



CK Reporter of the Week
Reese Ascoine, Golden

Litter boosts Wild Dog numbers

Four African wild dog puppies were born recently at the Denver Zoo.

On November 20, Tilly, a six-year-old female, gave birth to three boys, Nigel, Theodore Roosevelt, and Livingstone, and one girl, Cholula.

African wild dogs have huge ears, which allow them to hear very well, and a beautiful coat made up of white and brown fur, along with black dots and black snouts.



photo/Essie Lamar

The Denver Zoo is trying to get the population of the dogs up. Right now, they are on the endangered list, with only about 6,600 left in the wild.

That is why they are also called African painted dogs.

The Denver Zoo is trying to get the population of the dogs up. Right now, they are on the endangered list, with only about 6,600 left in the wild.

The zoo has now bred 32 puppies from when they started in 2001.

They currently have six of the wild dogs: Tilly, her puppies, and their dad, Jesse.

Kelsey Barker and Connor Miranda, two of the keepers who work with the dogs, talked to me about them.

They know a lot about African wild dogs!

One cool thing they told me was that the dogs are only partially color blind; they don't know for sure, but the dogs probably can't see reds.

It's interesting that the keepers didn't actually get to see the puppies until about a month after they were born. They could monitor them through a camera, but nothing else.

Once they were old enough, the puppies could be given the proper vaccinations, medical needs, etc.

Then they had to be trained to get used to humans looking at them and being around them.

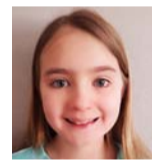
African wild dogs are very social animals and show altruistic qualities: They take care of one another.

In the wild, these dogs look after other mothers' puppies.

Barker and Miranda told me that they will not only regurgitate food for their own puppies, but also for injured or older dogs.

If you get a chance to go to the zoo and see these cool animals, you should.

It was a wonderful experience to see how the African wild dogs interact with each other.



By Essie Lamar,
12, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Hard to read, but a well-told, important story

"Mapping the Bones," by Jane Yolen, is a historical novel set in 1942 in Poland, and follows Jewish twins, Chaim and Gittel while they struggle in a suffering ghetto called Lodz.

Apparently based on the age-old tale of Hansel and Gretel, the story follows Chaim specifically, through the horrific truths of the War.

Joined by Bruno and Sophie who lost their parents one after the other to the Nazis, they escape the ghetto to freedom.

Though I trudged through this novel with an achy heart, I still thought it was a very eye-opening book and would recommend this to someone interested in the Holocaust.

But after being separated from their own parents, surviving in the forest with Partisans as their guides only to be shipped off to a Nazi labor camp, things are looking grim.

Chaim, who struggles with a stutter that hinders him from speaking, talks to the reader through his thoughts and small poems.

Gittel only talks through flashbacks as an adult.

Though this book is recommended for 12+, I felt uncomfortable reading this. It talks about the shocking ways children were treated in camps.

In one instance Chaim and Gittel are forced to be present during a gruesome death at the hands of a vicious doctor. Even though it's

hard to read, however, it's not something we can ignore.

This book does not hold back and sugarcoat the war but shows the horrors through poetry, memories, and loss.

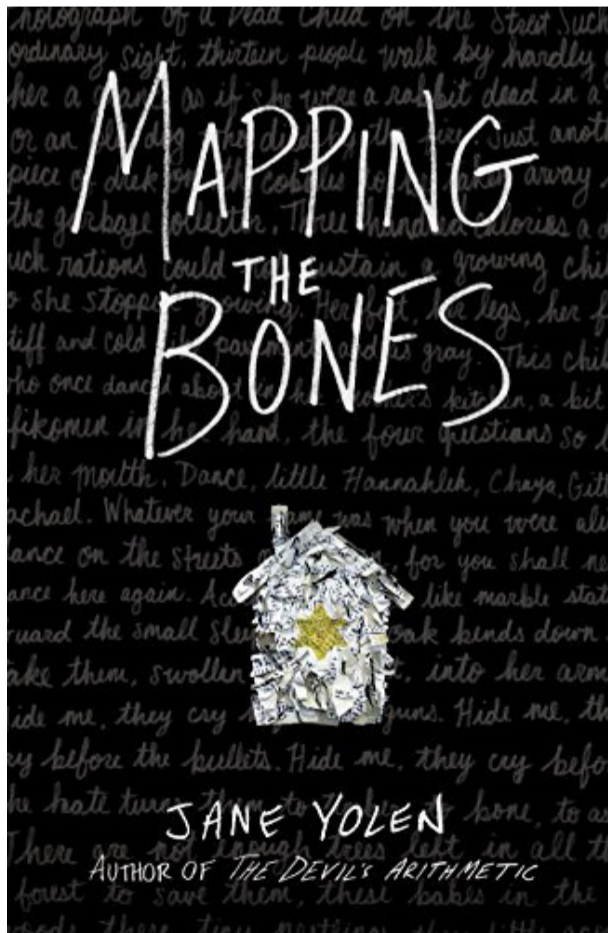
I think this book should be labeled as young adult to adult, though some kids might be able to read this. I feel like it's a bit grown-up with hard topics for anyone to read.

