



CK Reporter of the Week
Grace McClung, Denver

Be ready when the Sun goes out!

Astronomers like Dr. Jeffrey Bennett are very excited about the upcoming solar eclipse. A solar eclipse is when the Moon passes in front of the Sun, gradually hiding the Sun until it is no longer visible.

During this time, the day will seem to turn into night. You won't see the Sun, except for its outer corona.

How is this possible if the Moon is 400 times smaller than the Sun? Because the Moon is also 400 times closer to the Earth than the Sun is to the Earth.

Scientists can predict eclipses because they know the Moon's orbit and can find out when its shadow falls over the Earth.

The next solar eclipse will be Monday, August 21.

These eclipses happen every year-and-a-half but they can't be seen from just anywhere.

A partial eclipse is when just part of the Sun is hidden and a total eclipse is when the whole Sun is out of view.

Colorado is just slightly south of the path of totality, but it will still be a great show for those who can't go to Wyoming or Idaho, with about 90 percent of the Sun blotted out here.

The path of totality is where you can see a total eclipse, and the farther you get from that path, the less the Sun will be hidden.

The path of a total solar eclipse changes every time.

This time, the shadow of the blotted-out Sun will pass mostly over North America.

It is very, very important to know that, even though you are in the Moon's shadow during the eclipse, some sunshine still comes through.

If you look directly at the Sun during an eclipse, your iris will stay open because of the shadow, but that means those rays can come in and seriously damage your eyes.

One way to view the eclipse without hurting your eyes is by projecting the Sun onto the ground.

To do this, pop a pinhole in a piece of paper letting the Sun project through for you to see on the ground.

Another way is to buy inexpensive eclipse glasses online.

The frame of the eclipse glasses is made out of



Dr. Jeffrey Bennett, right, shows the author and his brother how to safely view the solar eclipse. Photo/Robbert Smit

cardboard. The lenses themselves are made from a special kind of aluminum.

Warning: Do not make eclipse glasses at home. The lenses are not made from the same aluminum foil that you find in your kitchen.

They are made from a special type of aluminum grade and, if you mess up, you will hurt your eyes very badly!

To find out where you can view the eclipse, check out Dr. Bennett's

free app called Totality at <http://apple.co/2pEbAmr>.

With that app, you can enter your location and see where the nearest total eclipse will happen and the percentage of the Sun that will be hidden at any place.

You'll find out at what time the eclipse will happen and how long it will last.

You can also get eclipse glasses on this app and learn about some future eclipses.

Dr. Bennett explained that the 2045 eclipse will pass over Colorado.

What is interesting is that Boulder Valley School District gives an excused absence to kids who are going to see the eclipse.

Dr. Bennett will be going to Idaho Falls, Idaho, which is in the path of totality, to speak at events and watch the eclipse. For information on that gathering, go to <http://www.bigkidscience.com/idaho-falls-eclipse/>

If your district gives you an excused absence for watching the solar eclipse, I hope that you don't miss this chance to watch one that is visible from North America.

If your district gives you an excused absence for watching the solar eclipse, I hope that you don't miss this chance to watch a solar eclipse that is visible from North America.



By Christopher Smit, 10, a CK Reporter from Boulder

Heroes of the trenches, in all sizes and shapes



"Innocent Heroes," by Sigmund Brouwer, is about many service animals in a major battle of the First World War.

The variety of animals, which changes by chapter, teaches people about all the types of service animals there are besides dogs.

Brouwer starts the story with a small paragraph about the United Kingdom declaring war on Germany. This was interesting because it hits you with a little bit of facts and history rather than just telling an ongoing story of all the animals and a little bit of the war.

The ages suggested to read this book would be from 10 to 15 for two reasons:

Reason One is that the reading level is rather easy but it still has a bit of an advanced vocabulary.

Reason Two is that anyone under the age would not know what half the book says and older readers just might not be interested because of the "softness" of the book.

The story starts a little slow, lengthy and boring, but once you get about halfway through the first chapter, things start to get interesting.

Some parts of the story involve animals dying, so if you are sensitive to that kind of gore, then I wouldn't recommend this book to you.

