



CK Reporter of the Week
Christopher Smit, Boulder

'UglyDolls' find a perfect place

Apppearance is everything, right?

Well, in Uglyville things do not follow these rules. Everyone is happy and, as one of the songs states, "The world couldn't be any brighter!"

Each doll feels wanted and loved for being well... themselves!

The movie makes quite an impression on viewers and tells them that it's okay to be a little, or a lot, different.

These "Not-So-Perfect" dolls are living the best life ever and nothing could bring them down.

But, Moxy (*Kelly Clarkson*) wants to go to the Big World and find a child to cherish her.

"Every doll has a child," is sung during "UglyDolls" and everyday Moxie wakes up thinking that today is the day she will be picked for the Big World.

When Lucky Bat (*Leehom Wang*) gives Moxie some advice from a fortune cookie on how to get to the Big World, the cookie reads "Find your own truth."

Moxy decides that she will try to find her own truth and go to the Big World with her friends Ugly Dog (*Pitbull*), Babo (*Gabriel Iglesias*), Wage (*Wanda Sykes*), and Lucky Bat.

So, they journey up the place where new ugly dolls get dumped, go up the tunnel, and find a place called "Institute of Perfection."

If they can prove to be good enough for the Big World then Moxie will get her child.

It's not like this is ever going to happen though with Lou (*Nick Jonas*) around.

Lou is the most perfect one in all of Perfection and he doesn't like anybody who looks or acts different.

His motto is even "Prettiness makes Perfect!" because he loves perfection.



Right from the beginning he tries to bring Moxie and her, in his words, "little band of misfits" down.

He makes them feel like they are outcasts and freaks, but they hold their ground and keep on going, even through the toughest times.

Luckily, not everyone one in Perfection is bad. Mandy (*Janelle Monáe*) is not as perfect as she looks.

Sadly, everyone has to be perfect or they get rejected.

"Perfect dolls have perfect eyesight," Mandy explains.

So, she becomes friends with the ugly dolls and helps them become more like all the other people, while trying to fit in herself.

"UglyDolls" has a very clear message to all the

people around the world "You are perfect in every single way."

"UglyDolls" also helps kids understand what it's going to be like when they get older.

The movie makes quite an impression on viewers and tells them that it's okay to be a little, or a lot, different.

With laughter, sadness, and happiness "UglyDolls" is a wonderful movie that viewers will enjoy.



By Eva Perak,
10, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Fighting off those who would hold you down

Have you ever wished to be a whaler, but your parents would not let you because: you are not a boy, the sea is no place for a lady, every girl wants to get married and be a doting mother?

Besides, the land is safer than the sea for a lady, right? Wrong.

At least, that was Oona Britt's answer in "The Girl Who Sailed The Stars," by Matilda Woods.

Woods makes Oona seem like a real, complex individual, with hopes, dreams and a striking imagination.

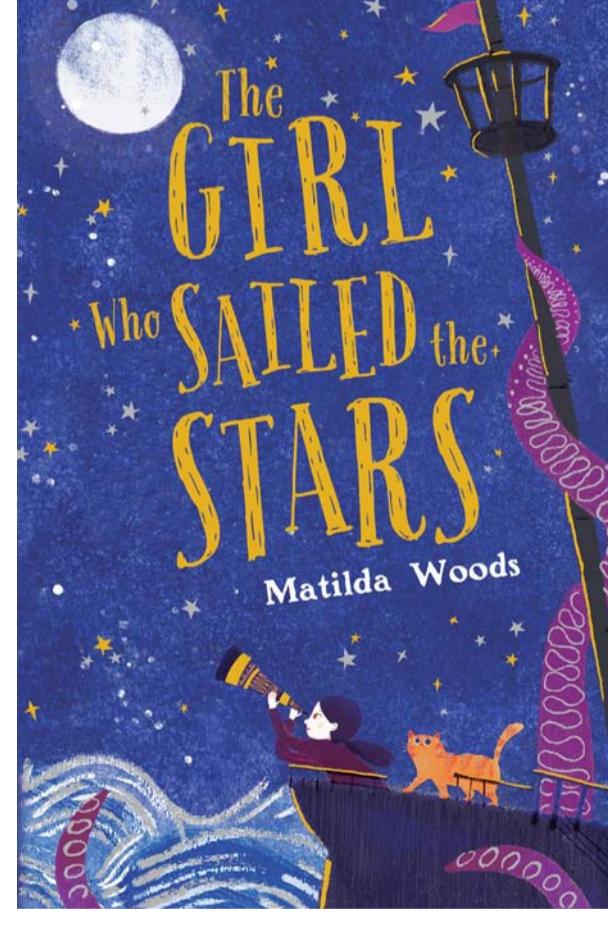
Ten years before in Nordlor, a town made solely of salvaged ships, a respected fortune teller predicted that Captain Britt would be the proud father of a brave and bold son. However, when the big day came, Oona was born.

