S
ince the coronavirus pandemic began, most people around the world have had to make changes to their day-to-day lives. However, that doesn't seem to stop Coloradans from supporting people who are working harder than ever to stop the virus. People from all over Colorado have been supporting doctors and other front-liners to keep them going in this crisis. From making masks to thank you notes, Colorado is not letting our community down.

Take Delanie Holton Fessler for example: Owner of Craftsman & Apprentice, she is also founder of The Colorado Mask Project. When asked by a member of Governor Polis’ COVID Response team to find masks for them, the idea struck to have an organization committed to making masks for people who might not have them. Fessler says that the Colorado Mask Project is a way to help Coloradans wear and make face masks. She hopes the impact will convince more people to wear masks.

She says, “When you wear a mask, it shows that you care.” Representative Jason Crow was asked in the first Kids Town Hall meeting about how youth can help people on the front line. He answered that washing your hands and wearing masks is a great thing to do.

Call Me Floy” is an adventurous novel by Joanna Cooke, set in the late 1800s, based on the real life of a girl who lived in those days.

Florence Hutchings, an almost 12-year-old, has a really big dream: Climbing Yosemite’s Half Dome. She was born in Yosemite Valley and feels that Yosemite is more home than San Francisco. She and her father made a deal that if she would attend school and not skip, then they would go back to Yosemite Valley.

Floy has always been told by her father and grandmother that she is just a girl. This made her even more determined to climb Half Dome and prove them wrong, that she is not “just a girl.” That she is more than that.

This book really gave me a vision of what Yosemite would have looked like, but also what following your dreams would have looked like, in 1876. It was a genuine pleasure to read this novel and watch Floy on her way to the greatest achievements.

Climbing a huge surface like Half Dome can be hard when you don’t have the privilege of staying at home with your job, they have to go to work to make money to support their family and feed their family, so saying thank you and being kind can help, because that kindness can be contagious.

Sarah Belton, a fifth-grade teacher at Downtown Denver Expeditionary School, said, “I get frustrated sometimes, because I want to go out and see my friends, go to restaurants, go on vacation, and go to school! But I force myself to remember to appreciate that I’m healthy, most of my family and friends are healthy.”

She says that she feels sorry for healthcare workers who cannot see their friends and family for an extended period of time, but is thankful they are out there protecting us.

She said, “I appreciate that people in Denver seem to be taking this seriously, and everyone seems to be coming together to get through this.”

Kate Jimmerson is a crime scene investigator, who has now been testing other frontliners, like police officers and firefighters since April 6.

Since Denver has started howling at night to recognize people like her, she explained, “It really motivates me, because it makes me think that there are people out there who are really supportive of what we’re doing and acknowledging all the time and effort we’re putting into the testing site. It makes me proud to be able to help my community.”

She said that, when she was first asked to do testing, her first thought was “Absolutely!” because they needed people to help out and she was eager to do that.

When seeing people in masks, she said, makes her grateful to know that people are listening, and that everyone doing their job of wearing masks helps her do hers.

Her message to Colorado is “Be kind to each other. Have kindness, and compassion, and try to bring peace to the world. This is a scary time for a lot of people and kindness can remind us that we are all connected!”

So the next time you see it’s 8:00 p.m. and howl, it’s our message to the coronavirus that this community is one that’s connected while we’re apart.

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Best of CK: Remembering the Unforgettable

Remembering 9/11 pulls at your heart, and sharing your stories can bring tears.
I found this out firsthand when I spoke with people at the commemorative concert in Denver’s Civic Park on the anniversary of that date.

On September 11, 2001, Abigail Keating, a Community Emergency Response Team volunteer, was living in South Carolina attending college.
She and other students were directed to the auditorium where over a thousand people were watching the news on a big screen.
“Since I am from New Jersey it was very near and dear to my heart;” she said.

The night before the attack, the Broncos had played the New York Giants, and Congressman Ed Perlmutter, then a state senator, had attended the game at the new stadium with his daughter Zoe.
The next morning, he let her sleep in late, so he was home watching The Today Show when the second plane hit.
“I couldn’t believe it and thought it was an accident and that everyone would get out. Then the second plane hit and I didn’t know what to think. ”

Congressman Mike Coffman was Colorado’s state treasurer in 2001, and was in New Mexico at a conference on the day of the attacks.
Coffman was moved by the day’s events and, four years after the attacks, in 2005, he decided to resign from his job and return to the United States Marine Corps.
Coffman was stationed in Iraq, where he says he had the opportunity to meet a lot of young men and women with determination and a willingness to sacrifice their life for our country.

