



CK Reporter of the Week  
Marcus Turner, Aurora

# Enjoyable, imperfect MCU climax

**A**“*Avengers: Infinity War*,” the culmination of the Marvel Cinematic Universe series, has completely blasted expectations, in some good ways and some bad.

The premise of the movie is that a madman giant named Thanos wants to collect all six Infinity Stones (*the most powerful forces in the galaxy*) to complete his twisted version of a utopia.

In order to save the world, The Avengers, the Guardians of the Galaxy, Doctor Strange, and others will have to band together if they are going to have any hope of stopping him.

At the beginning of the movie, Thanos already has an Infinity Stone, so they don’t have much time.

“*Avengers: Infinity War*” is a thrilling combination of “*Guardians of the Galaxy*,” “*Black Panther*,” “*Spider Man*,” “*Doctor Strange*,” and “*The Avengers*.”

If anything, the filmmakers at Marvel have only gotten better at drawing viewers in with crazy stunts and powerful fights.

The action scenes are enthralling, and the way they were put together reminded me of a book with multiple points of view.

The separate characters on their separate missions create a feeling of suspense, because most of the time you know more than the people in the movie.

Also, you do need to have seen pretty much all of the recent movies to understand the plot.

Though Marvel has an okay track record of staying consistent, this movie might be an exception.

There are a few unexplained holes in “*Infinity War*’s” plot that can’t be wished away.

For one thing, when Thanos uses his abilities to temporarily disable one of the characters, Thanos can completely incapacitate him.

But later in the movie, Thanos doesn’t use that power in the fight he is most likely to lose.

Even though he could just make them all into dirt and win, he doesn’t use it at all. This plot hole is ignorable when you are caught up in the action, but later, it’s painfully obvious.

Also, some objects in “*Avengers: Infinity War*” have powers that are never really explained, and these abilities seem like they conveniently pop up the moment they are needed.

Don’t get me wrong: I am a big Marvel fan.

I am not putting them down just to bring them down.

I would definitely still get a ticket for this movie, as it brings a lot of previously separate heroes together, and the result is incredibly impactful.

The vision Thanos sees is not necessarily evil.

If you look at it from another point of view, he could be righteous, the hero of life itself.

Though you know that the heroes of the previous movies are justified in their actions, you can’t help but wonder who is really right or wrong.

This dynamic has been used by Marvel a lot lately.

Ultron from “*Avengers: Age of Ultron*” didn’t understand that he was destroying Earth and not saving it.

In the “*Avengers’ Civil War*,” you got to see both sides of the story try to decide what you would do if you had to choose between the law and what is right.

This technique spices up the classic “for peace and justice” superhero story and adds a believable real life aspect to the conflict.



By Sylvia Goodman,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Centennial

# Art set offers variety of formats, materials



**T**he “*Ultimate Artist*” sets from Rose Art include wood coloring, dot paint, and canvas coloring.

In the wood coloring set you are given a paint brush and watercolor pencils, then you color along the lines engraved in the wood.

After that, to blend the colors you wet the brush and paint over the colors with water.

The same thing happens on the canvas coloring, but it is a canvas instead of a

wooden board.

In the dot paint, there are two boards, each with specific markings showing you what color dots to put where.

It also comes with a variety of paint colors in specially made paint tubes to distribute the paint evenly in small dots.

All of these would be recommended for age groups of 7-11 years. If they are younger they probably do not have the hand-skill to do it.

In each *Ultimate Artist* set there one or more designs to color. Each package has different design for you to paint on.

My favorite is the dot paint because it has more than one piece to paint on in the package. It is also just surprisingly addictive and it’s great because with your final result you get a colorful, beautiful picture.


All of the sets feel a little bit repetitive. It takes a lot of time, focus and patience to do each set.


It has also limited creativity because they are all a template instead of free rein coloring.

Still, there are beautiful, colorful, magnificent paintings in “*Rose Art Ultimate Artist*.”



By Lily Warneke,  
9, a CK Reporter  
from Golden





## Book Fest

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# Refugee remembers why she chose America

**M**y mother recently took me to see Madeleine Albright at a book signing. She was the first woman to become the United States Secretary of State. She later received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I have to say, I was expecting to be bored, but I was amazed.

*"It's an honor to grow up American."  
- Madeleine Albright*

Madeleine Albright was born in Czechoslovakia on May 15, 1937. She had barely begun to walk when she and her family fled from Czechoslovakia and Nazis during World War II.

When the war was over, Albright and her family moved back again, only to move then to Denver, this time due to the Communist takeover of their country.