Jane Yolen the author has written many WWII books including the award-winning "Devil's Arithmetic" and "Briar Rose." She wrote this book with the same thought in mind: To share the cruel treatment of the Jews in 1940s.

Though I trudged through this novel with an achy heart I still thought it was a very eye-opening book and would recommend this to someone interested in the Holocaust.

The story kept me interested in the survival of the characters and made me go through a roller coaster of emotions.

Overall I felt that this book was good, though hard to get through.



By Reese Hitzler,
13, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



The YouthBiz Marketplace is the ultimate buy local experience! Young business owners display and sell their unique products to the local community.

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More details at www.yacenter.org

'Safe Breaker' tilts towards little burglars

The new game "Safe Breaker," part of the Spy Code series from Yulu, is a game for kids 6-10 years old.

The game consists of a safe, coins and a stethoscope.

The safe is a red plastic rectangle, with plastic gold chips to act as coins. Some of the coins have diamond stickers on the back, and one has an alarm symbol on it.

There are also cards with numbers one through 18 on them.

The goal is to collect the coins and diamonds inside before the other players, by using the combination dial and the fingerprint scanner to gain access to the vault.

This game is very low-tech and easy for kids to use, but older children and teens will get bored by the simplicity.

Unfortunately, the directions are not as simple as the game itself and can be difficult for the right age group to understand without the help of someone older.

The game has three modes -- easy, medium, and hard -- which can somewhat accommodate the different ages.

This is a relatively quick game if you are playing with two players and takes around ten minutes to play.

My 10-year-old test player said, "I kind of liked the game and I kind of didn't. The reason why I kind of liked the game is because I like the idea of trying to break into a safe. I kind of didn't like the game because it was too dependent on luck."



Fourteen year-old test player Archer said, "It feels like a game for little kids, and me being fourteen, I thought the gameplay depended too much on luck, and not skill. Certain elements of the game that were supposedly secret were easily heard by everyone playing, making them not-so-secret anymore."

Another reason older players might not like this game is that the game seems to favor the younger players.

The safe seems to favor the younger player. This happens through a rule in the game that states that the youngest player goes first, and then gives the older player the alarm that skips his turn or makes him put his coins back in the safe almost every round.

In contrast, the younger player was always having the safe unlocked for him. This happened almost every game the testers played.

Of course, those assumptions have not been confirmed officially and, without further study, are merely speculation.



By Sylvia Goodman, 12, a CK Reporter from Centennial

'Dot' robot expensive and disappointing



Dot is a robot sphere that can do things with Bluetooth by coding it. It is supposed to be able to move around, play games and make noises that you code yourself.

However, "The Dot: Creativity Kit" is not a wise choice for spending your money.

After I experienced Dot without much enjoyment, I thought that maybe my 9-year-old brother and 6-year-old sister would like it better than I did.

They did not. They were both confused and frustrated.

You have to get three different apps, two that code Dot and one that's a remote for Dot, and even after testing out all of them, Dot didn't do the slightest things but change colors.

Wonder Workshop, the creators of Dot, suggests Dot for ages 6-plus.

The problem with this age recommendation is that the only people who would enjoy it would be under six, and anyone who actually knows how to work Dot would be over six, ergo, nobody can truthfully enjoy Dot and work it too.