Senator Mark Udall remembers September 11, along with other days that shaped his life for better or worse.

“This day is definitely on that list.”

Editor’s Note: With current CK Reporters quarantined and most museums, theaters and other story sources closed, we’re presenting feature stories from past issues, including this account of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Memorial, which ran in Colorado Kids September 26, 2017.

Disappointing take on a classic action story

Hood” by Jenny Elder Moke, is loosely based on the legend of Robin Hood, a bandit who uses his skill with a bow and arrow to steal from the rich and give to the poor.
The story follows Isabelle, Robin Hood’s daughter, who is quietly fuming in her prison cell when she gets rescued by her mother. She then goes on a short journey to the Blue Boar Inn, where she is introduced to the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest, part of the large group of outlaws who follow Robin Hood.
Soon after Isabelle meets the Merry Men, she goes on a long and dangerous journey to find her father.
Isabelle is an example of the stereotypical female protagonist who relies mostly on men to save her, time and time again.
While she can shoot a bow and is able to defend herself, the story follows a lot of things that would not change.
Bea adds to this list throughout the book.
After this brief recap, she goes back to the present day.
Her parents are divorced, and she goes back and forth between her parents’ house.
Isabelle is quietly fuming in her prison cell when she gets rescued by her mother. She then goes on a short journey to the Blue Boar Inn, where she is introduced to the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest, part of the large group of outlaws who follow Robin Hood.
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Bea adds to this list throughout the book.
After this brief recap, she goes back to the present day.
Her parents are divorced, and she goes back and forth between her parents’ house.
Her babysitter is Sheila, who shares the story of when her cousin Angelica fell into a well.
She also tells about when she went to her dad’s lake house, and how it felt to be there without her mom. (Her parents have been divorced for two years at this point.)

She shares the story of when her cousin Angelica fell into the loft, and missed the window by two inches.
She talks about this lot during the book.
She also explains her green journal that her parents gave her when they announced they were getting divorced, a list of things that would not change.
Bea adds to this list throughout the book.
After this brief recap, she goes back to the present day.
Her parents are divorced, and she goes back and forth between her parents’ house.

Bea finds out some new information about Jesse that could lead to a bad decision.
“I thought that this book was pretty good, but the message seemed a little confusing, and so was some of the timeline, so I didn’t like it as much as I thought I would.
I also felt like the book was short and a little lacking in some areas.
For example, my favorite part of the book was Sonia’s relationship with Bea, but Sonia was only included in a few chapters which was disappointing.
I think the book would’ve been better if it were a little longer and more explanatory.
Sonia’s story, like about it was the theme of friendship, Rebecca Stead did a good job making the friends helpful and loyal.
Joan Bea while she finds that change may not be as bad as she’s making it.
Explore her thoughts, things that have changed, and, of course, the things that will never change.

Solid potential, though a bit disappointing

True, Sonia spends most of her time with her mom, who lives across the country in California, but Bea is sure that they’ll be “just like sisters anywhere.”

While the second half is more enjoyable, it is not good enough to make the book worthwhile.
First, the characters are all over the place: sometimes they like each other, other times they hate one another, and the smallest mistake can cause everybody to completely distrust the culprit.
Second, the plot does not make much sense and the first half of the book is a struggle to get through.
While the second half is more enjoyable, it is not good enough to make the rest of the book worthwhile.
Overall, “Hood” would be a waste of both time and money.

The Denver Post - 2
**Mythological series scores with third book**

"**A**

nu Shah and the Tree of Wishes" by Roshani Chokshi, is a tale of Hindu gods and goddesses, published by Rick Riordan’s Disney/Hyperion imprint, which focuses on producing books based in mythology. The Pandava brothers are a mortal Hindu family. They reincarnate every thousand years and become humans. These humans who have the souls of the brothers have unique powers, and this generation — Aru Shah, Min, Bryne, Aiden, Sheila, and Nikita — face a prophecy that sets them on a path to find their true selves.

Roshani Chokshi tells the story of the girls with humor and grace. Her talent shines in the spunky, brave, and intelligent characters, and she tells the story with absolute clarity. The only apparent flaw in this book was that I felt it was a little familiar, perhaps because Riordan’s imprint was looking for authors with the same style of writing and who could tell stories of ancient mythology with humor and ease.