Other than a select few animals dying, however, the book is extremely family-friendly and has a great lesson for kids: Never give up, even if you're not supposed to make it. Make the unknown become known.

"Innocent Heroes" is a great book to either read alone or with friends and family.



By Van Brown, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton



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Comedy and action in a fun, simple book

"How to be a Supervillain" by Michael Fry is a book about a kid named Victor who does not want to become a supervillain. Victor thought that supervillains were super lame.

Unfortunately, his parents *really* wanted him to become one!

He was apprenticed by force to a supervillain named "The Smear."

At first Victor doesn't like the Smear but after some training with him he begins to like him and actually starts to love being his apprentice.

There are several supervillains that you'll meet in this book.

Some are really lame, like Moldy Dave.

Moldy Dave and the Yeast Master are lame because their super powers are, well, useless and gross.

Others are incredible, like Doctor Deplorable.

Doctor Deplorable is the best supervillain in the league. He is the ideal definition of a supervillain.

Even Victor's family, "the Spoil Sports," are supervillains!

For a living, Victor's family basically causes havoc everywhere they go.

In addition to the supervillains, there are, of course, normal people. They basically knit socks all day (*boring!*).

This is an action book.

The Smear has been banned for 20 years and then all of a sudden he is allowed

back in the supervillain league, a group that stages fights with each other for entertainment, although the crowd doesn't know that it is fake.

The Smear tends to go off script a lot which causes a lot of trouble.

When The Smear goes off script it creates issues for Victor. Sometimes he is successful in interfering with The Smear's plans, sometimes he isn't.

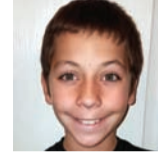
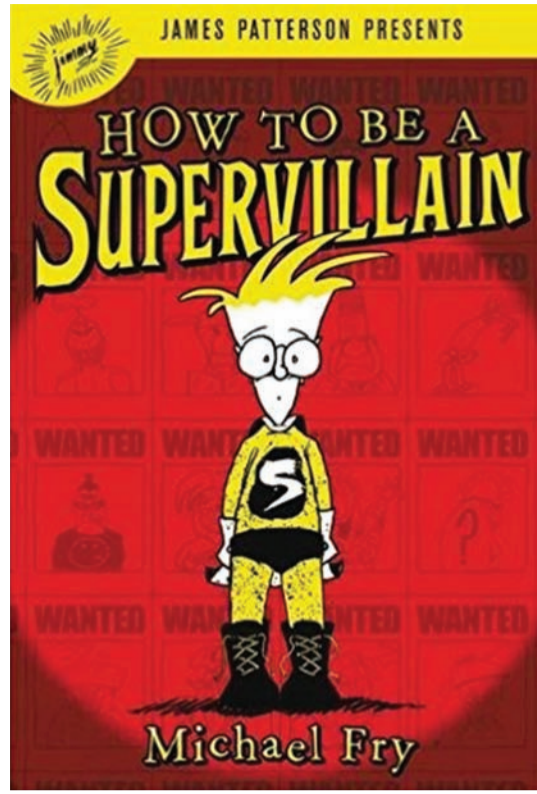
I'll let you read the book to discover what happens.

This book is also a comedy because there are a lot of funny scenes and the author has a good sense of humor.

This was a quick book to read.

I enjoyed a lot of the dialog because it was pretty funny. The illustrations were humorous with little details that made them interesting.

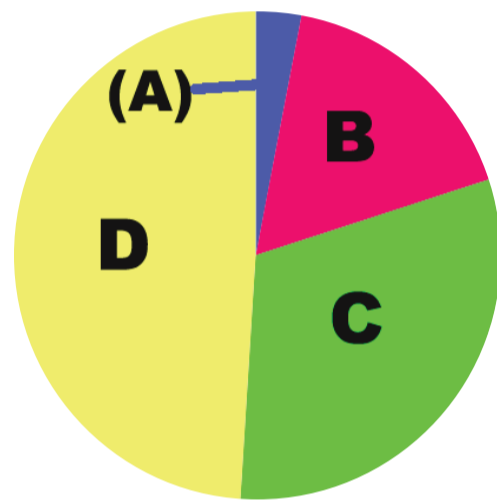
I definitely recommend this book. There is no bad language or anything and the words are rather simple so it is appropriate for a wide range of ages.



