



Nick stars are simply brave people

I had the opportunity to travel to California and report on the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards this year.

The KCAs is an annual awards show hosted by a trending celebrity. This year, they were hosted by John Cena, his second time in a row.

The unique thing about the KCAs is that everything revolves around kids: Kids get to choose from the nominees, and choose what goes on in the live show, like "Eat it or Wear it."

I asked each of the stars that I met two or three common questions about them and their careers.

They answered very thoughtfully.

One of the questions that I asked them was what they like to do in their free-time.

Jason Liles from "Rampage" loves to cook. He is in



Madisyn Shipman photo/Gary Schanman



the kitchen all the time.

He said, "So, today, I did homemade stuffed-crust barbecue chicken and bacon pizza."

He loves cooking so much, that he has only gone out to eat twice in the last month!

Jojo Siwa loves getting to play with her dog!

I also asked them what was the toughest moment in their career and how they overcame it.

Madisyn Shipman from "Game Shakers" said that the toughest moments in her career are getting rejected for shows.

Fun fact: She said she actually got turned down for the role of Kenzie in "Game Shakers" five

times before booking it.

It was very discouraging for her, she explained, because she really wanted to be somewhere and she tried so hard, and then they told her that she wasn't right for the role.

It really tore her down, but according to her, "You just have to say strong and surround yourself with people that love and support you."

Stony Blyden from "Hunter Street" said that he wanted to move to LA, but people told him not to.

He did it anyway, and it worked out pretty well.

I also asked other stars different questions specific to them.

I asked **Mackenzie Hancsicsak** of "This is Us" what it feels like to be part of such a meaningful TV show.

She told me that it's really cool because it feels so important. She meets women on the streets who are crying because they relate so much to the issues that her character, Kate, goes through.

She said she thinks that "It's really cool to connect to people like that."



Jojo Siwa photo/Gary Schanman

I asked **Lance Lim** from "School of Rock" about his advice to Asian-American actors and actresses.

He told me he thinks that you shouldn't give up. He says, "If you really love it, keep pursuing it, and you'll get there."

Despite all the fancy-schmancy stuff of this event, I realized that the stars that I met were just normal people who had a passion for acting!

They were simply people who were brave enough to pursue their dreams, and also keep everything in the balance.

And they were also just people who weren't (*and still aren't*) afraid to reach for the stars!



By Talia Schanman, 9, a CK Reporter from Englewood

Can teamwork defeat another kind of loss?

A red barn, a group of high school volleyball players, sadness, compassion, and love.

All of these were essential in making the West High Trojans volleyball state champions two years in a row.

However, in "The Miracle Season," the story is a lot more complicated than that.

In 2010 the Trojans had won the Iowa State Championship, and they were on the road to another one with team captain Caroline "Line" Found (*Danika Yarosh*).

As they work harder and harder they get better and better, but they aren't having fun anymore.

But after the start of the season in 2011, Found gets in a moped accident and dies.

When the team finds out, they are heartbroken, and they're not even sure if they want to keep playing volleyball.

Eventually, the team is able to come back to practice, but they don't really have their heads in the game.

One of the people to take Found's death the hardest is her best friend Kelly (*Erin Moriarty*), and she's the one who will be taking over Found's



position as center.

Finally, the girls decide that they are going to play this season to its fullest and "Win for Line."

All the while, Found's father (*William Hurt*) has to deal with the sadness of losing his daughter and his wife in one month, but with the help of Kelly, family, and friends he is able to start going to volleyball games again.

After a few losses the team gets back on their feet and is starting to win with the help of their tough-love coach Kathy Bresnahan (*Helen Hunt*).

As they work harder and harder they get better and better, but they aren't having fun anymore.

After winning 15 games straight they are off to state. They win, and they are off to finals.

Although I think boys and men could enjoy the movie, it seemed more geared towards older girls, and probably wouldn't be great for younger kids because of the sadness portrayed.

All in all, it was a very inspiring sports movie that does a great job of portraying a true story and is a film that you walk away from feeling motivated.



By Ariana Bates-Erlich, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada

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‘Rampage’ offers real science -fiction

The new movie “Rampage” may look like your normal thriller, but there’s more grounded science in it than you might think.