That means, however, that this Aru Shah novel is great for lovers of Rick Riordan books. Since it was published by Riordan’s imprint company, it features many of the same elements included in his Greek mythology tellings. Nevertheless, the story is original and told genuinely, even though you can feel the touch of Roshani Chokshi’s influences, knowledge, and talents.

"Aru Shah and the Tree of Wishes" has themes of honesty and friendship, which makes it perfect for middle-grade readers.

There is no age minimum or maximum, if you love Riordan’s books these are right in his style, but make sure to start on Book One, "Aru Shah and the End of Time."

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**Middle school drama with an ethnic twist**

"**A**

merican as Paneer Pie" by Supriya Kelkar, takes you through the many emotions of a middle school girl. Happy, sad, angry, and confused.

Lehka, the main character, experiences bullying and friends who turn out to be not so friendly, and learns how to make good friends. For any girl or boy, middle school can be hard. It’s even harder for Lehka, since she has created two lives. Home Lehka and School Lehka. In an effort to keep her Indu culture separate from her middle school friends. At the start of the book, Lehka is trying hard to fit in and is embarrassed by the things that make her unique. There is a slow build up to knowing the characters, however once do you feel you’ve known them forever.

One thing I love about the book teaches you a lot about Indian culture. This book really makes you feel as if you are there.

For example it tells you a lot about food and in a couple parts of the book there is a holiday that they talked about called Divali and it gives you a little insight about that.

I also struggled, initially, with understanding that Lehka’s mother was called by two names: Aai and Mother, which are just the same in two languages. This book really helped me understand that diversity can be good for everyone and it can change who you are if you embrace the diversity around you.

It’s highly recommended that you try to fit in and struggling with their own identity and that, for example, friends get in fights but, if they are good friends, they will be there for you.

This novel also uses some “gateway” language, and while it’s true that many middle schoolers do curse, it was a little overused and got old fast.

I didn’t like this book as much as I thought I would. I felt like it was geared more towards boys.

I can see how this book had the potential to be really heartwarming while at the same time being funny, but because of the language and drama of the "boy" tone, it didn’t really accomplish that for me.

I would recommend this book for ages 11 and up, and would rate it 9 out of 10 for an easily understandable plot, vivid imagery, and storytelling.

By Izzie Intriago, a CK Reporter from Denver.

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**Classical siblings, along with a fantasy twist**

"**In The Kingdom Of Back**, " by Marie Lu, Maria Anna "Nannerl" Mozart

When she starts dreaming of a magical kingdom and the kingdom offers a chance to secure her spot in history, is she willing to take it, no matter the cost?

The book is a little confusing, because it is difficult at times to differentiate what is real and what is imagined, for instance the deep personal level: you can feel Nannerl’s pain and sadness. However once you do, you feel like you’ve known them forever. The book requires a lot of focus and deep thinking. I have spent a lot of time thinking about “American as Paneer Pie” and the lesson it is trying to teach.

By Talia Schanman, a CK Reporter from Cherry Hills Village.

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**Too much drama in better book for boys**

"**W**

ick" by Rob Harrell, wasn’t as good as it seemed it was going to be.

"Wink" is about a boy named Ross, who has a rare form of eye cancer. Ross has to wear eye goop, a hat, and deal with an eye that’s “winking.”

He has a lot going on. One friend, Isaac, hasn’t been talking or hanging out with him ever since Ross was diagnosed with cancer. He also has a crush, Sarah, and he wants to show her, and everyone else at the school, that he’s not just the “cancer kid.”

But how is he going to do this with something that he can’t control?

He has to figure out how he’s going to do this, and decide to start playing guitar.

He picks it up quickly, and it helps him to process what’s going on in his life.

So, when the talent show comes around, Ross has an idea. He could just stay hidden in the shadows and try to be normal, or fight for his dreams.

He does really like the "Batpig" comics that this illustrated novel is based on, but constantly being treated for things as little as misplacing a notebook. Already, she is expected to aspire to marriage and motherhood, while her little brother is allowed to nurture his creative talents and passion for music.

Not long after that performance, Nannerl finally lets little Wolferl play the clavier, and she is immediately shown up by her brother.

What little attention she had before from her parents is now directed at him.

Since the kingdom offers a chance to secure her spot in history, is she willing to take it, no matter the cost?

Marie Lu has written this book beautifully, as she paints every scene with real-life clarity and makes you feel like you are there.

Another thing Lu excels at is conveying vivid emotions in such a way that you feel connected to the characters on a deep personal level: you can feel Nannerl’s pain and sadness.

