



CK Reporter of the Week
Reese Hitzler, Littleton

Too much talk, but plenty of action



Wonder Woman has been around since the 1940s, as a founding member of the well-known Justice League, and in her own comics published by DC Comics almost continuously since the creation of her character.

Her backstory, though, has been only very lightly explored in the comics and animated movies credited to the title, with not much more known than her status as a demigod and an Amazonian princess.

The new "Wonder Woman" movie explores Diana (Gal Gadot)'s backstory in much greater detail, and is also the first live action Wonder Woman movie.

The beginning of the movie shows Diana on the island Themyscira, where she has previously been shown to come from.

She lives with the Amazons, and is trained as a warrior and told tales of gods such as Ares, but does not truly know her own superhuman power.

This begins to change when US pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) crashes into the waters near the island.

Telling of the horrors of World War I, Capt. Trevor convinces Diana to join him on a possibly fatal mission to travel to the Western front, seeking an early end to the war.

Diana, convinced that the war is Ares' fault and that only killing him will end it, pursues a German General who she believes is the War God in disguise.

Unlike many recent films that focus on the World War II era, this movie looks at the pain of World War I, which was almost equally devastating, and less thoroughly taught and portrayed.

Setting the film during World War I brings in certain weaponry unique to that era, including gases like mustard gas, which are important to the plot.

All aspects of the setting are skillfully executed, including the costumes of the soldiers and the English citizens, and the portrayal of the horrible conditions on the Western front and surrounding area.

My main complaint is that the film is overly expositional, and those explanations add to its runtime of 2 hours 21 minutes, though they do serve to make the movie enjoyable for those not especially familiar with the character of Wonder Woman or with the DC extended universe.

For diehard fans, however, this exposition and narration could be annoying, and it did detract from my enjoyment of the film.

One of the best features of the movie is the action

scenes, which have wonderful stunts and special effects fitting a superhero movie.

The battles are well choreographed and executed, making sure that the fight scenes are engaging, from the final battle between Diana and Ares to the play-fighting Diana witnesses at age eight.

Despite the interest that the battles provoke, however, the movie as a whole bounces back and forth too frequently between being engaging and less so, with very little other than scenes of intense action and the polar opposite, scenes that serve little purpose other than to narrate a piece of backstory that might be unknown to newcomers.

Even in these duller moments though, the humor of the film stays fresh.

What makes the film more enjoyable for teen and adult audiences, however, definitely contributes to its PG-13 rating; while not overly necessary for other reasons, the suggestive humor of this film makes the rating necessary.

It's still appropriate for kids, but the humor and mildly offensive language of the film means that I cannot recommend it for kids under the age of about eight.

In summary, the latest addition to the Wonder Woman title may be a bit of a disappointment to diehard fans, but is still worth seeing for those loyal to the DC label due to the additional background it provides on Diana's character and formulation.

The film is also worth seeing for those not as familiar with the Wonder Woman title, as it is expositional enough so as not to be confusing to those who come in with little knowledge.

It is appealing mostly for the realistic depictions of battle, and of World War I, as well as for the humor.



By Thandi Glick,
13, a CK Reporter
from Denver

'Illusionists' brought plenty of magic to Denver

"The Illusionists, Live from Broadway" played at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts at The Ellie Theatre last month.

This was a magic and illusionist show composed of several artists, each of whom has a unique skill.

Andrew Basso was the escapologist. He looked up to Harry Houdini and re-enacted one of his tricks.

Ben Blaque was the weapon master and uses a cross-bow in his routines.

Colin Cloud was a deductionist and does mind reading.

Jeff Hobson was a trickster who kept the show going by doing traditional magic tricks in between the other performers' acts.

Kevin James was an inventor and made stuff float with levitation.

An Ha Lim was the manipulator. He specialized in card tricks.

Dan Sperry was the anti-conjuror and he was just plain freaky. For example, he swallowed stuff that no one should ever put in their mouth.

The room was pretty large and they kept the lighting dim.

The audience was a mix of various kids and adults. The show was definitely appropriate for kids of all ages, even though the trickster did make some kind of inappropriate jokes that were mostly over the heads of the youngest kids.



photo/Joan Marcus

I enjoyed the show. My favorite act was by Dan Sperry.