“Rampage” is a new movie based on the Rampage video game from the 1980s, where monsters attack a city together.

While the movie does have that scene in it, the plot is way more complex.

Davis Okoye (*Dwayne Johnson*) is a primatologist at the San Diego Wildlife Sanctuary. He takes care of a rare albino gorilla named George, who knows sign language.

The two are very close, but when George gets infected with a mysterious toxin that fell from the sky, all bets are off.

Changes to his body and his temperament skyrocket out of control.

Davis enlists the help of the discredited geneticist Dr. Kate Caldwell (*Naomie Harris*) to get his friend back to normal.

To make matters worse, other animals have been infected as well and Davis races to find an antidote for his friend before George is forced to level a city.

“Rampage” has lots of elements of your average thriller: Crazy stunt scenes, giant monsters, and insane odds.

If you look deeper, however, you’ll see different ideas imbued in the plot as well.

The connection Davis shares with George, even after he went into rage mode, makes it such that the main goal isn’t to take down the



monsters: It’s to get a friend back.

Also, the facts in “Rampage” are often more than fiction.

For example, George knowing sign language is completely realistic.

Gorillas are totally able to learn sign language. Koko is a real gorilla, raised in the San Francisco Zoo, who knows hundreds of signs in a modified version of ASL.

The movie also uses new theories in genetics like CRISPR gene editing (though right now we can only modify a cell at a time) as the reasoning behind the animals’ mutations, and because of this, the movie could also serve as a warning against tampering with DNA sequencing.

I really enjoyed “Rampage,” and it is a movie worth seeing, but I should mention that “Rampage” definitely earned its PG-13 rating, because of the startling action scenes, the gore, and the crude language and humor.

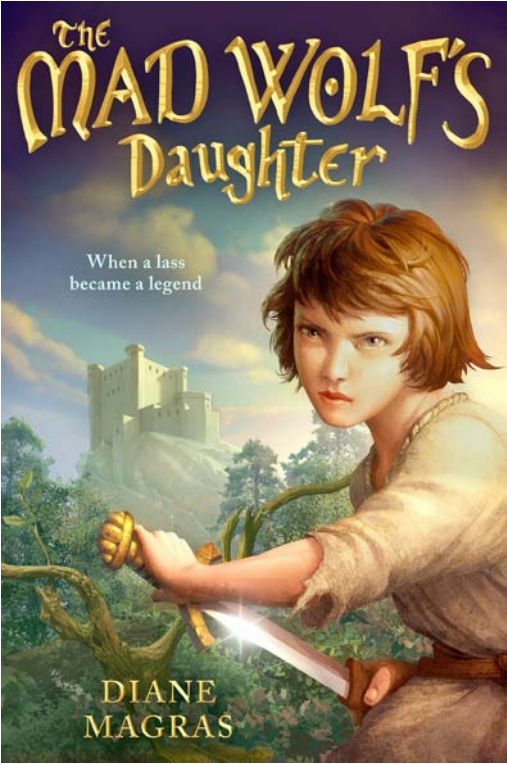
These factors may be a deterrent for some, but people who can overlook them will really enjoy the message and theme of the plot.

The inner message is very heartwarming and benevolent, though it is wrapped in rather vulgar content.



By Silvia Goodman, 12, a CK Reporter from Centennial

Daring, cunning lass fights to rescue family



“The Mad Wolf’s Daughter” by Diane Magras is about a young lass, Drest.

She has short brown hair and green eyes. Her father, Grimbol, was known throughout the villages as the Mad Wolf of the North.

Her brothers and father would go on raids, therefore his name was familiar to lots of people.

This book was very good and is one of those books that you would want to read on a stormy day.

They would bring back stories while she waited for them on the headland, where they lived.

When knights from Faintree castle take her father and brothers away, she seeks their rescue taking with her a wounded knight as her captive.

Along the way she meets a boy, Tig and his crow. As she travels, her family’s voices in her head guide her

to overcome hurdles and tricky spots on her way to the castle.

Drest is daring, and also cunning: She tricked a bandit into thinking that she was a poor village girl!