They were welcomed to America as refugees.

She said that, after moving, it took a long time to "find her voice."

Now, at 80 years old, she has adopted the slogan, "See something, say something, do something," and believes in immigration and diversity.

Albright teaches at a school with lots of foreign students, and says, "Children are filled with hope, and that needs to be nourished." She also believes children need to be listened to.

During the Q&A section, someone asked, "How do young people make their voice heard over adults?"

Albright answered that you need to know what to say, and to educate yourself.

Another question asked was about students saying their votes for the presidency or in other elections don't count. Ms. Albright answered firmly that it does count and people stand in long lines for the privilege of voting.

Towards the end of her speech she said, "It's an honor to grow up American."

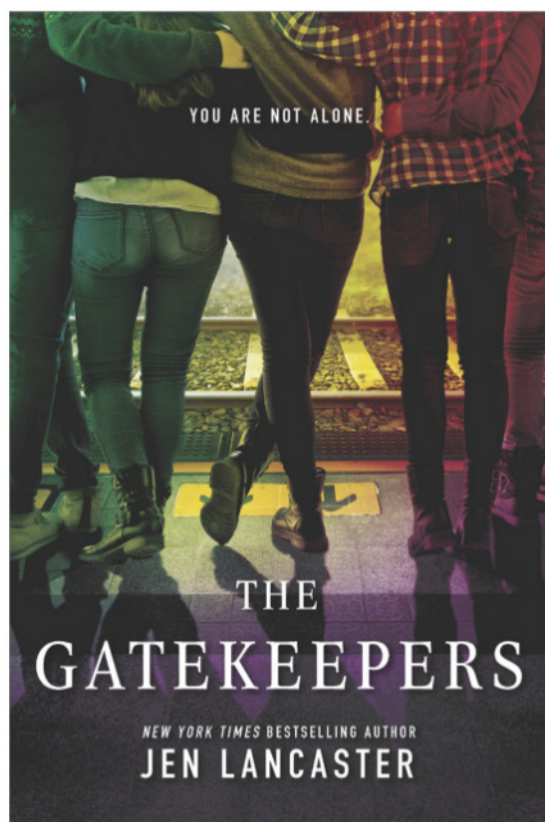
I sat in the car ride home, thinking how lucky I was to "grow up American."

Madeleine Albright is a great role model for young girls and really inspired me to think in every situation about what is right.



By Macy Gardner, 12, a CK Reporter from Golden

## Fact-based novel for mature young readers



**"T**he Gatekeepers" by Jen Lancaster is an emotional book about suicide written from the point of view of several teens who live with the pressures of North Shore – a small town in Illinois.

The teens all go to North Shore High School. There is a lot of pressure on the kids there to get into a really good college. There is a high suicide rate.

The teens are "Gatekeepers," and work to prevent further suicides. They include Mallory, Jasper, Owen, Simone, Kent, Braden, Stephen and Liam.

Simone is from England. She is the new girl in town.

Liam is a high school athlete who is pressured to be amazing on the field, and his parents abuse him and take privileges away from him if he doesn't live up to expectations.

Kent and Stephen grew up together as best friends. They are the geeky kids, and the pressure comes from their moms, who are always micromanaging them.

Jasper is a weed dealer, and his pressure comes from the fact that his parents are never home to talk to him. His house is really big (He even has his own wing!). He goes for days without seeing his parents as they are

always gone on business trips.

Owen really likes film and photography. His parents never pay attention to him.

This book is really sad because once you get to know the characters, some of them die.

The book is based on the true story of a town that the author is from, and she wrote the book to try to stop the pattern and to show people the devastation that suicide has on the kids' families, friends and other surroundings.

I found the book to be very hard to read and depressing, but it did get the message across.

For people who are deep thinkers, have high sympathy levels and are over 14 years old, this could be a good book.

It does, however, have some vulgarity in it and talks about topics that are aren't appropriate for people under the age of about 14.



By Ben Vanourek, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton

We asked you, you told us:

## Most CK readers help out at home, but without a list of chores

**N**early two-thirds of the readers who responded to our question are expected to help out at home, but don't have a specific list of chores to do regularly.

A few reported that they have a list but they don't really stick to it, while an equal number -- about a third -- either have that list that they obey or don't do much of anything at all in the way of helping out.

It's important to recognize that "polls" on-line which invite you to answer aren't really measuring the population.