The performers each had unique routines and were creative with their use of props.

This show was on Broadway in New York City and is now touring the country.

Visually, the show is appealing with a lot of colors, and each performer has his own look and feel, including special costumes.

Even though they each have their own type of mini show, the fact that Jeff Hobson did magic in between each act made the show come together with a comedic appeal.

It's a bit lengthy but really enjoyable so it doesn't seem to drag on at all.

If you find yourself somewhere that "The Illusionists" are appearing, I would definitely recommend you see this show.



By Tyler Vanourek,
14, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



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A 'brief' review of the latest superhero movie



If you've been to the movies recently, you've probably seen the trailers for "Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie."

The books were a part of many childhoods (*and childhood pranks*), and the movie captures many of the main ones.

George Beard (*voiced by Kevin Hart*) and Harold Hutchins (*Thomas Middleditch*) are best friends who love to make comics together -- and to pull pranks constantly on their teachers.

Captain Underpants is the boys' greatest comic creation, and, as fans of the books know, they bring him to life by hypnotizing their principal.

When the principal, Mr. Krupp (*Ed Helms*), threatens to put them in separate classes, they have to try to save their friendship as well as the school, as an evil professor with an entertaining name (*Nick Kroll*), attempts to forever wipe senses of humor from everyone's minds.

And they have to do all that with a superhero running around in his underpants attempting to save everyone at the same time.

The movie keeps to the books pretty accurately, from all the animated depictions of the characters to the events and adventures of the protagonists, plus it captures the pain of not being in the same class as your best friends as well as the struggle

of staying awake in certain classes.

They did leave out a few good parts from the books, but that was to keep the time down. As it is, it runs at an hour and a half.

The movie is PG rated for a reason, there being a few scenes of animated violence towards the end.

However, because it's aimed at younger people in the first place, the violent scenes aren't exactly what most of us would consider violent.

And "Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie" is definitely aimed at younger audiences, though if you ever read the books and enjoyed them, it won't disappoint.

It definitely captures the important moments of the books. There's plenty of potty humor for anyone who enjoys that sort of thing (*the entire plot is sort of based on it*), and most of it is pretty funny.

I would recommend this for ages six and up, as long as they know that their toilet will not try to eat them.

It is aimed towards a younger demographic but will be enjoyable for adults as well. There are opportunities for pranking ideas, but I doubt anyone would try them.

This is a really fun movie, complete with accurate animation, song and dance, plenty of pranks, and a surplus of humor, not including all the extra things from the books that they include in the film.

As earlier stated, if you've read the books, the movie will meet the standards that Dav Pilkey first set almost two decades ago.

If you've never read the books, it's a laugh-out-loud funny animated movie with plenty of humor for kids and adults alike.

Among the disasters and conflicts of today's world, whether or not you know about them, Captain Underpants is a breath of fresh air.



By Adelaide Cravens, 13, a CK Reporter from Lakewood

Immigrant goats give Ugandan women hope

Women in the Karamoja region of northeastern Uganda were not in an encouraging situation.

Karamoja is a poor part of the nation, and has often suffered from drought and famine.

Adding to that was a tradition that, while women were allowed to have small jobs like selling firewood, it was the men's duty to be the breadwinners in the family, while women did the cooking and watched the children.

That tradition might have worked, as it had for thousands of years, if there had been better jobs for the men and a better climate for agriculture.

However, it was not working, and families were going hungry.

Now a group called "Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition" has found a way to give women more power to help their families, thanks to some goats from nearby Kenya.

With help from a German charity and the United States Agency for International Development, RWANU brought in Galla goats for 2,000 women in

Karamoja and taught them to care for the goats.

Galla goats couldn't be a better choice: Besides being known as Borana or Somali goats, they're called "milk queens" because they provide so much of the liquid which is both food and can be sold for income, despite living in very arid regions.

"Milk queens" not only bounce back quickly from dry spells, regaining their weight and once more providing milk after a drought, but they are quieter and easier to care for than other goats in the region.