This book was very good and is one of those books that you would want to read on a stormy day.

A low point for this book is that it can be a bit confusing at times and you have to reread sentences every so often.

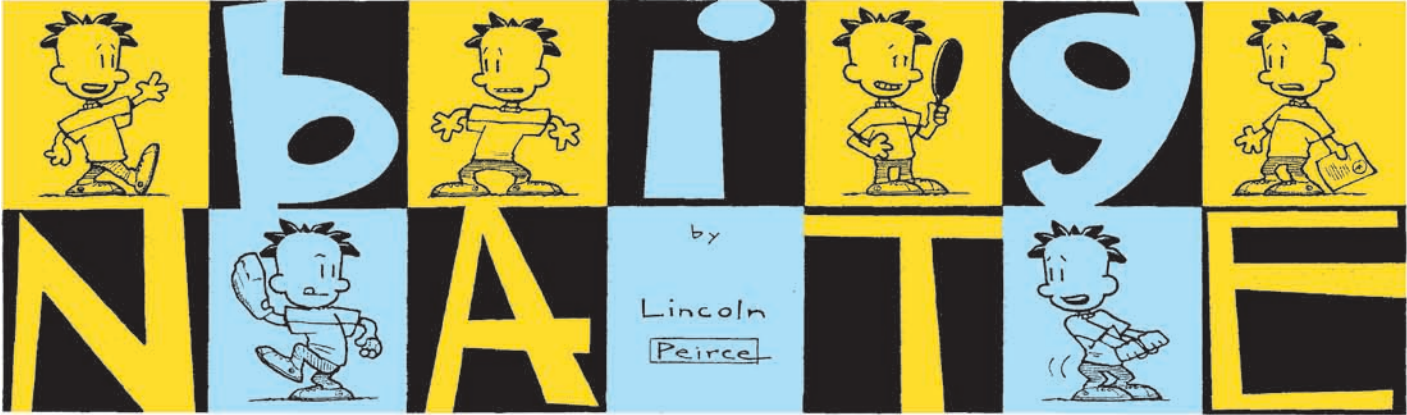
Another point is that it is kind of violent, and a little scary for younger kids.

Once you begin to read, however, you start to get to know the characters as if you were their best friends.

I would recommend this book to kids nine to twelve years old. For those who enjoy a good adventure novel, this one is for you.



By Macy Gardner, 12, a CK Reporter from Golden



Aladdin brings magic to the stage at DCPA

Disney’s “Aladdin,” playing at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts through April 28, is magical.

The musical takes the original story, puts in music, and some modern-day comedy, and goes above and beyond.

Genie (*Michael James Scott*) brings most of the comedy, but Jasmine (*Isabelle McCalla*) has her fair share with her funny comment to Aladdin about getting off on the ‘wrong foot,’ while Iago (*Jay Parana*), Jafar’s sidekick, also has some great one-liners.

The story is mostly based on Disney’s 1992 animated film: A “street rat” named Aladdin (*Clinton Greenspan*) is found to be the “diamond in the rough,” Jafar (*Jonathan Weir*) forces Aladdin into a cave to fetch a lamp, but after being stuck in the cave by a rock slide, Aladdin rubs the lamp and, just like magic, Genie appears.

The cave scene is probably the best when it comes to comedy, but not only because of comedy.

It is the scene that introduces Genie, as well as having brilliant lighting, and the greatest set design.

I would recommend this musical for anyone.

There is comedy for all ages.

It makes references to “Beauty and the Beast” (1991, 2017), “The Little Mermaid” (1989), and even “Black Panther” (2018), and features Genie’s imitation of Oprah, saying “And you get a wish. And you get a wish. And you get a car.”

And the cast is one of the most diverse I’ve seen.

Not only that, but the first musical number is called “Arabian Nights,” and, just as the title promises, has to do entirely with Arabic culture and includes Arabic costumes and dance.

Throughout the whole musical, it’s obvious why Aladdin has played on the international stage, showing everywhere from Broadway to Tokyo.

The musical looks and sounds like the movie, with



photo/DCPA Press

more of what modern watchers enjoy.

The musical was beyond my expectations, and is the perfect family comedy that’ll have you wishing for more, and you’d use wish number uno, dos, and three.