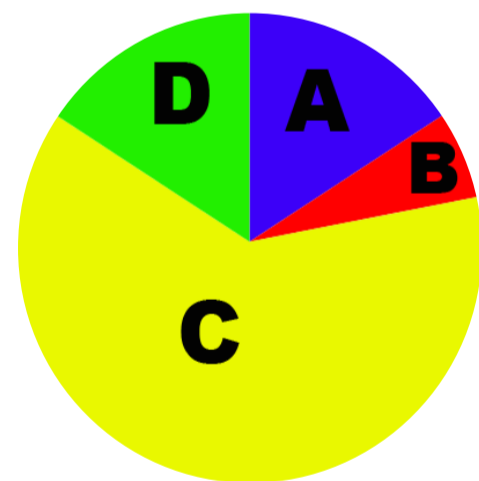
They're simply collecting the answers provided by the people who take the time to answer their questions.

So this may be a good measure of how kids your age live, or it may simply be a fun way to exchange information.

Whichever is the case, here's what we asked you, and what you told us:

### How do chores work in your family?

- A. I have a precise list and I am expected to do them. 16%
- B. There's a list but it doesn't always happen. 6%
- C. No list; they ask me to help out whenever they need it. 62%
- D. Shhh! They'll hear you! 16%



## Big Nate



# Personal histories provide mystery, answers

In "The Length of a String," by Elissa Weissman, 12-year-old Imani is getting ready for her bat mitzvah, a ceremony in Judaism where a girl becomes regarded as a religious adult.

Instead of having a party, she is going to get a big present from her adoptive parents, and she thinks she knows exactly what she wants: To find and possibly meet her birth parents.

Imani was born in Baltimore and had an African American mother, but doesn't know anything else about her birth parents.

(T)he more she learns about Anna's family, the farther she gets from finding out about her own history.

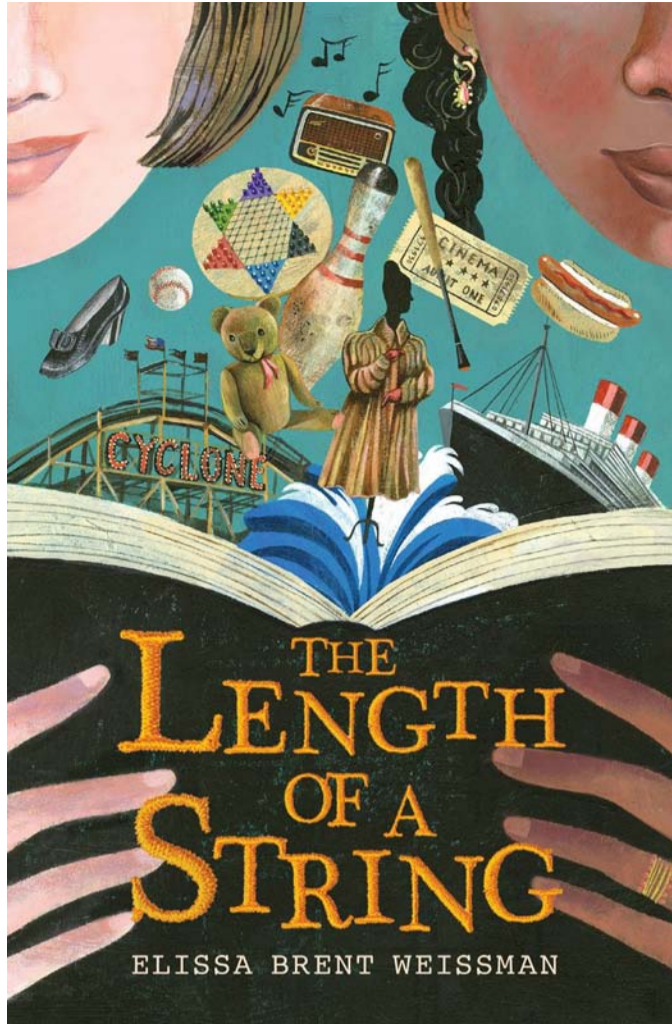
When her great-grandma Anna (from her mom's side) passes away Imani finds Anna's diary from 1941, and her world changes.

Anna was born in a small town in Luxembourg, and she had a twin sister.

But, as World War II begins, life becomes harder for Jews in Europe, so Anna is sent to New York.

Throughout this piece, Elissa Weissman, the author, works in lots of interesting facts about the war and the Jewish people.

While Imani tries to muster up the courage to ask her parents for her bat mitzvah present, she gets hooked on Grandma Anna's diary.



As she gets farther and farther into the diary, she finds out so much more that now Imani wants to crack the mysteries left behind in the diary.

At times through this stage, Imani's work started to feel tedious and get slightly boring, but she never stops looking for answers, and eventually starts to find some.