And, to be honest, nothing gets on my nerves most about Dot other than how cheesy all of the apps are.

Maybe it's just me, but the corny jokes that the apps constantly makes aren't funny, and even my 6-year old sister agrees with that.

One frustrating part about Dot is that is intended to help kids learn to code, though it's confusing for younger kids and once you get the hang of it, it can do nothing cool.

This does not justify the approximate \$100 spent on Dot.

Even my parents were against Dot.

Since only under-six-year-olds enjoy Dot, and most six-year-olds don't have their own phone, a parent's phone becomes part of equation.

Not only is their phone involved, but, since the six-year-olds can't work Dot, the parent becomes a required part of the complicated equation for just three minutes with Dot.

The only fun I can see in Dot is that if you turn it on, but don't connect it to a phone, and press the button with one dot on it, it makes light saber noises.

That will get young Star Wars fans excited.

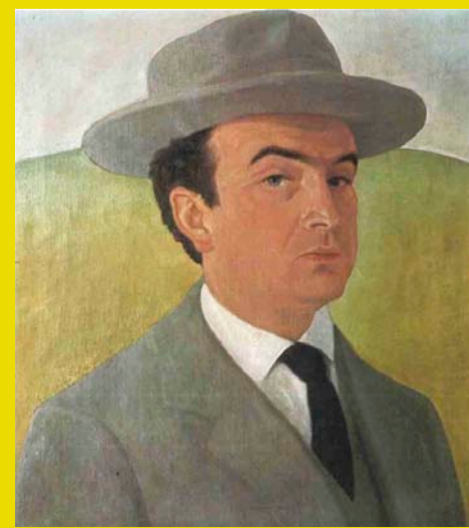
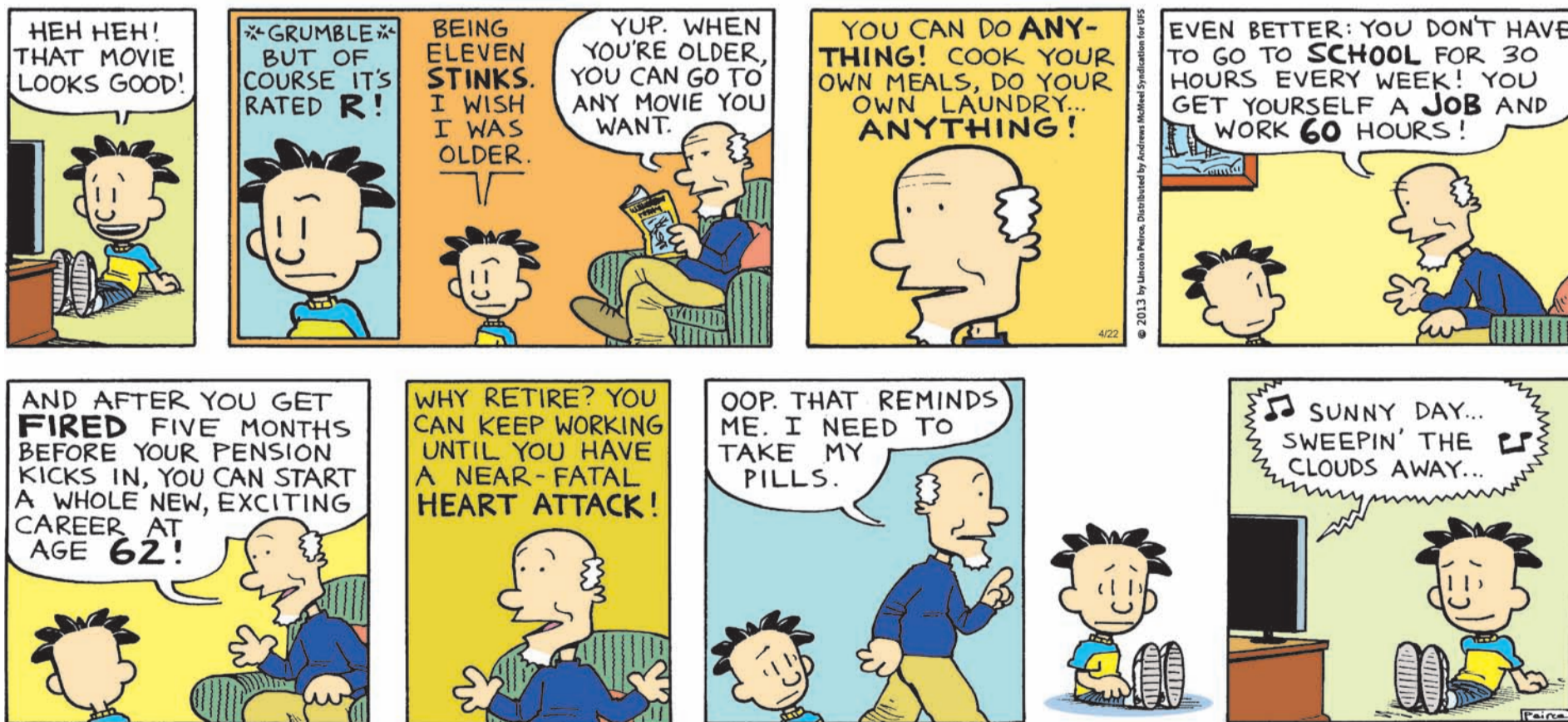
And a pack of over 100 stickers comes with Dot so you can personalize your Dot.

