

But several groups of biologists are working on

ways to turn the mosquitoes against each other in the war against malaria.

One project that is nearly ready for testing would change genes in some malaria-bearing mosquitoes so that, if they were released and mated with wild mosquitoes of their species, the result would be mosquitoes that were unable to produce eggs.

If enough of these genetically modified mosquitoes were released, researchers say, it could be the end of the specific type of mosquito that spreads malaria.

But others are not convinced it's a safe approach, including some people in Africa who object to what they see as an experiment that could go wrong in their back yard.

photo/Center for Disease Control



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<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



To read the sources for these stories

Ancient Hunters

Venezuela

GMO Mosquitoes

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

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

Chapter Thirteen – Winter in Athabasca

(Our story so far: The brigade has arrived in Athabasca. Now Antoine is to live among the Beaver in order to trade with them for furs and for food supplies for the brigade.)

It was 10 days before Campbell returned, and Antoine enjoyed the hard work of helping to repair the fort and prepare for the coming year.

Replacing the roofs on the buildings reminded him of the things he had done with his father to get the farm ready before he left, while the other chores, like cutting hay and splitting firewood, were such familiar tasks that he felt he was back home in the St. Lawrence valley once more.



Alexis and a group of Beaver arrived two days before Campbell, and Antoine was surprised to see that Small Owl and Joseph had come along.

The toddler quickly became a favorite with the other voyageurs, and, when the Beaver pitched camp to wait for the clerk, Small Owl and two other women who had also come along began working to prepare the moose meat the band had brought to trade.

They built a dome-shaped hut of saplings tied together at the top and covered with pine branches, then cut the meat into long, thin strips which they laid on wooden racks over a smoky fire.

Once it had started, one of the women came to the fort and pulled a voyageur by the sleeve towards their camp. Alexis explained that the meat would not be ready by the time they left and they wanted to show him how to tend the fire and turn the strips.

The women also began to prepare the moose skin. They had left half the meat behind for their own village, but the hide would be worth enough to the white men that they didn't mind trading it.

When Campbell and a group of voyageurs from the main trading post arrived, the blankets were once more spread on the ground and trading began for the meat and hides, plus five more horses the Beaver had brought.

Campbell was not happy with the idea of Antoine, an inexperienced man, going *en dérouine* with the band, but he saw that the Beaver would not budge, so he agreed, so long as old Toussaint could go, too, long enough to teach Antoine how to grade furs and negotiate a fair price.

And so Antoine left the voyageurs to live with Alexis and his family.

At first, he returned every few weeks with Alexis and Toussaint to bring food and furs and to parlay with Campbell, but as summer ended, Toussaint rejoined the men at the fort, and, by the time the aspen were turning to gold, Antoine was beginning to travel back and forth just with Spotted Deer.

The Beaver explained that Alexis was an older man and had other responsibilities, but the truth was that, because Spotted Deer spoke no French and was too young to have any authority, Campbell couldn't change how things were being done except through Antoine, who would always answer, "I'll see what they say."

Sometimes, the band said "no." Other times, the band said nothing at all.

And so things remained as they were, but Campbell had little cause to complain.

After a while, the bands that were closely related to Small Owl's people began to come trade with Antoine, and then word spread so that, by winter, he had an even larger group of hunters and trappers to work with.

When he had first arrived at the village, Antoine's best friend seemed to be Joseph, who was also just learning to talk. But he had soon learned enough of the language that he and Spotted Deer could have simple conversations as they traveled together.

For example, as they watched a chickadee flit from branch to branch, Antoine was able to tell Spotted Deer that they also had the merry little birds back at his home, though he wasn't quite able to explain the slightly different markings on the chickadees in St. Sulpice without gestures.

More important, he learned enough of the right vocabulary not just to be polite to the people they visited, but also that he could trade without needing to have Alexis translate for him.

This meant that, as winter began, he and Spotted Deer could go together among the bands, away from the village for several weeks at a time as they traded in Beaver villages and encampments up and down the river valley and into the mountains.

As the long Athabaskan winter wore on, however, trading became more difficult. Furs were easier to get than food, since good thick blankets, copper kettles and metal hatchets were of greater value to the Aboriginal people than animal skins, but finding food became a problem when both men and animals were huddled down against harsh weather.

At the worst of times, the people chewed on the soft inner bark of trees for food, and their reluctance to kill beaver gave way to their need to feed themselves. And, when Antoine visited the fort, Campbell would tell him they needed him to bring them more food, for the voyageurs had used up much of their supplies and were facing hunger.

But the Beaver could not trade something they did not have.

Then, just as things began to seem desperate, the weather brightened, the snows began to melt and fill the little creeks that trickled down the hill sides, wildflowers poked their heads through the softening soil, and the forest came slowly back to life.

Even before the snow was gone from the high country, it began to be easier to travel. Several bands got together to surround a caribou herd and now there was meat for their families, and for Antoine to take to the fort.

But now, as he and Spotted Deer arrived at the river, Antoine saw they could no longer cross on the ice.

Spring was truly here, and it was time to think of rendezvous, and of home.

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

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. cardinal 2. cardinal 3. (St. Louis) Cardinals 4. (Lewis) Carroll
6. caterpillar 6. cilantro 7. Central City 8. cat 9. cricket
10. Canada

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