The book is a little confusing, because it is difficult at times to differentiate what is real and what is imagined, for instance when Nannerl and Wolferl see edelweiss that wasn’t in her notebook a minute before.

This novel also uses some “gateway” language, and while it’s true that many middle schoolers do curse, it was a little overused and got old fast.

I didn’t like this book as much as I thought I would. I felt like it was geared more towards boys.

I also thought it was a little too dramatic, because there was just so much on his plate that it was almost unrealistic. However, I gave this book my brother to read, and he liked it a lot more than I did, though he agreed with me on the unnecessary drama.

He did really like the "Batpig" comics that this illustrated novel is based on, but constantly being treated for things as little as misplacing a notebook.

Something to know about this book is that it goes from the past to the present a lot.

This is confusing, and it took me until the end of the book to fully understand the story line.

This novel also uses some "gateway" language, and while it’s true that many middle schoolers do curse, it was a little overused and got old fast.

I can see how this book had the potential to be really heartwarming while at the same time being funny, but because of the language and drama of the "boy" tone, it didn’t really accomplish that for me.

I would recommend this book for the drama, confusing timeline, and overused foul language.

By Izzie Intriago, a CK Reporter from Aurora.

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"**American as Paneer Pie** is best for the age group 9 and up, but there are some pretty big words that younger readers might need a few years help with.

By Hazel Lindsley, a CK Reporter from Denver.

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"**Aru Shah and the Tree of Wishes**” has themes of honesty and friendship, which makes it perfect for middle-grade readers.

Nevertheless, the story is original and told genuinely, even though you can feel the touch of Roshani Chokshi’s influences, knowledge, and talents.

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**Wartime thriller adds emotion to suspense**

In 1940s Scotland, three people are trying to make a difference in the middle of World War II. Louisa Adair, a Jamaican orphan in charge of caring for an elderly German woman, Ellen McKeen, a volunteer driver for the local air base, and Jamie Beaufort, a squadron flight leader, all do their part in different ways to help the war effort.

But when a mysterious plane lands at the Royal Air Base – a German plane carrying the mysterious secret agent Odysseus – their three lives will be drawn together into a secret much bigger than themselves. Jamie discovers an encoded message while flying with his squadron that connects to the strange German pilot, but how?

Louisa and Ellen learn more about the pilot himself as he stays at the same inn as them, but the more they learn the less it makes sense.

What is one of the enemy pilots doing here?

“The Enigma Game,” by Elizabeth Wein, is a good read for people twelve and up. There’s some slight violence and the descriptive language can be intense at parts, which could make it difficult for a younger audience.

The two boys rarely agree and so they fight and chapters sometimes end with “indescribable yelling and sound of fruit striking the wall.”

“Zero to Hero” may be the funnest book in the Timmy Failure series, and definitely helps to clear up any confusion that might have come from the other books in the series.

Readers learn, for example, how Timmy met “the evil one,” and how Rollo the polar bear became his partner, Total the polar bear.

Together, Timmy and Total form a private detective agency, Total Failure Inc.

“Zero To Hero” is a hilarious book, as it gives Timmy’s perspective on the other people in his life, all characters readers have met in the other books of the series. Timmy thinks his mother is his secretary, and his father – whom Timmy has never met – is described as a monkey smuggler.

Unlike the other books in the series, “Zero To Hero” is written as a “work in progress,” a manuscript that Timmy has never met – describes as a monkey smuggler.

The young detective, undeterred, hunts for clues in Miss Wodehouse’s files. Priscilla, the American niece of Miss Wodehouse, arrives for the will reading, and Myrtle begins to suspect Priscilla is completely convinced that it is murder, even when Dr. Bunc is determined to find the killer and see justice is done.

However, not all is as it seems, and Myrtle has no idea what is in store.

“Premeditated Myrtle” is a suspenseful and engaging mystery, keeping you wondering who the murderer is.

The book also supplies definitions of the less common words, making the reading more comprehensible for younger readers.

The novel is a bit slow at times, and Bunce seems to drag out each scene just a little bit longer than necessary.

Chapter Three, for instance, did almost nothing to further the plot, and was extremely tedious and difficult to get through. The storyline was easy to follow until the ending, when things got a little convoluted, and thus somewhat confusing.

Still, “Premeditated Myrtle” is a fun read, and keeps you engaged throughout.

Elizabeth Wein’s other novels, “Code Name Verity” and “The Pearl Thief,” also feature characters from this book, but the stories aren’t connected so you don’t have to read the others to understand “The Enigma Game.”