But again, that is something that, for the most part, seems aimed at those under age 6, which is not the intended audience for this toy.



By Marcus Turner, 11, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Big Nate



Eyebrows may do more than catch dust

You may have often wondered why humans have eyebrows.

Then again, perhaps you never wondered about it at all.

But three archaeologists at the University of York in England wondered about it enough to do some research, some experimentation and, they admit, a little bit of guessing.

Eyebrows keep sweat, dust and rain from dripping into our eyes, but the thick, heavy ridge our Neanderthal ancestors had on their foreheads,

and that our gorilla cousins still have, would be even better at that.

If evolution makes choices that are for the better, why did modern humans lose that thick ridge?

One theory is that the ridge was needed when the tops of our skulls were flatter, but shaving the ridge from a fossilized Neanderthal skull on a computer model showed it wasn't needed.

Another idea was that it strengthened the skull for chewing, but the model showed that wasn't true, either.

Here's the theory they came up with: Eyebrows let humans show more emotions, so that they can quickly signal friendliness, fear, humor or hostility to strangers.

People with eyebrows became more common, they suggest, because they were able to interact better with other humans and form families and groups.

The archaeologists admit that they haven't completely proven this.

But it's a theory that's sure to raise eyebrows. self-portrait by Gustave Wunderwald /

'Little Leaders' portrays giants of history

"Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History," is a compilation of stories of the women who shaped the modern world.

Written by children's book illustrator, Vashti Harrison, the lives of forty powerful African American women are told.

Each biographical snippet is accompanied by a whimsical drawing, which are sweet and empowering.

Side-by-side, well-known leaders and lesser-known icons are chronicled in this easy-to-read history.

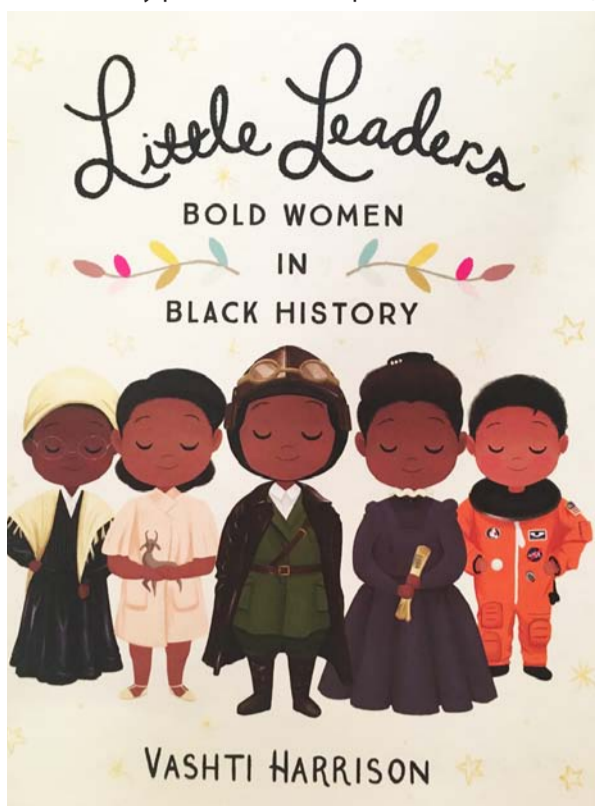
(T)he variety of leaders, ranging from poets to politicians to athletes, is encouraging.