To her parents' dismay, she was most definitely not a boy.

As the seventh "disappointing" daughter of talented whaler Captain Britt, Oona was constantly belittled and insulted both to her face and behind her back.

The final straw was when her mother decided to find a wealthy prince to marry each of her daughters to.

Oona, in an act of desperation, stowed away on her father's ship to escape the arranged marriage.



"The Girl Who Sailed The Stars" is part of the magical realism genre. That is, it would be realistic fiction if it didn't have a couple of mythical creatures here and there, although the way Woods writes about them makes it seem like they could almost be real.

Woods makes Oona seem like a real, complex individual, with hopes, dreams and a striking imagination.

From the selfish and apathetic fortune teller to Oona's cold-hearted family, Woods' exceptional storytelling brings these characters to life.

For example, you can feel Oona's horror at being shipped off to the South and marrying some random prince just so her mother can become a queen.

Also, every building in the town of Nordlor rocks all the time because they are salvaged ships; the author describes the movement in such a way that it makes you almost feel nauseated.

We all might grow as people at least a little by stowing away on a ship, but Oona really rises to the occasion and matures a lot because of it.

I wish the author provided more description for the characters, such as the way they looked and dressed, but I would still rate this book a nine out of ten and recommend it for ages 8 and up.



By Jerry Krim,
10, a CK Reporter
from Denver

SPOTLIGHT

– on –

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Creating your reality and some WOW!

When I toured the "Our Senses: Creating Your Reality" exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, to be honest, I had no idea what to expect.

The exhibit is supposed to take you farther into your senses than ever before, but, when I got to see it, my mind was blown.

I couldn't think of a better place to spend your day.

Even just walking in was amazing.

The first room is the SEE gallery. This room had blue, green, and red lights alternating on the walls. When each color changed, the pictures on the wall changed with it.

At first it didn't seem that unique.

Then I realized, the wall wasn't changing, it stayed the same while the colors were changing.

My perception of what I could see was changing.

It was incredible!

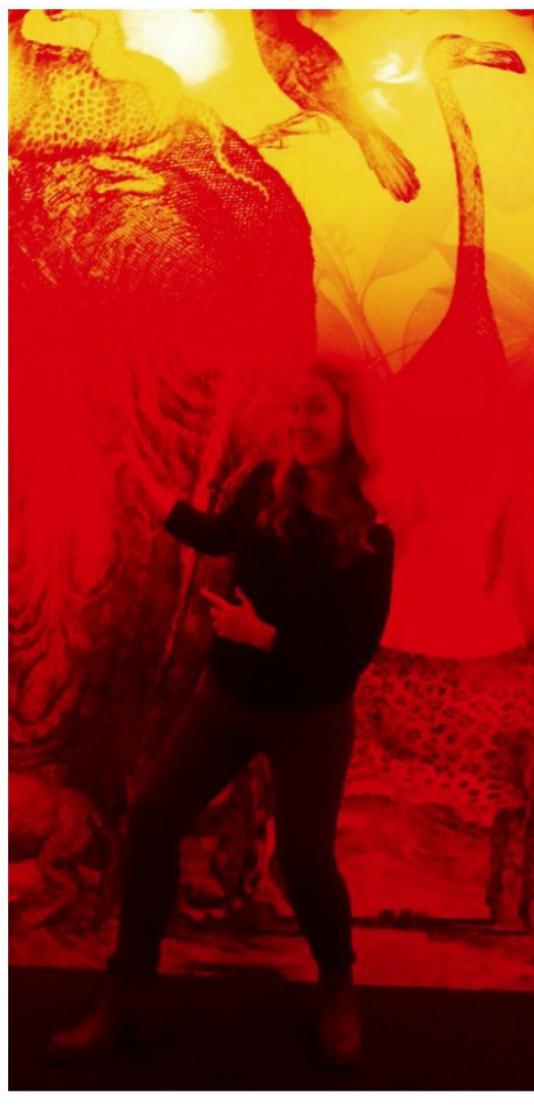
I was in awe and had my first *WOW!* moment. With one color, a huge snake was on the wall, and with the next, he was gone. This room was truly amazing.