By Ben Vanourek, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

We asked you, you told us:

Why not let mealtime be adventure time, too?



There is a popular stereotype of fussy kids who refuse to eat anything but chicken nuggets and Spaghetti-Os. However, those picky-picky kids must not answer our on-line questions.

According to the answers we got from you, CK Readers are adventurous eaters. Only a tiny number stick with their favorites, and the only-slightly daring were also a minority among respondents.

Fully 80 percent enjoy trying new and unusual foods, and nearly half don't put any restrictions on the menu.

Here's what we asked you, and what you told us:

How adventurous are you about new foods?

A. I stick to the things I'm used to, thanks. 3%

B. I'm willing to try something new, but keep a PBJ

ready just in case. 17%

C. I like new things, but not weird stuff, like snails or frog legs. 31%

D. Bring it on! I'm curious and ready for absolutely anything! 49%

Now here's our next question:

What are your vacation plans for this summer?

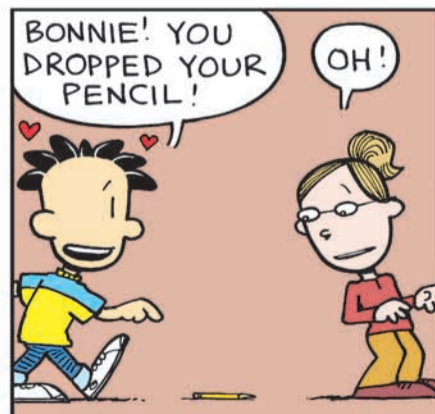
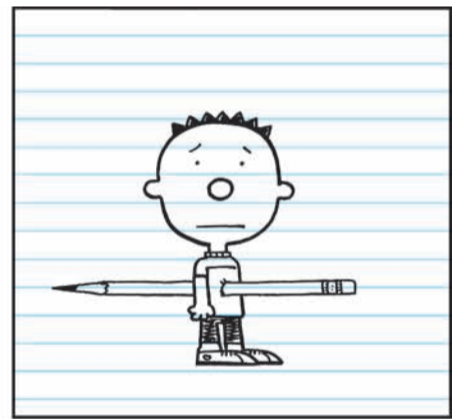
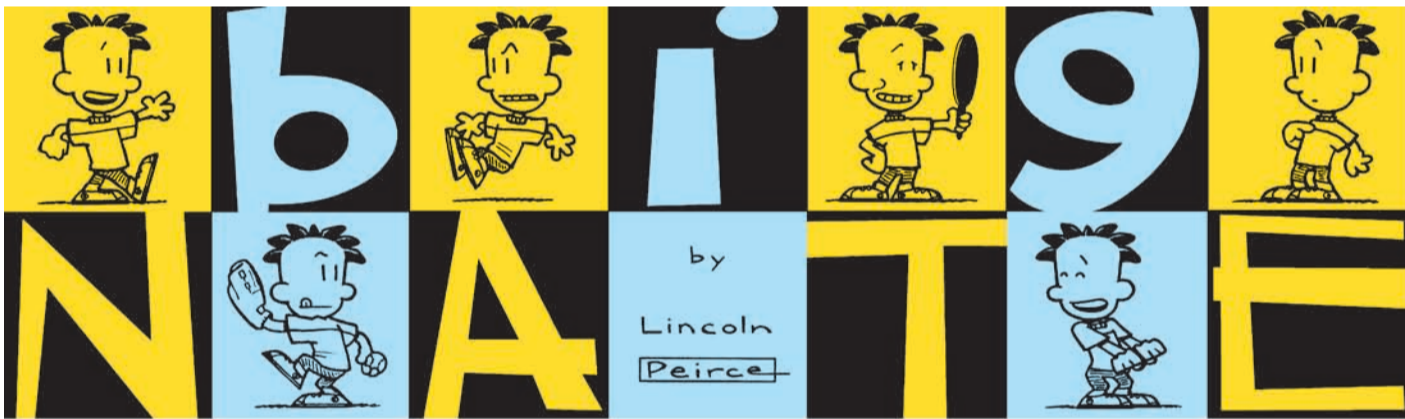
A. A big trip to a far location

B. Visiting distant family

C. Local trips, backyard fun

D. Beats me. Nobody tells me anything.

To answer this question, go to <http://nextgen.yourhub.com>



Look out to the East: There are trees coming this way!