The women were taught not just how to feed them but how to do more specialized things like trimming their hooves to keep them in the very best possible health and condition.

Many of the women taught their husbands some of these skills, and another thing happened in their homes: The men gained respect for their wives' abilities as breadwinners and not only approved of their work but did more to help out around the home and with childcare in the family.

And so the "milk queens" from Kenya have helped change traditions and empower Ugandan women.



Galla goats, also known as Borana or Somali goats, are well-adapted for life in arid regions where green grass can quickly go brown in times of drought.

(Photo/ILRI_Zerihun Sewunet)



Sudoku

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



Brainteaser

Of course, the answers to today's questions will begin with D. And you've already got the first one right if you know why!

1. What historical event happened in France on this date in 1944?
2. This tough, beautiful dog once specialized in driving off stray dogs that might attack the horses that drew fire department wagons and other carriages.
3. This salt lake on the borders of Israel, Palestine and Jordan is the lowest point below sea level on Earth and nearly 10 times saltier than the oceans.
4. The author of "Robinson Crusoe."
5. Arizona's Major League Baseball team, or a venomous snake
6. Artist and producer who gave us the characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, and several classic animated films
7. Colorado county in which you would find Castle Rock and Lone Tree.
8. Alfred Nobel invented this explosive, which was safer than black powder.
9. Sirius, the brightest star in the summer sky, is known by this nickname.
10. A male duck, or the rapper who had hits with "One Dance" and "Hotline Bling."

(answers on Page Three)

Juno provides a surprising look at Jupiter

People have long known what Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, looks like through a telescope, from the stripes on its surface to the famous red dot.

But the Juno probe, launched in 2011, finally reached Jupiter last year and has begun sending back close-ups of a planet we had only seen from a distance.

All this new information has made NASA admit it will have to change much of what it had thought about Jupiter.

For instance, this photo hardly looks like the smooth, gray, striped planet we're used to seeing.

It's a shot of Jupiter's south pole, and those blue swirls are gigantic storms the size of Earth, whirling around each other.

Is it like that all the time? Or, if Juno takes another look

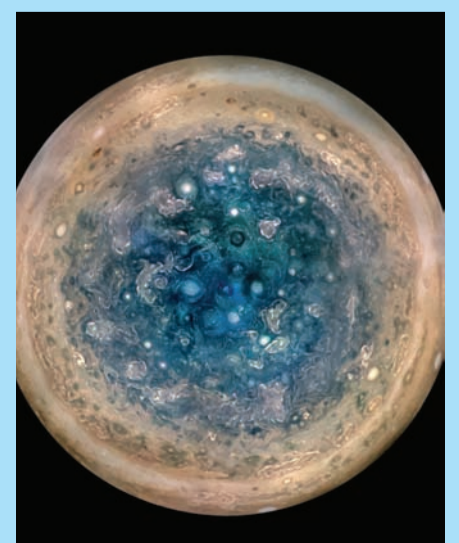
later on, will the storms have died down?

For now, NASA can only wait and see, as the JunoCam and measuring devices on the probe provide one surprise after another.

As another example, while we knew Jupiter had the strongest magnetic field in the solar system, it's much stronger than NASA expected, and it isn't in a regular shape the way our own magnetic field is.

The excitement of all this new information is part of what makes science fun, and the lead researcher on the project didn't try to hide it:

"There is so much going on here that we didn't expect," he told the press, "that we have had to take a step back and begin to rethink of this as a whole new Jupiter." photo/NASA



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Goats in Uganda

Juno looks at Jupiter

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Tommy and the Guttersnipe

Chapter Five: The Best Policy

Our story so far: Tommy tried selling newspapers, but other newsboys bullied him off their corners and ruined his papers. Baby Jake tried to make up for it by stealing the wallet of a man on the street.

Tommy opened the big doors of the bank and walked inside. The stout, bearded man that Baby Jake had pointed out was starting up the long, curved stairs at the far corner of the big, marble lobby.

"Sir? Mister?" Tommy called after him, hurrying to the staircase. The man paused, looking back at him. "Your wallet," Tommy said, holding it out to him.

The man patted his pocket for a moment, then came down to where Tommy was standing.