Another one of the incredible rooms at this exhibit is called "Coyote, Human, Dolphin, Brains."

It is a 3D model where you can touch either the nose, eyes, or ears to see how each different animal's brain systems function differently for each of those senses.

I think this was my favorite *WOW!* of the whole exhibit. It showed me how the coyote can hear so much better than we can, and their sense of smell is incredible. And I learned that the dolphin can't even smell. It left me realizing that humans really don't use much of their brain at all!

Taliah Farnsworth, a virtual experiences specialist at the museum, was also



Taliah Farnsworth demonstrates how different colors make different perspectives.

bubbling over as she showed me each room. At one point she exclaimed, "You do not need to have a PHD to have a part in meaningful science."

I guess the fun we were all having was actually meaningful science.

I also met with Abid Hassan, an educating performer. He runs an interactive show that shouldn't be missed.

His favorite part of the show is seeing how people react to the Yanny or Laurel auditory illusion. If you haven't done it - it will lead to hours of discussion.

Every room I entered gave me a *WOW!* moment, and there are volunteers around to help create those moments. You should ask them questions; They love sharing what they know and helping create the *WOW!*.

Take your time in each part of the exhibit -- Don't let the amazing activities rush you.

There's so much to see and experience that it takes about an hour to get through it all.

The least busy times are first thing in the morning or the last few hours before they close.

This exhibit is one that I would

absolutely recommend to everyone.

There were little girls and boys there having the time of their lives, middle-aged men and women, there was even a couple on a date.

I couldn't think of a better place to spend your day.

Our Senses: Creating Your Reality is open now through August 4th. This exhibit is free with admission.



Story and photos by
Zoe Burks,
13, a CK Reporter
from Highlands Ranch



Homemade cat food may not be best for your kitty



Pet owners like to do special things for their furry little friends, and it has become common for people to make fresh meals for their dogs and cats instead of feeding them canned food or kibble.

But cat owners should stick with the commercial foods, according to a study published in the journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Cats have some specific nutritional needs, and, when a team of researchers at the University of California, Davis, examined 94 recipes for cat food from books and magazines, each recipe failed to provide one essential nutrient, and most left out at least three things that cats need to remain healthy.

The lead author of the study said she became concerned when she noticed people bringing their cats in to her veterinary clinic with health problems and discovered that they were making their own cat food at home.

That led her to conduct the study, which not only showed that many of these recipes did not include necessary vitamin and mineral supplements, but had items like garlic and onion that are actually bad for cats, or were vegan diets that are not appropriate for a carnivore.

The study strongly suggests that cat lovers leave cooking to the experts.

photo/ Cupie@Parisien Cafe

Solid, well-crafted novel for older readers

"**G**irl Gone Viral" is a beautifully crafted book that supports the themes of friendship and fighting for what you believe in, tied up with a nice little bow.

It takes you on the journey of a high school senior girl whose dad mysteriously disappeared.

Her main lead: her father's business partner, Howie Mendelsohn, who now happens to be a rich billionaire.

The only way to meet him is to win a contest, but her quest soon becomes more than just meeting some "friend" of her father's.

