



CK Reporter of the Week
Marcus Turner, Aurora

Miller teaches football and life



Von Miller likes to connect with kids. Here, he's about to connect with a pass to a young receiver. photo/Tyler Vanourek

The "Von Miller Annual Safeway Youth Football ProCamp in partnership with Tide" took place June 20 and 21 at Englewood High School.

This camp is open to boys and girls in grades 1st through 8th and is for athletes of all skill levels. This year there were 550 kids who participated.

Most people in Denver know about Von Miller and his excellence on the field as a Denver Bronco.

Not only was he the MVP of Super Bowl 50, but he has also been a five-time Pro Bowl selection, a five-time All-Pro selection, the 2011 Defensive Rookie of the Year, and, in college, a two-time All-American.

Despite all of these achievements that could give him quite the ego, I found him to be really nice, easy to talk with and giving.

He enjoys working with kids and teaching others, including newer rookies on the Denver Broncos.

In my one-on-one interview with him, Miller said that his favorite part of this camp is the engagement with kids.

He said that he often sees them as fans at football

games, but during the camp he gets more time to spend with the kids.

As he says, it gives him a chance to interact with them and "show them the real Von that I am."

The camp is an opportunity to teach kids football from his perspective.

Miller feels it is important to teach the kids how to play the game safely.

Teaching kids how to play safely will help them now but it will also make the NFL safer in the future.

This is important because head injuries can be very dangerous and the NFL has been teaching safe techniques.

These didn't exist when Miller was growing up, but he tries to use safe techniques when he plays.

He said that it doesn't matter whom he is playing, he tries to "take care of his opponents" by playing hard but also by keeping them safe so that they can continue to play.

That makes the game greater for everyone to enjoy.

Von Miller's mom was a huge influence on his

football career, he said.

Both his parents were very engaged in his game, and his mother has never missed a game that he played in!

This type of support was very important to him and he feels very lucky to have it. He said that it makes him who he is today.

Von Miller is a great player. However, he said that even if you are not a great player, or if you do not have dreams of playing in the NFL, there are a lot of benefits in playing sports.

Playing sports, he explained, helps you build several skills for being successful in life.

Miller told me that some of the values you learn are responsibility, how to be a great teammate, how to work with others, and how to be dependable.

These are all things that you need to do and understand in order to be successful at work later in life.

Watching the kids at the camp, I could tell that they were really enjoying it.

It looked like it was really well put together, it was not chaotic, it was under control but yet the kids were laughing and smiling and having fun.

I watched him running with the kids, showing them what steps to do at the time that I was there.

He threw the ball a lot and the kids were running to catch it.

You could hear him giving them a lot of encouragement.

If you have a chance to sign up for his camp next year, I would highly recommend it.



By Tyler Vanourek,
14, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

Everything you wanted to know about Canada

"The Big Book of Canada - Exploring the Provinces and Territories" by Christopher Moore is a very informative book.

It is pretty much an encyclopedia of Canada.

It describes a lot about Canadian history, and it teaches you about the different cultures that contribute to the overall Canadian culture.

One such culture is the Inuit people.

When describing the Inuit, the book explains their migration patterns, what is going on with the tribes today, and other miscellaneous bits of information, for example, what they used to make books.

The Inuit tribes also used boats made from caribou skins to migrate and follow the herds of animals.

It was interesting to hear how the Japanese-Canadians got there and about how the Russian-Canadians got there.

The book describes what they ate, why they came, and some pieces about their cultures that they brought with them that often ended up getting integrated into today's Canadian culture.

For example many fishing and whaling techniques came from Canada's Japanese immigrants.

The book also described the different provinces and territories of Canada.

They are Quebec, Yukon, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Each has different things that they are known for and that they contribute to the Canadian economy, like wheat or mining for minerals.

Various types of animals live in Canada, and you learn about them throughout the various sections.

Animals like the musk oxen, the caribou, and the arctic fox are mentioned.

Many of the animals in Canada are different than what you find in the lower 48 of the United States, because they have adapted to the colder climate in Canada.