But the more she learns about Anna's family, the farther she gets from finding out about her own history.

That is, until she finds the perfect solution. I think that the author was very imaginative in the book and how it ends.

It was also really cool because one of the pieces the book ends on is based on a true story.

Since I am studying for my own bat mitzvah, this book was very meaningful.

Throughout the book, the author provides vivid explanations that make you feel in sync with the feelings of both Imani and Anna.

Even though Grandma Anna is gone, it seems like Imani is able to bond with her through the diary.

"The Length of a String" is an easy read that you will get hooked on immediately, and a book that provides new and interesting Holocaust information.



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

# May 1 began the victory over dread disease

Today marks an important anniversary in the history of medicine: On this day in 1955, the first vaccine to prevent polio was released to the public, helping to finally control a frightening and deadly disease.

Poliomyelitis is a disease spread by a virus which is not hard to encounter: People who are infected, and may not know it, carry the virus.

Only a small percentage of the people who get the virus have serious consequences, but, for those people, it can involve losing their ability to walk and even to breathe on their own.

While polio is often thought of as a disease of children, Franklin Delano Roosevelt became partially paralyzed by polio when he was 29 and used leg braces, crutches and wheelchairs for the rest of his life, including during his years as president.

Roosevelt tried to keep the public from knowing how badly he had been hurt by polio, and the media



President Roosevelt, with his dog Fala on his lap and a little girl whose father worked at the White House (Library of Congress)

avoided photographing him with his crutches or in his wheelchair.

But it was no secret that the President had had the disease, and he founded a group to raise money for a cure, which became known as "The March of Dimes."

Then, in the 1950s, a polio epidemic broke out in the US.

Parents were afraid to let their children play outside in the summer, and those who got the disease were



A poster from the early days of the March of Dimes (Library of Congress)

often forced to stay home, with signs on their houses warning people to stay away.

But Dr. Jonas Salk, a researcher, discovered a vaccine to help prevent the disease and, after it had been properly tested, the Salk Vaccine was made available on this date.

A few years later, Dr. Albert Sabin developed a vaccine that could be taken by mouth rather than injected with a needle, which was not only more popular with children but easier to give them.

Today, polio has nearly been wiped out entirely and is only found in a few isolated corners of the Third World.

There, groups like UNICEF work to eliminate polio entirely, going into remote villages with health workers to distribute vaccines.

## Sudoku

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

**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

Multiple Grammy winner, Oscar nominee and member of the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Judy Collins was born on this day in 1939, so our answers this week will begin with "E" for her alma mater, East High School.

- The donkey from A.A. Milne's book about a child's teddy bear; his name imitates the sound a donkey makes.
- A synonym for a letter, it's most familiar from St. Paul's letters in the Bible.
- Owner of area automobile dealerships and manager of a football team in Denver
- Purple vegetable with white interior, named for its shape
- A species of weasel known for the fact that its fur turns white in winter
- Triangle whose three sides are the same length
- In "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," the brother who cannot be trusted
- African nation whose capital is Addis Ababa
- Town in southwest Weld County and eastern Boulder County named for a city in Pennsylvania, it's quite handy to I-70, I-25 and Denver International Airport.
- Colorado's tallest mountain

(answers on Page Four)

## Should you worry about Yellowstone's caldera?



No. Next question?

When geologists found a way to map the magma deposits that lie beneath Yellowstone National Park, there were a lot of news stories saying the caldera was "due to erupt" and even that an eruption was "overdue."

Most of Yellowstone is a caldera, a type of huge volcano shaped something like a dish.

That's why it has geysers and hot pools: They're heated by the

magma under the ground.

This part is true: If the caldera were to erupt, it would wipe out a whole lot of the West and bury a whole lot more under several feet of volcanic ash.

But relax: It's kind of silly to talk about the caldera being "due to erupt," or, especially, "overdue," because, first of all, we don't even know if it will ever erupt again.

Maybe Yellowstone is settling into a stage where its most recent

eruption, 70,000 years ago, will be its last. Or it might blow again in 30,000 years.

Geologic time is like distance in space: It's so huge that it has very little meaning for humans.

Saying that the caldera is "due to erupt" is like saying the star Alpha Proxima is "near the Earth."

It is, but you don't have to worry about getting sunburned by it.