**Hilarity in the prequel to a very funny series**

“Timmy Failure: Zero to Hero,” by Stephan Pastis, is the newest addition to the Timmy Failure series.

“Zero to Hero” is a prequel to all the other books, including “Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made,” which is now a movie on Disney+.

This illustrated novel is about Timmy’s “rise to power in the detective biz” with help from his competent business partner, Total the polar bear.

Together, Timmy and Total form a private detective agency, Total Failure Inc.

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**A fun read in an engaging mystery series**

**The Enigma Game,** by Elizabeth Wein, is a good read for the older kids.

The plot reminded me of a mystery because of how the different elements of the story all eventually fell together.

I liked how the characters’ emotions are shown really clearly by their actions, and the different points of view for each of the three main characters.

There is a lot of descriptive language and the plot is slow at the start, so it takes patience to read, but it has a good balance of action and storytelling, though people who want more action and less detail might not like this book.

Elizabeth Wein’s other novels, “Code Name Verity” and “The Pearl Thief,” also feature characters from this book, but the stories aren’t connected so you don’t have to read the others to understand “The Enigma Game.”

**“The Enigma Game” by Elizabeth Wein, is a good read for the older kids.**

- The boys rarely agree and so they fight and chapters sometimes end with “indescribable yelling and sound of fruit striking the wall.”
- “Zero to Hero” may be the funnest book in the Timmy Failure series, and definitely helps to clear up any confusion that might have come from the other books in the series.
- Readers learn, for example, how Timmy met “the evil one,” and how Rollo the polar bear became his partner, Total the polar bear.
- Together, Timmy and Total form a private detective agency, Total Failure Inc.
- “Zero To Hero” is a hilarious book, as it gives Timmy’s perspective on the other people in his life, all characters readers have met in the other books of the series. Timmy thinks his mother is his secretary, and his father -- whom Timmy has never met -- is described as a monkey smuggler.
- Unlike the other books in the series, “Zero To Hero” is written as a “work in progress,” a manuscript that Timmy has never met -- describes as a monkey smuggler.
- The young detective, undeterred, hunts for clues in Miss Wodehouse’s files. Priscilla, the American niece of Miss Wodehouse, arrives for the will reading, and Myrtle begins to suspect Priscilla is completely convinced that it is murder, even when Dr. Bunc is determined to find the killer and see justice is done.
- However, not all is as it seems, and Myrtle has no idea what is in store.
- “Premeditated Myrtle” is a suspenseful and engaging mystery, keeping you wondering who the murderer is.
- The book also supplies definitions of the less common words, making the reading more comprehensible for younger readers.
- The novel is a bit slow at times, and Bunce seems to drag out each scene just a little bit longer than necessary.
- Chapter Three, for instance, did almost nothing to further the plot, and was extremely tedious and difficult to get through. The storyline was easy to follow until the ending, when things got a little convoluted, and thus somewhat confusing.
- Still, “Premeditated Myrtle” is a fun read, and keeps you engaged throughout.

Elizabeth Wein’s other novels, “Code Name Verity” and “The Pearl Thief,” also feature characters from this book, but the stories aren’t connected so you don’t have to read the others to understand “The Enigma Game.”

**In our final Brainteaser, the answers might start with any letter of the alphabet.**

1. How many years did the Thirty Years War last?
2. How many years did the Hundred Years War last?
3. Who was the author of Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography?
4. If a plane full of Americans crashes in Canada, where will the survivors be taken?
5. What was Mark Twain’s pen name?
6. What color was George Washington’s white horse?
7. How many three-cent stamps are there in a dozen?
8. If a butcher is five feet, eight inches tall, what does he weigh?
9. How many months of the year have 28 days?
10. Is it legal in Colorado for a man to marry his widow’s sister?

(Answers on Page Five)
Suffrage Movement, and women gained the right to vote for a positive cause. What they did gave lasting differences.

Václav Havel, Alice Paul, Martin Luther King Jr, and many more unforgettable voices in history.

If a group of people use non-violence for a bad reason, their actions will not be beneficial for everyone. Some people use violence, and some people prefer non-violent approaches, either doing it for a good or bad cause.

There are a large number of ways people get what they want. Some people use violence, and some people prefer non-violent approaches, either doing it for a good or bad cause.

A sequel to this book, “The Emerald Horizon,” has also been published.
Thanks for more than 20 years of good journalism

We couldn’t have done it without you