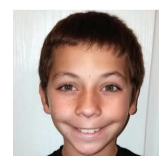
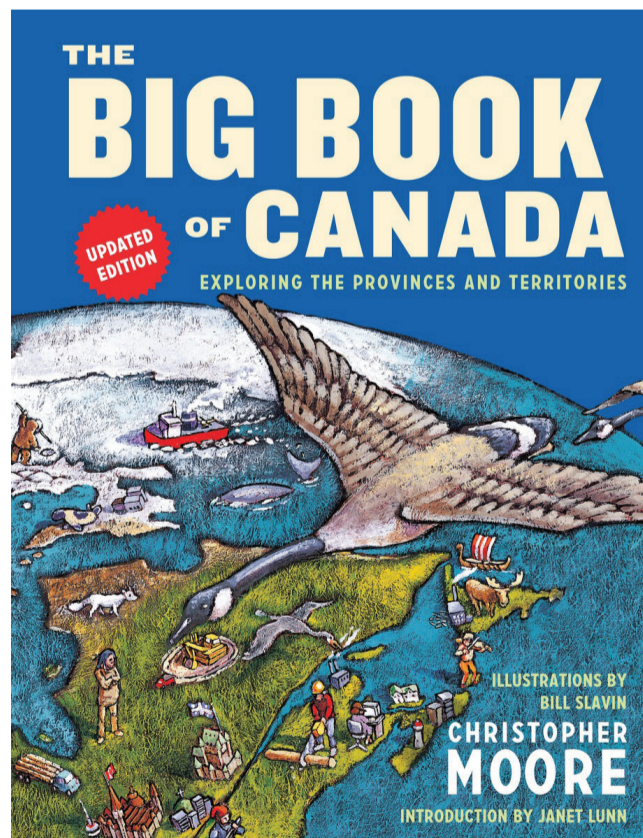
I don't think most people will read "The Big Book of Canada" from beginning to the end.

It is like a school textbook and too long to just read like a novel.

There are few pictures and about 250 pages full of information.

It is more likely that you will want to look up specific sections that you want to learn more about.

Someone who enjoys history would enjoy this book.



By Ben Vanourek,
11, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



Love to Write?

Apply to be a Colorado Kids Reporter!
It's fun and there are cool perks

Get all the details at ColoradoNIE.com today!
Or email dplewka@denverpost.com

DMNS offers two good reasons to visit

An amazing exhibit about amazing animals

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science yet again has an exciting new exhibit, this one called, "Nature's Amazing Machines." In this exhibit people can go through different sections and learn all about how animals work like machines and work efficiently.

You can read through information and there's also many things you can try out for yourself.

People can watch short videos and use tools to better understand the exhibit.

"Nature's Amazing Machines" was portrayed very well and people of all ages would enjoy this. There were no areas where I thought they could've explained anything better.

It's good for adults because they can read through things to fully understand what's being shown.

But, it's also good for younger kids because there are so many things they can do to entertain themselves. There's even an area where kids are shown how wings work and can use fake wings to propel themselves.

Everything's also very visual, with many diagrams and pictures to look at.

There are also booths throughout the exhibit with people in them so you can look at the things they have to offer in the booth and also have it explained to you by an actual person, so if you have any questions, you can ask.

This makes it very personable.

"Nature's Amazing Machines" has a variety of sections that make the exhibit well organized, and going through the different sections made it even easier to comprehend.

It was also nice to see how they separated the different topics because there was so much information to go through.

Also, the color scheme and decorations in "Nature's Amazing Machines" were very cool. When you walk in, there's a great sign and there is just a really interesting atmosphere to the whole exhibit.

I really enjoyed this exhibit and think it's really good for families and people of all ages.

The whole experience was great and I would definitely recommend everyone to see Denver Museum of Nature and Science's new exhibit.



photo/DMNS



By Innagen Roberts, 14, a CK Reporter from Lakewood

Short film captures ancient Chinese history

"Mysteries of China," at Denver Museum of Nature and Science's IMAX theater, is a 40 minute film about the ancient Chinese.

It features many facts about the first emperor, Qin Shi Huang.

When he took office, there were seven regions in China, Chu, Han, Qi, Qin, Wei, Yan and Zhao.

Huang ruled the region Qin, which is pronounced like chin. This is how the name China was developed.

Huang built up a massive army and took over the other six regions, unifying China. He standardized a national language, currency, and weight system.

China is more than 2,000 years old, the oldest unified country in the world.

Huang had the biggest army in the world at that time. He had over 1 million soldiers,

and, in the first three rows of every battalion, were men with the first crossbows! They also had bronze swords and arrowheads.

The weaponry was discovered with the famous terracotta warriors, lifesize statues that many believe that Huang wanted made to guard his tomb after death, from his many enemies.

Later, Huang, with such a big empire, became obsessed with the idea that he could live eternally. After all, he had survived three assassination attempts already.