This book is gripping and fast-paced, and, just when you think the action is declining, it revs right back up.

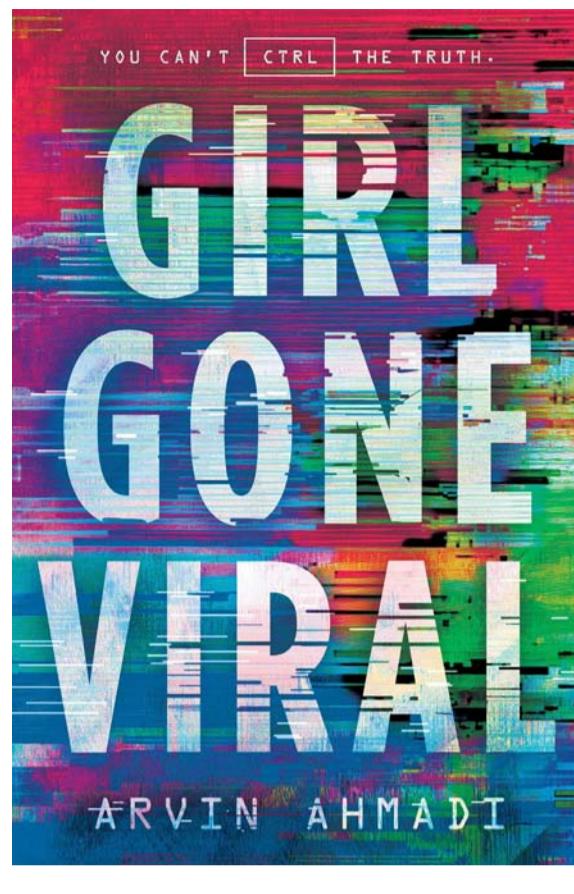
However, due to this non-stop pace, the author, Arvin Ahmadi, is occasionally unclear or confusing, not quite ever saying what happened, and expecting you to know using only vague wording and inferences.

One instance of this is that they mention St. Barts, which will be unknown of to a vast majority of readers.

In addition, he does use many mature themes and words, so while teens will love this roller coaster of a book, small children should not be exposed to much of the content: Numerous uses of the f-word, racial and sexual discrimination, and sexual relationships.

The only way to keep up interest of a reader is to include strenuous and stressful sections, which teenagers already face enough of. However, there is nothing too bad, but if you easily get stressed, keep that in mind.

One thing that the author does very well on, however, is dropping subtle hints and word changes that almost



mean the same thing, but the slight variation in wording can – and does – change the reader's view.

These subtle little hints really enhance the overall work, and make it much better.

The setting is very futuristic, including a detailed VR network, the 2050 version of You Tube, and much more, similar to a better version of the same world as "Ready Player One."

In that book, where one would find bleakness, in "Girl Gone Viral," you'll find opportunity.

This means that the readers will connect much better to a story not about the past or present, but one thing they can control: the future.

This book will inspire a new generation of dreamers and creators.

It also connects to readers in the way of basic teenage problems, like relationships, arguments with parents, loss, parents who expect too much, and even things like drinking problems and suicide attempts.

However these are presented in the best way I think possible, and will probably even help a lot of people through a very hard time.

"Girl Gone Viral" weaves a tale of friendship, fellowship, and finding your place in this world.



By Thatcher Mulholland,
13, a CK Reporter
from Broomfield

Ramadan fasting part of spiritual renewal

Muslims around the world are now in the second week of Ramadan, their annual month-long time of prayer, fasting and spiritual renewal.

Ramadan commemorates the years that the Prophet Muhammad spent in a cave, as he was being inspired to write down the words of the Quran, the sacred book of Islam.

Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam's roots are in the Middle East, but today there are Muslims in every nation of the world.

In fact, while many people think of Islam as a Middle Eastern religion, the largest number of Muslims live in Indonesia, far from Mecca and Medina, the two holy cities of their faith.

Still, one tradition from the Middle East is a part of Ramadan: Dates!