And you won't be around if Yellowstone erupts. photo/ Jon Sullivan

# 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

The Fight Against Polio

The Yellowstone Caldera

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

## Sudoku Solution

2	3	1	6	4	5
6	4	5	2	1	3
3	2	6	1	5	4
1	5	4	3	6	2
5	1	2	4	3	6
4	6	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. Eeyore 2. epistle 3. (John) Elway 4. eggplant 5. ermine  
6. equilateral 7. Edmund 8. Ethiopia 9. Erie  
10. (Mount) Elbert

## Correction

Last week's Brainteaser misidentified Canada's Easternmost province, which is, of course, Newfoundland.

# I Will Come Home

## Chapter Seven: The Egg Thief

(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.)

**B**y Sunday morning, Betsy knew why there had been fewer eggs lately, but she still had to be polite to Mrs. Baxter's father.

He came up to her as church was getting out. "Martha tells me you're having trouble with your hens," he said.

Pa and Ma were talking to someone else, and Betsy hoped they wouldn't notice Mr. Vanderlees and join in the conversation.

"Oh, they're much better now, thank you," she said. "I think they must have just been a little under the weather for a time."

"Well, you need to watch them carefully," Mr. Vanderlees cautioned. "One gets a little sickly and the next thing you know, the whole flock is gone. I've seen it happen too many times. Chickens are funny creatures that way."

"No, they're fine," she said. "I checked their beaks for crustiness around their nostrils, and there wasn't a bit of it, nor around their eyes, either. They walk around with just as much spring as ever. Feathers bright and smooth just like it was Fair Week!"

"Well, that's good, young lady, but you keep a sharp lookout for a time, you hear?" he said. "It can sneak up on you sudden."

"I surely will, sir," she said, and tried to change the subject. "Are you bringing your corn to the mill this week?"

"Not sure," he admitted. "We've had it cut and put up in shocks for some time. I'm thinking maybe the end of this week, if it stays sunny like it has. I know Martha must be pret'near out of chicken feed by now, though she'd never complain."

"It's getting low, sir, yes," Betsy said.

Mr. Vanderlees nodded and looked across the churchyard to where some women were fussing over his grandson while Mrs. Baxter watched and smiled.

"That girl never does complain, and that's good," he said. "I taught my girls it does no good to complain. But I wish she would ask for help when she needs it. Self-reliance is good, but being stubborn, well, now, that's a fault."

He glanced down at Betsy. "You could always tell me if she needed anything, you know. You'd be doing us both a favor."

"Just some cracked corn," Betsy said, then added. "And her widow's pension, but you can't do much to hurry that, I guess."

"That I can't," he agreed. "And I think it's a disgrace. To lose a fine young man like Tom and have them act like he never existed? It's been near eight months now! A disgrace!"

For a moment, he looked like he was going to spit, but he stopped and put a rough hand on Betsy's shoulder instead, and his voice softened. "I want you to know, Miss Betsy, how much our family appreciates the way you and the other folks from the church help our Martha. We are truly grateful!"

\* \* \*

Betsy had learned the truth about the chickens the night before.

When she came home Saturday evening, she took the lantern as she always did and went out to the barn. She hung the lantern on a nail as she always did.

As she climbed the ladder, the lantern below threw her shadow on the roof among all the other shadows it cast, but it lit things up enough that she could see the hay fork in its place on the wall.

The floor was in shadow, though, and, when something crunched under her foot, she had to bend down and feel under her boot to find out what it was.

An eggshell.

Whatever had been stealing eggs from the hens had been bringing them up here to eat. And whatever had been stealing eggs from the hens had also been stealing milk from the cow.

And Betsy wished, oh, how she wished, that it wasn't too dangerous to bring a flame up into the hayloft, because right now she wished like anything that the lantern were in her hand so she could see what was up there in that loft with her.

Instead, she walked calmly over to the wall and took down the stout, wooden-handled fork with its two, long, sharp iron tines, just as if she were about to throw hay down to the barn floor as she always did, and she went over to the pile of hay in the corner of the loft, just as she always did.

And she pulled back the fork just as if she were going to take a big forkful of hay as she always did, and she said, "You come on out of there or I will stick you like a bullfrog!"

Nothing happened.

Betsy took one step closer and held the fork back even farther. "I will! I swear! And I don't care what I hit!"

And the hay moved, and then a bare foot came out at the bottom and two hands, raised, came out of the top and slowly, a raggedy, long-haired, dirty young man with a scraggly beard rose up out of the hay into the half-light from the lantern below.

"I give up, ma'am, please don't stick me," he said, in an accent that told Betsy exactly who he was and where he had come from.

"You're a rebel!" she declared. "You're one of those Johnny Rebs who tunneled out of the prison last week!"

"Yes, I am, ma'am," he confessed, and his left leg buckled and he fell to the floor.

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

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