He had his alchemist come to him with a way that he could live forever. The alchemist, not knowing it was poisonous, fed him mercury tablets.

Soon, the poison kicked in, and Huang now thought that his enemies were trying to kill him

He got sicker and sicker on the trip though, and never returned alive to his palace.

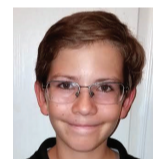
His tomb is an underground palace that still stands today, its own mountain, rivaling the size of the pyramids.

It has not been unearthed, because if it was, the air would take its toll.

A story told in the movie was that, centuries later, a man had found one of the few terracotta warriors with lots of paint left on it, but when he and another man took it outside, the paint shriveled up and crumpled away in less than 10 minutes.

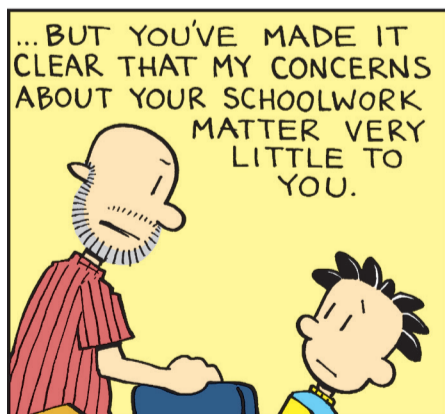
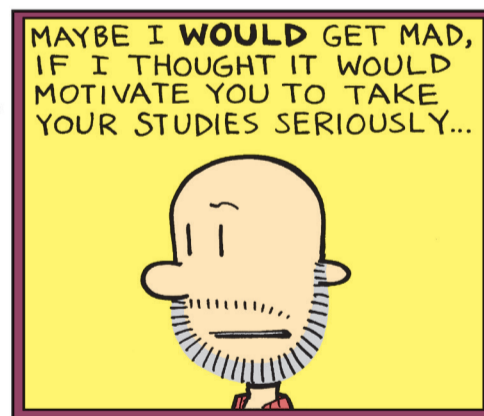
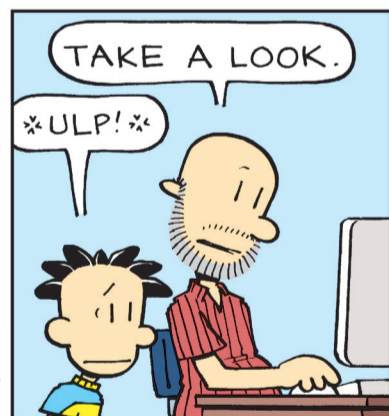
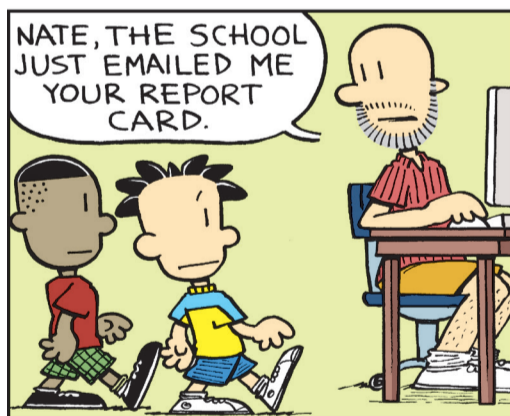
If they unearthed the tomb, or even tried to open it, it would destroy so much of the history inside that it is not worth it.

This is a great film that I recommend to everyone, especially those who want figure out the mysteries of ancient China.



By Jack Vanourek, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Big Nate



Trouble in the pipes: When flushable wipes aren't



Flushable wipes were once mostly used in changing babies' diapers, but then more types came out and they were used for cleaning countertops and cars and, well, for the same thing they were used for with babies, only by big kids and adults, too.

That may be where the trouble started, because, while it's natural to toss the wipe in the garbage with the diaper, or in the kitchen trash after wiping the counter,

when it's used in place of toilet paper, it goes where the toilet paper would naturally go.

That's a problem, because it turns out that most flushable wipes are not actually flushable.