"Thank you," he said. "Thank you very much, young man."

He took the wallet from Tommy, glanced inside and then looked at Tommy. "You're a very honest lad," he said. "A lot of young boys would have kept this."

He began to take out a dollar, but Tommy held up his hand. "Oh, no, I don't want any reward."

"Well, you certainly deserve something! I'd have been very upset to have lost this!" the man said.

Tommy looked down, embarrassed. "You didn't lose it, sir. My friend picked your pocket."

He looked up. "He doesn't exactly understand. I tried to tell him why thieving is wrong, but, well, I guess it's going to take me some time to explain it to him. He doesn't have any parents and he's just a little guy. Living on the street is all he's ever known. Please don't call the cops."

The man thought a moment. "I suppose the question is, will he become a better boy by being around you, or will you become a worse boy by being around him?"

And before he knew it, Tommy was telling the man his whole story, about his father disappearing and his mother losing her job, and how he had tried selling shirts and selling papers and been stopped both times by the tough street kids.

When he had finished, the man took the dollar out of his wallet. "Here's what I'm going to do for you, young man," he began, then paused. "What's your name?"

"They call me 'Shakespeare,' 'cause I used to go to school," Tommy said, "But my name is Tom McMahon. Tommy."

"Well, Tommy," the man said, "I'm not going to give you anything, but I'm going to give your little sister fifty cents for food. You can stop at a store and buy it for her. And I'm loaning you fifty cents so you can buy another bundle of papers to sell. But this time, get the Morning Clarion. It's a much better paper than the World."

Tommy took the dollar reluctantly. "I'll pay it all back, mister," he promised.

"Only the part that's a loan," the man insisted. "Your sister doesn't owe me a thing. But when you have my fifty cents, you can come back here. I stop at this bank every morning on the way to my office."

Baby Jake and Tommy began to walk back to the tenement on Hester Street. There was no point in buying a bundle of Clarions so late in the morning; they'd start over the next day.

"We'll go to Goldstein's and get some food, like he said, and then you can come up to my place for dinner. My mother's a good cook," Tommy said. "You can stay over, too, if you want."

"I could use a good wash-up and a hot meal, if it's okay with your ma," Baby Jake said. "You think she'd let me sleep there, too?"

"Oh, yeah," Tommy said, though he did wonder what his mother would think of him bringing home a guttersnipe for dinner. Still, he knew, if she talked to Baby Jake, she'd change her mind. Maybe. "Don't talk about lifting wallets or fighting, though," he added.

"I'm not even gonna talk about that stuff with you anymore," Baby Jake said. "I think I'm gonna start calling you 'Preacher' instead of 'Shakespeare.'"

Tommy started to laugh, but, as they turned the corner to his block, the smile went off his face. They wouldn't buy any food at Goldstein's.

Where the store had been was a black hole of wet, burned timbers.

A crowd was still standing around and the streets were wet with water from the fire engines. Mr. Goldstein was sitting on the curb with his head in his hands.

"I wonder what happened?" Tommy asked.

Baby Jake shrugged. "Maybe he didn't pay his fire insurance. Or maybe it's because of the other day."

"What do you mean?" Tommy asked.

"Remember, I'm not supposed to talk about that kind of stuff," Baby Jake teased, but then went on. "A lot of stores have been getting burned lately. Haven't you noticed?"

"I guess," Tommy said. "But what's going on?"

"This Irish gang goes into a store and tells them they ought to buy some insurance, and, if they say no, the place burns down a few days later," Baby Jake explained. "But maybe Goldstein got burned because of the other day. He got Stork pinched by the cops for stealing from him. They might be paying him back."

"Stork's part of that gang?" Tommy asked.

Baby Jake sneered. "A little tiny part. I don't think they'd do this just on account of him. But maybe he did it himself. By now, he knows how it's done."

"We won't talk to my mother about that," Tommy said.

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. the D-Day invasion
2. Dalmatian
3. the Dead Sea
4. (Daniel) Defoe
5. Diamondback(s)
6. (Walt) Disney
7. Douglas
8. dynamite
9. Dog Star
10. Drake

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