The only complaint I have about the production is that strobe lights are used in a few of the scenes.

This means that anyone with epilepsy or other sensitivities to strobes should be careful when watching.

Unfortunately, I am part of that minority of people which was a bummer while watching.

Aside from that, I would highly recommend this production to anyone.



By Marcus Turner, 11, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Lighting the way for Colorado’s young writers

Imagine writing away in a room they still call the parlor, meeting in the grotto that occupies the basement, and eating lunch leaning your back against the stone lions or tucked away in an alcove with window seats and small stools, or even in the hallways where a dusty typewriter sits on a wooden desk.

The Lighthouse Writers Workshop at 1515 Race St. in Denver has the perfect setting, instructors, and prompts to help spark writers’ imaginations.

It provides a place where all words are welcomed and random quick-write prompts are the easiest ice-breakers.

Created in 1997 by executive director Michael Henry and Andrea Dupree, the Lighthouse serves as “a beacon” for writers.

Soon, it grew and grew to be the place it is today with space and workshops for every writer.

But the Lighthouse isn’t just a place to sit and write for a while. It’s a place where young writers come together to create and share and encourage each other in our changing world.

Kimberly O’Connor, the Lighthouse Young Writers Program Director, joined the staff in 2014.

She acknowledges the loneliness of writing and says that “Lighthouse also inspires me because we are always working to spread the joy and power of writing to more and more people, like when we send our teachers to work with homeless writers or young writers in juvenile treatment centers.”

So, there’s more to the Lighthouse than just a bunch of people who think they have what it takes to share their words with each other.

It’s an effort, an inspiring community.

And it hopes to get bigger.



photo/Grace McClung

“I hope Lighthouse continues to grow and serve more people,” says O’Connor. “For our Young Writers Program, we’d like to create a space just for children and teens to drop in and write whenever they want!”

The Lighthouse also works to make young people feel empowered by words.

Writing is important and the staff makes sure writers who come to write know this.

“I hope that they mostly write for pleasure and the power writing gives us,” O’Connor says.

The Lighthouse offers half-day camps, day camps/ workshops, and week-long camps for all ages in a variety of genres.

These camps are taught by award-winning and published writers who share a bit of themselves when they teach.

Boredom is never a possibility and you are encouraged to explore different kinds of writing including song-writing, poetry, flash fiction, memoir writing, sci-fi, and more.

So whether you’re there to expand your vocabulary, get some ideas for the next chapter in your novel, make some new friends, or even learn about the craft of writing, the Lighthouse Writers Workshop is an excellent place to go.



By Grace McClung, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Sudoku

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



Brain teaser

On this day in 1970, the damaged Apollo XIII space craft successfully returned to Earth with no injuries to the three astronauts aboard, so our answers this week will begin with “N” for the NASA scientists who guided them home.

1. Africa’s most populous and diverse nation, it’s unfortunately become famous for on-line phishing scams.
2. In interstellar space, a huge cloud of dust and gases
3. Animals who are most active at night are in this category
4. A species of peach with a smooth, non-fuzzy skin
5. The only American president to resign before his term had ended
6. Colorado city in Adams and Weld counties, near Thornton
7. The part in the middle of a cell or an atom
8. In mythology, he gazed into a pool and became fascinated with his own reflection. A flower is named for him.
9. Thomas Jefferson is on this coin.
10. Carson City is the capital of this US state.

(answers on Page Four)

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NASA's Space Place

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<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

Headline Geography

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Pulse of the Planet

<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To find out more about these stories

Aladdin

The Lighthouse

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

I Will Come Home

Chapter Five: Tunnelers

(Our story so far: It's Civil War time and Betsy Harrington lives in Elmira, New York, where there is a POW camp for Confederate soldiers. Her brother Jim is a prisoner in a POW camp for Union troops in Andersonville, Georgia.)

"I don't want you going to Martha Baxter's today," Ma said. "You come straight home from school."

Betsy said nothing. Sometimes, she knew, that was the best idea and, sure enough, Pa came to her aid.

"Well, I imagine they got a great deal farther than that," he said.