Climate change has meant change for a variety of crops like coffee, bananas and grapes, because some types of trees, vines and other plants can only grow in certain areas.

As the Earth warms, wild plants in the Northern Hemisphere have started moving north, where it is slightly cooler than their traditional homes, and farmers find that some crops are less productive with the warmer temperatures.

But a forestry study at Purdue University found something quite surprising: While many types of trees were slowly moving north, even more were shifting from the East Coast westward.

According to the botanists, it seems the trees are being affected by a different result of climate change: There is less moisture in the East and Southeast than before, and more in the Midwest. This doesn't mean the trees

are stepping out of the Earth and walking west, of course.

But seeds sprout and grow more successfully at the more welcoming edge of their habitat, while trees at the eastern and southern edges slowly die off.

The result is that, if you graph where a particular species was a decade ago, and where it grows now, you might find the center of the block has shifted 15.4 kms further west.

photo/Wing-Chi Poon

Classic tale, but violent, vulgar, confusing

"King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" is about a kid named Arthur (*Charlie Hunnam*).

His parents were royalty, and he watched while they were killed in front of him.

He survived the ordeal because his dad was brave and sacrificed himself to make sure that Arthur was safe.

He was then discovered by a few ladies who fostered him and nurtured him.

He also went to a fighting class where he studied for several years.

After his parents' death, no one could find Arthur, and so his uncle, a bad guy who took over the country, became king.

Arthur is eventually caught by one of his uncle's guards when he is sneaking around in the back streets of Londinium.

They take him to an island where there is a stone that they have every kid trying to pull a sword out of.

The legend was that only the next king could pull the sword from the stone.

Arthur pulls it and the sword comes out, and the guards immediately take him away and put him in a dungeon and try to execute him in front of the public.



However a special person interferes and uses magic to free him. He then joins the rebellion against the current king, his uncle.

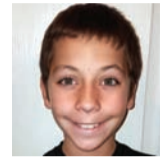
This is a very good movie, but it is rated PG-13 for several reasons.

It is not appropriate for younger children because it uses the 'F' word and there is a lot of violence in the movie.

This movie is intriguing, yet hard to follow. The plot is very, very confusing.

It skips around a lot, and the main characters are often daydreaming, which makes it difficult to understand what is really happening now or what is a flash to the future or to the past.

However, if you know the basic story of King Arthur and Excalibur, then you should be able to follow along.



By Ben Vanourek, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

What does being a 'special counsel' mean?

The big news last week was the appointment of Robert Mueller as "special counsel" to investigate Russia's tampering with our elections in 2016, and to find if anyone in President Trump's campaign organization or his current administration was part of the interference.

Robert Mueller once headed the FBI and has done several important investigations. He is well-respected by both Republicans and Democrats and is expected to be fair and honest.

But what's going on? What is a special counsel, what does a special counsel do and who decided that we needed one?

A "counselor" is someone who gives good advice. You probably have a guidance counselor at your school, and there are also counselors who are trained, for instance, to help families get through divorce or other problems.

A "counsel" is more often a lawyer who works for a company or organization rather than for individual people.

For example, the White House Counsel gives the president legal advice about his official work in running that branch of the government, but wouldn't advise him about personal things.

If President Trump were to get a speeding ticket, he'd go to his own attorney for advice about that, not the White House Counsel.

Part of what makes a "special counsel" special, is that he or she is hired for a



Robert Mueller, when he was made head of the FBI back in 2001. (AP File Photo/Dennis Cook)

specific reason.