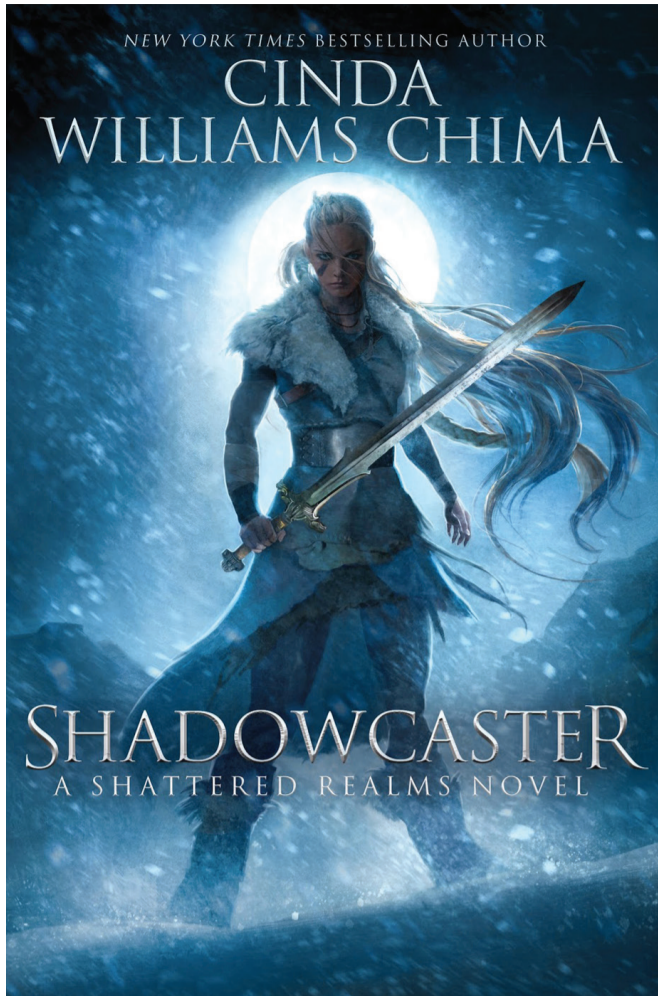
There have been many reports of sewer lines clogged with wipes, which can get snagged on the way down and then start snagging each other until you wind up with a large, nasty clog and a large, nasty plumbing bill, too.

This isn't new: One of our resources is a Denver Post story from nearly three years ago.

But the more popular the wipes become, the more cities begin to talk about trying to outlaw them, or about suing the makers for the cost of expensive repairs to municipal sewage systems.

Even if you don't care about your town's sewer lines, you might want to protect your own by not flushing those "flushables."

Fascinating, detailed novel will keep you reading



"Shadowcaster," by Cinda Williams Chima, is a wonderful book in the "Shattered Realms" series that tells the story of an endless war from the perspective of three young people.

Lyss, the heir to the Gray Wolf Throne, is a ferocious warrior that fights in an effort to protect her kingdom.

She is a proud 16-year-old girl who fights for peace and wishes for the excruciating war, that wipes away family and friends, to be over.

Hal, also known as Halston Matelon, is a young captain of the Southern army.

He is lost in the dangerous world of life altering decisions and is faced with many challenges that he has yet to overcome.

The last character the book introduces is Breon d'Tarvos.

He is a musician without a home or memories. He is unwanted and has no place in a world that he knows almost nothing about.

The character development is very good while still managing to be entertaining.

The author carries out her thoughts and the description she gives the characters paint a clear picture in the reader's mind.

While the descriptions are often excellent, however, the author is also a bit repetitive with the explanations of each character's looks. For example, she mentions that Lyss is "thick boned" many times throughout the story.

The book is very interesting and its vocabulary is astonishing. It describes every event in great detail and the plot, while slow at times, is extremely entertaining.

One thing that should be noted is that the author rarely introduces minor characters. They are given names, but descriptions are not present.

Their relationships with the main character are also not taken into the consideration in the very beginning.

Then, as the book progresses, the reader begins to understand who the people are and what they contribute to the story.

"Shadowcaster" was extremely fascinating and detailed.

While a few things might lead to confusion and a less pleasant experience, the story is well thought out.

The five hundred pages fly by and the interesting plot will keep the reader entertained for the entire reading process.



By Dunia Lushchyk, 12, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

The other side of free speech: Judgment

Last week, we talked about the rights that students have under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Students and teachers have the right to free speech and a free press, although schools do have the legal power to keep order so that classes are not disrupted.

But the fact that you might have the right to say or to print or to post something online is not quite enough reason to do it.

Often, you also have to decide if it's a good idea.

Of course, the first thing to think about is just good manners.

It's never a very good idea to be mean and it won't do your reputation any good to spread things that aren't true, or to say things that will hurt someone's feelings for no good reason.

But even if you and your friends think it's funny to do those things, a group of students recently found out that it can bounce back and hurt you.