And although the writing is straightforward, at times sugar coated, that makes the book more accessible to readers of all ages.

Beginning with the poet, Phillis Wheatley, who lived in the mid 1700's and closing with the gymnast Dominique Dawes, the change enacted over the 250 year span is largely apparent and concisely portrayed in chronological order.

This is a powerful choice as it demonstrates the evolution which took place as a result of the bold stance these women took for their rights.

Each recollection of a woman is short n' sweet, leaving the reader craving to know more, and Harrison uses inspiring vocabulary to further motivate a new generation of readers to take action for their rights.



Additionally, it is quite refreshing to have a book dedicated not only to powerful women, but powerful black women, and the variety of leaders, ranging from poets to politicians to athletes, is encouraging.

With all this said, the title is still a cause for bafflement. "Little Leaders" is an extremely counterintuitive title for a book discussing such powerful torchbearers and it seems condescending.

Even as a tool to appear to younger audiences, it seems to mock the intelligence of those it was designed for.

And above all else, the title mocks the legacy of the women it remembers.

"Women are powerful and dangerous," the black poet, Audre Lorde wrote.

And on the whole, the illustrated her-story, "Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History," is a remembrance of all the women who stood against the current of oppression.

"Little Leaders" rekindles the fire that may have been dulled down by complacency and asks:

"What will you do to make your voice heard?"



By Clarise Reichley, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

In space, a miss is as good as 119,000 miles

First things first: It missed.

And, after all, asteroids and meteors and other sorts of space rocks often fly past the Earth.

Though, if they're at all large, we usually see them coming.

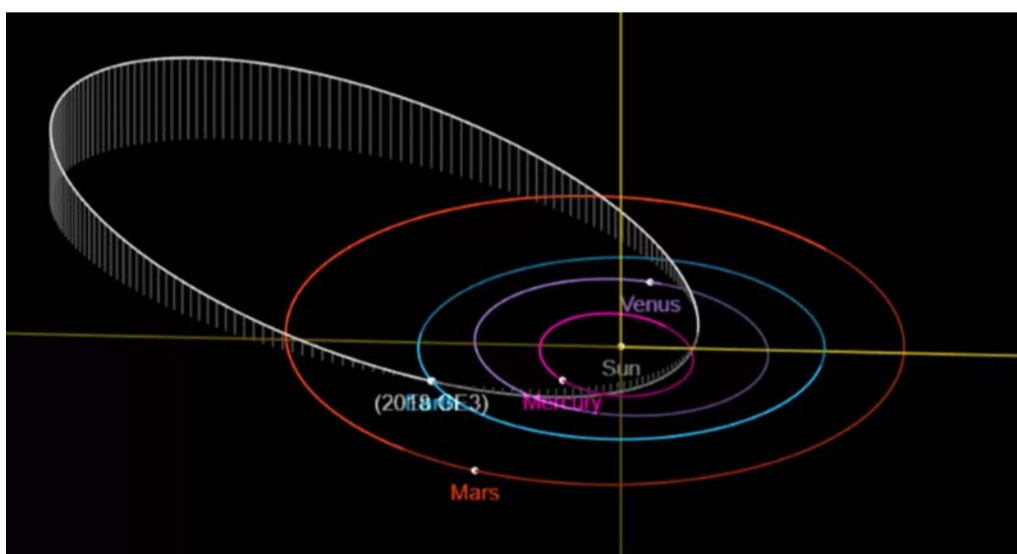
Especially if they're going to come closer to us than the Moon.

But on April 15, an asteroid about the size of a football field called 2018 GE3 went whizzing past, just 119,000 miles away, which sounds like quite a distance, except that the Moon is, on average, only 238,900 miles away.