Robert Mueller was hired specifically to lead an investigation into the Russian issues with the 2016 elections and the current presidency.

He's not there to find out if what the president wants to do about school lunches is fair and legal.

Another part that makes him special is that, while he can be fired, it's not very easy to do.

Robert Mueller was appointed by Assistant Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, and the only person who can fire him would be Rosenstein, since he's in charge of the things Mueller was hired to investigate.

Rosenstein could ask Mueller why he was trying to find something out, but if he told him to stop looking into it, he'd have to explain to Congress why he did that.

This is to keep anyone from making it hard for Mueller to investigate the Russian issue and find out what happened and who was involved.

The special counsel can require people to provide evidence and testify in the same way a district attorney can in a local courtroom. Witnesses still have their Constitutional rights, of course, but they can't just refuse to cooperate because they don't want the investigation to succeed.

When his investigation is complete, Robert Mueller will turn it over to the Justice Department, where it will be decided if anyone should be arrested and charged with a crime.

Sudoku

4					3
		3			5
2	1				
			4	1	
3	5		2		
			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

Teacher, author and artist Margaret Wise Brown was born on this day in 1910, so our answers this week will each begin with "G" for "Goodnight, Moon," her most famous book.

1. While he had his own Apache name, this famous Chiracahua leader was better known by this Spanish name.
2. Medusa and her sisters were this type of mythological creature.
3. In a series of classical children's books, an orphan, Anne Shirley, is sent to live with a couple in Prince Edward Island, Canada, on this farm.
4. This city is home to the Colorado School of Mines.
5. Small, desert mouselike rodent with long hind legs, sometimes kept as a pet
6. If you visit Venice, you might take a ride in one of these traditional boats.
7. Muscular part of a bird's digestive system in which seeds are crushed
8. Independence leader in India world-famous for his peaceful but powerful protests
9. In astronomy and mythology, the twins, Castor and Pollux
10. He wrote the songs "This Land is Your Land" and "The Wheels on the Bus."

(answers on Page Four)

Medical emergency as girl chokes on small, round metal object

A 10-year-old girl made headlines across the country last week after she put a small metal object in her mouth and accidentally swallowed it.

The object, which was about the size of a quarter or the button of a coat, got caught in her throat and she began to choke.

Fortunately, she was in the back seat of the family car and her mother noticed that she couldn't breathe, so took her to an emergency room.

There, she was x-rayed and the doctors saw where the object was stuck.

They were able to operate on her and remove the metal object and she went home, a very lucky little girl who had learned an important lesson about putting things in your mouth.

She could have died. It was genuinely serious.

Still, since it had a happy ending, the story would probably not have even been in the local paper, much less in newspapers and on websites and on TV and radio around the country, if that small, round metal object had been a quarter or a coat button.

But it was a bushing from a Fidget Spinner, and so it became big news.

Last month, we reported on two kids who were hurt when they messed up the recipe for oobleck, and we said then that, when a fad becomes popular, there are always people quick to warn about how dangerous it is. And Fidget Spinners are popular.

Still, there truly is an important lesson here: Don't put Fidget Spinner parts in your mouth.

Or quarters. Or the buttons of your coat.

You could choke and even die. photo/ Carlos Osorio



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

Wandering Trees

Special Counsel

Fidget choking

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

Tommy and the Guttersnipe

Chapter Three: Stork Enforces the Rules

Our story so far: Tommy McMahon's mother lost her job and he is trying to make money by selling shirts. But a neighborhood gang is stepping in.

Stork pushed a finger into Tommy's chest. "Looks like a nice business, Shakespeare. How about if we go partners?"

"I don't need a partner," Tommy said. "I'm doing fine just as I am."

"Yeah?" Stork looked at the pair of shirts Tommy was holding. "Those are nice shirts. Maybe I'll buy me one."

"Knock it off, Stork," Dutch said, but flinched away when the taller boy glared at him.

"I could use a shirt for when I go to the theater," Stork said, and his friends laughed.

The types of theaters they went to didn't require fancy clothing.