Adult Muslims fast during the day throughout the month, and, while it is tradition and not part of their religion, breaking their fast at sundown often means a few dates and a sip of water, because dates were what the Prophet ate during his time of inspiration.

Like Easter and Passover, Ramadan is based on a lunar calendar, so comes at different times each year. This year, it began at sundown on Sunday, May 5 and will run until sundown Tuesday, June 4.

During that time, adult Muslims do not eat or drink anything between dawn and



AP Photo Anjum Naveed

dusk, including water, chewing gum or smoking.

The tradition is that dawn begins when it is light enough to tell a white thread from a black thread, but, since time zones differ around the world, each community will usually agree on a time for its members to pray and for them to have a good breakfast, called "suhoor," before that hour.

Experienced fasters have learned to avoid salty foods, sugar or any food that might make you thirsty, and, instead, to load up on carbs at suhoor that will last through the day.

There is also a time agreed upon for sundown, which is when many Muslims will eat a few dates and have water before prayers, then enjoy a large meal, the "iftar," which is often a time to invite guests, Muslim or not, to join in.

Iftar is also a chance for Muslims to practice charity, and this photo is of a large, free meal in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, where the poor and homeless are invited to join other members of the public for the evening meal.

Having an old tradition in a modern world calls for some adjustments: The work day is shorter during Ramadan, but since fasting Muslims don't take lunch breaks, this works out well even in countries where they are a minority.

And since older students also fast, many schools are careful not to schedule tests during Ramadan, since hungry students might not score as well as usual!

Sudoku

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

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.

The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.



Brainteaser

On this date in 1607, colonists founded the first English-speaking settlement in what would become the United States (there were already several Spanish settlements), so our answers this week will start with "J" for "Jamestown."

1. Shrub whose fragrant flowers are used in incense and tea, it is also a popular girls' name
2. The capital of Indonesia, its name used to start with a silent D
3. In the Bible, Samson used this discarded part of a dead donkey as a weapon
4. The president known as "Old Hickory," he defeated the British at New Orleans
5. The Roman goddess who, in Greece, was known as Hera
6. The city across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas, is named for this famous Mexican lawyer, revolutionary and president.
7. The Supreme Court is the main part of this branch of government.
8. Two vice-presidents who became president because of an assassination shared this last name.
9. Wild canine similar to a coyote but found in Africa, the Middle East and India
10. This archvillain is Bruce Wayne's best-known opponent.

(answers on Page Four)

Researchers develop truly recyclable plastic

Two weeks ago, we reported on a conflict over plastic shipped from Canada to the Philippines that had been mixed and contaminated with garbage and so couldn't be recycled.

But dirty plastic is only part of the problem with recycling, and researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have come up with something that could make recycling more than just a promise.

Here's the problem: Things made from plastic are made from other substances as well.

They may have coloring added, but there are also chemicals added, for instance, to make the plastic items stronger or more flexible.

When it comes to recycling, it hasn't been possible

to simply take out those additives, and the result is that most discarded plastic still ends up in an incinerator or landfill.

What can be recycled is generally limited to things like floor mats, benches and other things in which the quality of the plastic doesn't have to be very high. This is called "downcycling" because the new item is of lesser quality than the one it was made from.

The problem is, how many floor mats and benches does the world need, compared to common items like milk jugs?

The new type of polymer will be able to be separated from those additives, and truly recycled instead of just downcycled.

photo/Arkansas National Guard



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To read the sources for these stories

Homemade Cat Food

Ramadan Fasting

Recyclable Plastic

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Jasmine 2. Jakarta 3. jawbone 4. (Andrew) Jackson 5. Juno
6. (Benito) Juarez 7. Judiciary (or Judicial) 8. Johnson 9. jackal
10. Joker



The Crown and the Colliers

Chapter Nine -- Safe Haven

Our story so far: The Tall woman turns out to be the missing princess, and within a few days of being old enough to claim her father's throne. However, the Shorts continue to travel deep into the safety of the mountains.

After another hour, they passed a small house, and then another. The path turned into a road and led them to a village, high in the mountains.