In this graphic from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 2018 GE3 is the white orbit and Earth is the blue orbit, and the fly-by happened in that third quadrant, at the bottom left.

Don't worry about the next time it crosses that blue line, in the first quadrant at upper left, for two reasons: One, we won't be there then, and, two, orbits don't lie flat like rings on a plate, so it likely wouldn't be as close, even if we were there.

How did it sneak up on us? The asteroid is black, so it doesn't reflect much light and wouldn't be seen on an optical telescope. By the time other equipment spot-



ted it, it was only a few hours away.

An asteroid that large could do some real damage if it struck the Earth on land, though the Earth's surface is mostly water, which is why we weren't too worried about the Chinese space station that broke into pieces and then splashed down harmlessly in the Pacific.

Most of 2018 GE3 would have broken up in the atmosphere, too, but, if it had come down over ground, it would have done real damage in whatever region it hit.

A space rock only about a third to a sixth the size of 2018 GE3 came to Earth over Chelyabinsk, Russia in February 2013, and the blast of noise

as it broke up shattered windows and damaged buildings throughout the city, though the biggest chunk of rock landed in a nearby lake.

But space scientists are quick to point out that 2018 GE3 didn't hit us at all and that rocks like that pass by frequently, and harmlessly.

In fact, 2018 GE3 probably passed by in 1930, before we had the technology to notice it.

Sudoku

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

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

The Library of Congress was established on this date in 1800, so our answers this week will each begin with the letter "L."

1. The language spoken in Ancient Rome
2. The easternmost Canadian province; where a breed of dog comes from.
3. The Minotaur lived in the middle of this gigantic maze.
4. Author of "A Wrinkle in Time"
5. African nation founded by freed American slaves
6. A painting of scenery, or a photo position that is wider than it is tall
7. This Jefferson County town, the least populous community in Colorado, is the site of a popular amusement park.
8. Poet who wrote "Paul Revere's Ride" and "The Song of Hiawatha"
9. The largest of all turtles, its name comes from the fact that its shell is not hard.
10. This Bronco quarterback will probably be the back-up for Case Keenum this year.

(answers on Page Four)

Want a dino for your bedroom? You just missed an excellent chance

According to the Paris auction house that was selling dinosaur skeletons this spring, they are now becoming a popular decorator item.

Which means you could have had a complete allosaurus skeleton for your bedroom.

If a 12.5 foot skeleton would fit in your bedroom.

And if your folks had given you an advance on your allowance of about \$1.75 million.

Though that's a little more practical than the diplodocus that was also auctioned off in April.

It wasn't much more expensive -- only a little over \$30,000 more -- but it was about 40 feet long.

Maybe set it up in the hall, with its head peeking into your bedroom.

It's fun to think about, but these auctions of complete dinosaur skeletons are not getting many smiles from museums.

It's hard to keep up with the bidding when wealthy collectors get involved, and the difference is whether the public gets to see these rare objects or they stay hidden away in a mansion.

A few years ago, Disney and McDonalds had to join together to bid \$8.36 billion for a T-Rex skeleton they donated to Chicago's Field Museum.

Only about five skeletons are auctioned off a year, but Home Depot has a 9-foot plastic T-Rex skeleton for just \$225.

And the eyes light up!

AP photo/ Francois Mori



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NASA's Space Place

<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report

<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 read the sources for these stories

Eyebrows

Near-Miss Asteroid

Dino Auction

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Latin 2. Labrador 3. Labyrinth 4. (Madeleine) L'Engle 5. Liberia
6. landscape 7. Lakeside 8. (Henry Wadsworth) Longfellow
9. leatherback 10. (Paxton) Lynch

I Will Come Home

Chapter Six: Counting Eggs

(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. Ten of the prisoners have tunneled out of the prison and escaped.)

"A little higher," Mrs. Baxter said. "There." Betsy held her hands up and apart to stretch the skein of light brown yarn while Mrs. Baxter rolled it into a ball. Mrs. Prestridge had dropped off several skeins of yarn that she had just had spun at the mill from her sheep's fleeces.

"I had no idea it would come to so much with just those few fleeces!" she declared. "I couldn't possibly use all this yarn!"