Ten high school seniors had been accepted to Harvard University, one of the hardest schools in the world to get into.

They must have been proud, but, as smart as you have to be to get into Harvard, they turned around and did something that, well, wasn't too smart after all.

They formed a Facebook group that posted cruel, vulgar, racist jokes and comments, and, when the people at Harvard saw them, they told the students not to



A little partying is fine, but don't fill your entire Facebook page with these, especially before you are of legal age. photo/Commy

bother coming to the college in the fall after all.

What you post on line, in Facebook or Instagram or anyplace, can hurt you later on.

When you apply for a job, the person making the decision is very apt to look you up on line.

If they see you posting about helping out at a walk for cancer, or they see pictures of you and your family enjoying a vacation at a national park, they may think you're a pretty good person.

But if all your pictures are of you and your friends partying, they might think you don't take life very seriously. And if you're holding beer and they know you aren't old enough to drink, they may come away with a very bad impression of you entirely.

The same goes for telling vulgar jokes and certainly for sexting or talking about using illegal drugs.

The United Kingdom is considering a law that would allow people to control their on-line record, and, specifically, would let people "erase" all the foolish things they may have posted before they turned 18.

But that law hasn't passed and might not, and we're not in the UK anyway. You should act as if what you post when you are 14 will always be around and visible.

You have the freedom to say, and to write, and to post things that other people will not like. Sometimes, that's necessary and brave and valuable.

Never be afraid to say what needs to be said.

But never forget that freedom is valuable: Be careful how you use it!

Sudoku

6		3			
				3	5
	6				1
			2		
				4	
3		4		2	

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

Author, suffragist and labor activist Helen Keller was born on this date in 1880, and, despite losing her sight and hearing as an infant, went to college and had a successful career, so our answers this week will begin with "K."

1. The state in which "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" begins and ends.
2. A musical instrument that's more of a toy; you hum through it to make notes.
3. A type of boat invented by the Inuit that can easily be turned upright if it tips over. It's now popular in a plastic form, using a paddle with a blade on each end.
4. Author of the children's books "The Snowy Day," "Whistle for Willie," and "Goggles!"
5. Medium-sized, long-legged wading bird, a type of plover named for its cry.
6. His poem, set to music, became our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."
7. A skirt-like garment traditionally worn by men from Scotland and Ireland.
8. The county seat of Elbert County, this town is named for a native tribe noted for its skill in using sign language in trading with other Plains people.
9. The capital city of Malaysia
10. A small, slightly bitter orange-like fruit about the size of a large grape

(answers on Page Four)

Remember: Summertime is sunscreen time

Every summer, you see the reminders to protect your skin against the damage too much sunlight can do, and it's even more important to remember that if you live in a dry, sunny place that is about a mile closer to the Sun than most of the United States.

One of the warnings this year is about spray-on sunscreens, because it's easy to get a quick spray and think you're protected.

In fact, spray-on sunscreens may be more trouble than conveniences, because you have to spray enough to get your skin actually wet, which means you might as well have just smeared it on anyway.

Add to that the fact that you probably shouldn't breathe in too much of the mist, and that the spray-

on containers don't hold as much sunscreen as regular bottles and a lot of it ends up in the air instead of on your skin.

You might want to just skip them.

Meanwhile, the usual advice is still good: Choose an SPF between 15 and 50, and put some on before you get to the park or beach, then add another layer as soon as you arrive.

Remember that sunscreen not only comes off when you swim, but also when you sweat, so take a break every once in a while to refresh your sunscreen.

And while nobody expects you to wear a hat and shirt while you're swimming, it won't hurt to put them on when you're not in the water.

It's easy to protect yourself from UV exposure...



Use a sunscreen of at least SPF 15 on any exposed skin, and don't forget to re-apply it every two hours, as well as after swimming, sweating, or toweling off.



image: CDC

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

Sunscreen

Social Media Sensibility

Nonflushable Wipes

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

Tommy and the Guttersnipe

Chapter Eight: Tommy in the Newsroom

Our story so far: After they help the police solve the arson problem, Theodore Roosevelt suggests that Mr. Andrews give Tommy and Baby Jake a better job than just selling papers.

Mr. Andrews smiled. "No, I don't suppose it is the best use I could be making of them. I suspect these boys could be doing a lot more for me than they have been!"

He looked at Tommy, then at Baby Jake.

"How old are you, Jake?" he asked, but Baby Jake just shrugged.

"Well, he's old enough to run copy," Mr. Roosevelt declared.