Betsy had been coming back from the henhouse with a basket of eggs that morning when the first mounted soldiers had come racing down their street.

Pa went out front to see what the commotion was, and a soldier stopped to ask if he had seen anyone in the area.

"It appears that some prisoners escaped through a tunnel last night," Pa reported when he came back inside. "I'd better walk with you to school."

While Betsy washed up at the pump in the kitchen sink, Pa got his tall lace-up boots from the lean-to and began to put them on. They weren't very comfortable, but they held his bad ankle firmly and made it hurt less when he had to walk any distance.

That was when Ma said she shouldn't go to Mrs. Baxter's after school.

"My goodness, they're not going to stop running a block from the camp," Pa went on. "She'd be in more danger coming back here than going to Martha's."

Ma looked shocked. "Do you think they'd come here?" she asked, but Pa just laughed.

"They'll be halfway to Pennsylvania by noon," he predicted. "If they have any sense at all, they're either floating down the river by now or they've jumped an eastbound freight. Either way, they're gone from here and good riddance to the rebel scum."

Betsy put on her cloak and picked up her books, then gave her mother a quick hug and went out the back door with Pa. "Do you think they'll catch them?" she asked.

"Hard to say, kitten," Pa replied. "There's plenty of woods and open land hereabouts. If the army had dogs, they might be able to track them down, but they don't. I'm sure if anybody does catch them, it won't be around here. They're long gone."

At school, the escape was all anybody was talking about, and everyone had heard a different story.

Some said there were 30 that got out, others said it was five. Dan Harris said they'd stolen guns from the prison armory, but nobody believed that.

Finally, Miss Moyer said it was time for class and they would all have to wait for the next day's newspaper to find out the facts.

* * *

Ten prisoners had escaped, Betsy learned after class, and none had been recaptured.

Mr. Jones had been driving by with an empty wagon as she was walking down the street and offered her a ride to Mrs. Baxter's house.

She knew why he seemed to always be driving his wagon down the street.

The wagon could hold eight pine coffins at a time. Some days, he only made one trip from the camp to the cemetery.

Other days, he might make two or three trips.

Mr. Jones said the prisoners had escaped sometime in the night, and nobody knew they were missing until morning roll call.

There were 10 men missing, and he agreed with her father: By now, they were as far from Elmira as they could possibly get.

"I hope they get caught," Betsy declared.

"They might," he nodded, and clicked his tongue to the off-horse, slapping it lightly with the reins to get it to keep pace with its partner.

Betsy studied his face for a moment, but he was watching the horses and she couldn't tell what he was thinking.

"Do you like them?" she asked, and he turned to look at her.

"Well, I don't hate them," he answered. "I don't hate anybody."

"I do!" Betsy said. "If it weren't for them, Charlie Stout and Tom Baxter would still be alive, and my brother Jimmy would be home where he belongs. I hate them all!"

Mr. Jones didn't say anything, and Betsy finally spoke again.

"You should know. You were a slave."

"Yes, I was," he agreed.

"You should hate them, too," she argued. "They're fighting for slavery!"

Mr. Jones pulled the horses to a stop. "Betsy, I don't know what those boys were fighting for before, but they're not fighting anybody now. And it doesn't matter. We're going to win this war. By now, everybody knows that. When the war is over, slavery is over and then everyone can go home."

"Everyone who is still alive," she said.

"Your Jim will come home," Mr. Jones said. "Didn't he say so in his letters?"

"How many have said that who never will?" she asked, but Mr. Jones only shook the reins and made the horses start up again.

He stopped the wagon when they reached Mrs. Baxter's.

Betsy stepped down from the buckboard, but Mr. Jones had something else to say.

"I could have stayed in Virginia," he told her. "But my two brothers and I said we weren't going to be slaves anymore, and we walked all the way from Virginia to Elmira and became free. And others said they weren't going to be slaves, and came here and I put them on trains to Canada, and they became free. The first step any of us took was to decide we were going to be free."

"Your brother said he's coming home, and I believe him. You should, too."

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



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Nigeria 2. nebula 3. nocturnal 4. nectarine 5. Nixon 6. Northglenn
7. nucleus 8. Narcissus 9. nickel 10. Nevada

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