Betsy knew that there was no such thing as "too much yarn," but she also knew that there was such a thing as "too much charity," so she kept quiet and smiled while Mrs. Baxter thanked Mrs. Prestridge and invited her to have some tea.

"Oh, I didn't mean to interrupt your day," Mrs. Prestridge said, but Mrs. Baxter insisted.

"It's no interruption at all," she said. "Betsy and I were just about to have a cup, and I've made tea cakes. Besides, Tommy will be up from his nap soon, and he interrupts everything!"

And so they had tea with Mrs. Prestridge, who remembered Mrs. Baxter back when she was Betsy's age, and Betsy back when she was Tommy's age, and who absolutely couldn't believe how big Tommy was growing.

After Mrs. Prestridge left, Betsy had gone out to the henhouse to collect the day's eggs while Mrs. Baxter washed up the tea things.

Now Tommy was playing with a wooden spoon and a tin bowl on the floor while his mother rolled the yarn into balls.

"What do you feed your chickens?" Betsy asked, as she held her hands still and kept the yarn tight but not stretched.

Mrs. Baxter shrugged. "This and that. Turnip tops and potato peels and table scraps. I don't give them as much cracked corn these days, because I'm nearly out. My father will be bringing his corn to the mill soon, though, and I'm sure he'll give me some as soon as he has it ground. Why do you ask?"

"Our hens have slowed down the past few days," Betsy said. "The leaves have mostly turned, but it seems early for them to stop laying. We've barely had any hard frost."

"Well, I'm sure they don't get many grasshoppers and bugs now," Mrs. Baxter said.

"No, but your chickens are still laying the same as all summer," Betsy replied. "I used to get a dozen or 14 eggs a day, but, for the past few days, they've only laid eight or ten. I hope they're not sick, but their eyes seem bright and they run around same as ever."

Mrs. Baxter wound up the ball in her hand and tucked the end of the yarn in to hold it. "Ready to do another?" she asked, reaching for another skein. Betsy shook her arms to loosen them up, then held out her hands while Mrs. Baxter untwisted the skein and slipped it over them.

"Are you sure nothing's getting into them?" she asked. "A skunk or a raccoon?" She reached out and gently raised Betsy's hands to the right height.

"There's no mess, no pieces of shell," Betsy said. "And a 'coon could sneak one or two out, but to take four or five, he'd wake them all up for sure. If something is getting in there, it's being awful clean and quiet."

Mrs. Baxter thought for a moment. "Well, I'm sure I don't know. But my father will come into town for church this Sunday. You should ask him after the service. He'll have some ideas."

* * *

Betsy cut a thick slice of bread from the loaf. "May I take a piece of cheese to school for lunch?" she asked.

Uncle Henry had sent a small wheel of sharp Herkimer cheese to Ma for her birthday and it was under a glass cover on the sideboard.

Ma looked over from the stove, where she was cooking breakfast. "A small one," she said. "Take an apple to eat with it."

Betsy wrapped the bread and cheese in butcher paper and put them in her satchel along with her reader and her arithmetic book, then dropped in an apple from the wooden bowl on the table. She hung the satchel on the back of her chair and sat down.

Ma placed a bowl of hot porridge in front of her and brought the pitcher of buttermilk to pour over it. She went back to the stove and didn't even turn around before she said, "Don't wolf your food."

"I'm late," Betsy said. "Miss Moyer is taking my arithmetic group first today. I can't be late."

"You'll be late if you choke to death," Ma replied, and brought her own bowl to the table as Betsy was scooping up the last bits of oatmeal.

Betsy thought to herself that it would be hard to choke to death on porridge, but just pushed her chair back, put her empty bowl next to the sink, took her satchel and went to the door as Pa was coming in with the milk bucket.

Pa put the bucket of fresh, warm milk on the stand near the door. "Something's wrong with the cow," he said. "Last few days, she hasn't given near as much milk as she had been."

Betsy swept her cloak around her shoulders and tied it around her neck. As she went out the door, she frowned.

She'd never heard of a skunk or a raccoon that could milk a cow.

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

ColoradoKids

is produced by
Denver Post Educational Services
Executive Editor: Dana Plewka
dplewka@denverpost.com
CK Editor: Mike Peterson
coloradokidseditor@gmail.com
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