Stork reached out to touch one of the shirts, and Tommy pulled back. Then Stork grabbed at the shirts and there was a brief tug-of-war. One of Stork's friends joined in, and Dutch reached in to help Tommy.

There was a ripping sound, and suddenly Dutch had both shirts, but one sleeve was torn. Stork and his friends laughed and walked off.

"Better watch yourself, Shakespeare," Stork called over his shoulder. "We don't need any scholars down here taking business away from honest boys!"

"Maybe your ma can mend it," Dutch started to say, but as he began to give the shirts back to Tommy, he paused and sucked in his breath. "Oh, Shakespeare, I'm sorry ... " he said.

Where he had grabbed hold of them, the shirts were stained with bootblacking. They were completely ruined.

Tommy put an arm around his shoulder. "It's not your fault, Dutch," he said. "You were trying to help a pal. Anyway, Stork would have torn them both up or stolen them from me if you hadn't jumped in."

He looked at the ruined shirts. "I guess my work day is over. Do you want these? They're a little big for you, but they're still good, as long as you don't mind the blacking. You can use them for work."

Dutch shook his head. "I'd feel lousy every time I put one on," he said. "Give them to the guttersnipes." He pointed with his chin at a half-dozen ragged little boys who were behind a bench watching them.

With that, the guttersnipes ran up to them. "Give me one! Give me a shirt!" they all began to shout.

"Careful," Tommy said, as they jumped up and down. "You'll tear them up worse! You! What's your name?"

"Baby Jake," the little urchin said.

"Where's your home?" Tommy asked, but he knew the answer.

"Ain't got one," Baby Jake replied.

"Any of you got homes to go to?" Tommy asked.

The guttersnipes stuck their chins out defiantly.

"We got lots of homes, anyplace we want!" one of them declared.

"How old are you?" Tommy asked.

Baby Jake shrugged. "Dunno."

Tommy looked him up and down, then turned to Dutch. "What do you think, eight?"

"Seven," Dutch guessed. "And Baby Jake's been on the streets as long as I've been shining.

Three years, Jake?"

Baby Jake shrugged again.

"You'd better take the one that isn't torn," Tommy said, and handed the shirt to the little boy. Baby Jake grabbed it and ran back, as if he were afraid Tommy might change his mind.

"Here, this tear isn't so bad, and you'd have to roll the sleeve up anyway," Tommy said, handing the other shirt to a dark-haired boy in the group. That boy also snatched at it and moved back quickly, taught by a lifetime of being bullied not to let a good thing get away.

The guttersnipes ran back behind their bench. Baby Jake and the other boy peeled off their filthy, torn shirts and gave them to boys whose own clothes were even worse. Then they began to put on their new shirts, which hung to their knees.

"I guess I'll go home," Tommy said. "Good luck with the rest of the day."

"What are you going to do now?" Dutch asked him.

Tommy shook his head. "I don't know. I've got a buck and a half. I've got to figure out some way to turn that into a business."

"There's newspapers," Dutch said. "Give your ma the buck and use the rest to buy yourself some newspapers to sell." He smiled. "I'd say use it to buy a blacking kit, but I've seen how you sell. I don't want you blacking boots next to me!"

"What do I have to do?" Tommy asked, and Dutch shook his head in amazement.

"For a guy with an education, you don't know much," he laughed. "You take your fifty cents down to Publisher's Row tomorrow morning, buy yourself a pack of papers and then sell them!"

"That's it?"

"Then you go back in the afternoon and buy a pack of evening papers and sell those," Dutch said.

He looked at Tommy's uncertain face and laughed again. "Baby Jake!" he yelled.

Baby Jake came out from behind the bench, rolling up the sleeves of his new shirt as he did.

"You working for anybody these days?" Dutch asked. Baby Jake shook his head.

"Well, tomorrow, you're working for Shakespeare. He's going to be a newsboy, and you're going to show him how."

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Geronimo 2. gorgon 3. Green Gables 4. Golden 5. gerbil 6. gondola
7. gizzard 8. Gandhi 9. Gemini 10. (Woody) Guthrie

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