"I was thinking more of school," Mr. Andrews explained. "Can you read and write?" he asked, but Baby Jake just shrugged again, and Mr. Andrews shook his head. "I can't do much with a boy who can't read and write."

Mr. Roosevelt waved away the problem. "Let him work during the day and go to school at night. Lots of these newsboys and bootblacks do that. He's a bright young man, and Tommy here can help him learn. It wouldn't hurt Tommy to go get a little more education himself."

"No, sir, it wouldn't," Tommy agreed. "My ma wanted me to stay in school, but we needed the money."

"Well, there you have it, then!" Mr. Roosevelt said, as if the decision were his to make, and not Mr. Andrews'. "You can work at the Clarion during the day and go to school at night. You'll feed your family and get educated, too."

"I have a different plan," Mr. Andrews said. "Those night schools do a fine job, but they're not really as effective as the regular schools. How about if you boys go to school during the day, and come by and work for me in the evenings? There's still plenty of work at a morning paper after school is over."

"That sounds swell!" Tommy said. "When can we start?"

Mr. Andrews took a watch from his vest pocket and looked at it. "Well, right now I have some meetings to go to. But you finish selling those papers and come see me this afternoon, and we'll figure something out. You won't make a lot of money, but it will be more than you make selling papers, how's that?"

Mr. Roosevelt went back inside to his office and Mr. Andrews walked away down the street towards the Clarion building.

"This is going to be great!" Baby Jake said. "We can sell papers during the day and then work at night! Think how much money we'll make then!"

Tommy grinned and shook his head. "You don't know when you have it good, do you, Jake?" he said. "We're going to school during the day, like Mr. Andrews said. You have to learn to read and write if you want to be anything."

Baby Jake looked down. "I don't want to go to school, Shakespeare. Those other kids have already been going. They'll think I'm dumb."

"No, they won't. New kids come into school all the time," Tommy assured him. "A lot of the kids who come straight from Castle Garden haven't ever been to school either. Some of them don't even know English. And I'll help you, and Ma can help you, and you'll catch on quick."

And so Tommy and Jake — nobody called him "Baby Jake" anymore — enrolled in school and spent their evenings working at the Clarion, running copy from the reporters and editors back to the typesetters, and doing other work around the paper.

The fire-starting gang was broken up. Stork was sent to the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island, and the leaders of the gang went up the river to the bigger prison at SingSing.

Jake had moved into the McMahon household for good now, and then the McMahons moved into a nicer apartment in a nicer neighborhood, since both boys were able to bring home money and Mrs. McMahon had found a new store to sew shirts for.

A few months later, Mr. Andrews called for Tommy to come to his office.

"What do you make of this?" he asked, as Tommy stood before his desk. "We've had a letter from a man who is writing to all the newspapers, asking for help. It seems he came home from lumberjacking out west and his family had moved. None of the neighbors could tell him where they had gone."

Tommy shook his head. "That's rough, sir. We should help him."

"I was thinking the same thing," Mr. Andrews said. "I'm going to give the job to you. I've been thinking that you would make a good reporter, and this can be your first assignment." He paused to pick up the letter on his desk and adjust his glasses to read it better. "Now, he has provided us with a few hints, and an address where we can reach him at a hotel not far from here. He's looking for his wife, and his son and a small daughter, and I want you to find them for him."

He handed the letter to Tommy and added a few details. "He says his little daughter's name is Bridey McMahon, and his son is Thomas, Junior, and they used to live in Brooklyn. See what you can discover ..."

But Tommy had already grabbed the letter and was running out the door, shouting for Jake to come with him.

Text copyright 2007, Mike Peterson - Illustrations copyright 2007, Christopher Baldwin

Next Week: A new serial set during the American Revolution

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Kansas 2. kazoo 3. kayak 4. Ezra Jack Keats 5. kildeer
6. Francis Scott Key 7. kilt 8. Kiowa 9. Kuala Lumpur
10. kumquat

ColoradoKids

is produced by
Denver Post Educational Services
Executive Editor: Dana Plewka
dplewka@denverpost.com
CK Editor: Mike Peterson
coloradokidseditor@gmail.com
We welcome your comments.

eEditions of the Post are
free of charge for classroom use.
Contact us for information on all
our programs.

Denver Post Educational Services
101 W. Colfax Ave.
Denver CO 80202
(303) 954-3974
(800) 336-7678

For tools to extend the learning in this feature,
look under "Youth Content" at:
www.ColoradoNIE.com

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.



ColoradoNIE.com