"Iron miners," Kurt said, as he and Gabe walked along together ahead of the wagon. The Short men and women stood in their doorways, but, unlike the colliers, they did not hesitate to cheer and to call out to the Princess and her council.



"Here, we are safe," he went on. "Ahead, the river disappears into the glacier, but the road veers off through a narrow pass and into Ruritania. That's where the people here sell their iron ore."

"Do you ever go there?" Gabe asked.

"We do now," he nodded. "Prince Karl's father would have nothing to do with us. He knew the truth, but did not want to be drawn into a war. But since young Karl took the throne, we have begun to talk. That is, I go, and some of the others go. Never the Princess. It's important that she stay here. It means something to people for her to be always in our country."

And, indeed, there was in the very middle of the village a Tall house of stone, far grander, and far more permanent, than the home the colliers had built for her in the forest.

As they approached, the doors of the house opened and servants, both Short and Tall, came out to greet their Princess. She paused upon the steps, then turned to face the crowd that had been following them through the village.

She smiled, and held out her hands to Rupert, and then to Gabe, inviting them to join her.

"My friends, it is good to be home!" she said, and the people cheered. "I bring with me some honored guests. This is a great moment for me, for I have been reunited with family. This is my brother, Prince Rupert!"

There was surprise and some grumbling, but she went on. "He is my brother, and I ask you, dear friends, to greet him as such, and to make him welcome in your hearts, as you would me!"

There was a moment of silence, and then someone called out, "Three cheers for the Prince!" and the crowd took up the shout as the Princess beamed her approval.

"And a surprise for all of you! This young man is Gabriel, son of Rolf the Huntsman!" This time, she did not have to ask for the crowd's welcome, for a cheer filled the streets. "I don't understand," Gabe said. "Why do they cheer? Why did the colliers cheer when they heard my father's name? It was his fault that you nearly died. He was the one who let you get lost!"

The Princess looked surprised and her eyes filled with tears. "Oh, no, dear heart!" she cried, and hugged him. "Did nobody ever tell you? It was your father who led me to safety! When my life was in danger, he took me deep into the forest to live with the colliers! Your father saved my life!"

"This is a wonderful place," Jed was saying. "The only real road here is through Ruritania. You could never get an army up that goat's path we took."

"Exactly," Kurt agreed. "The Ruritanians wouldn't let an army pass through their territory, and we'd be gone before anyone got close coming from the other direction."

The Princess had gone up to her room for the evening and Jed, Gabe and Prince Rupert were sitting by the fire talking to the council members. Rupert had just come back from the kitchen with a platter of cheese and fruit which he placed on the low table for all to enjoy.

"Has she been living here the whole time?" Gabe asked.

"No," one of the council members said. "When she was little, it was too dangerous to have her stay in one place for very long. We weren't sure yet who was loyal and who might turn against us. Then, as she grew older, she wanted to travel around and keep in touch with people. She felt it was important that they see her, that she be more than a story to them."

"She was right about that," Kurt said. "We couldn't let it seem like there were these men who had a little girl and wanted to rule the country. People had to know that she was the true heir to the throne, that she herself was going to be queen. On her own."

"And she has become a true queen," another said. "She has always been kind, but she has grown to be wise as well. In some ways, she is like our daughter, but she has grown far beyond that. We respect her. She will be a great leader of our nation."

Having brought the Princess her own plate of cheese and fruit, a servant came down the stairs and began to pick up the empty tumblers around the room where they sat talking. He started to reach for the poker to stir up the fire, but then paused and wiped his face with a napkin he had picked up.

Then he turned away for a moment, breathing heavily, and they stopped talking to look at him. When he turned back, his face was sweaty and covered with red splotches, his lips were swollen and he could barely speak.

"The Princess!" he gasped. "I ..." he grabbed at his throat and gasped for air. "As I brought the plate to her, I ate a piece ..."

He fell to the floor just as one of the maids shrieked from the floor above, "No! No! Help!" She ran down the staircase to where she could see them. "She's dead! The Princess is dead!"

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

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