



CK Reporter of the Week
Talia Schanman, Cherry Hills Village

Kids get introduced to real opera

Central City Opera picks a day each summer to let kids experience their first opera with exciting and educational activities leading up to it.

Opera is a type of play in one or more acts, in sync with singers, musicians, and instrumentalists. An opera is always sung.

And here is some background on opera houses: An opera house is a pretty special place.

An opera house is made up of a stage, backstage, orchestra pit, and audience seating.

A character from the show ... explained that, though the opera is set in Japan, it would be sung in Italian, and that English subtitles would appear above the stage.

It is specially made for singers to perform the opera. Most operas are larger than life, therefore needing a huge opera house.

A normal-sized opera house usually has more than 1,000 seats.

Central City Opera house has about half as many seats as a normal-sized opera, so it is called a "jewel box theater."

Just like a jewel box, it is small and beautifully decorated. Central City Opera has many beautiful decorations throughout.

Another fact that makes Central City Opera unique is that it is the fifth oldest opera in America.

To begin this special day at Central City Opera this summer, the viewers met together and learned from our guide what activities we would do.

Next, we got to choose between folding an origami butterfly and releasing a butterfly.

Why origami?

It is because origami was a pastime for many in Japan dating back to 1603.

The word "Origami" originated from the Japanese word "Ori" meaning folding and "kami" meaning "paper."

This is a good activity because it relates to "Madama Butterfly," the opera being performed, and the culture back then.

The other activity was a lot less work and skill for



Photo by Amanda Tipton, courtesy of Central City Opera.

viewers, simply involving opening an envelope and releasing a butterfly, but this was quite entertaining.

The best part was to watch the butterfly take flight into a potful of flowers.

Butterflies are very symbolic of femininity, grace, and beauty in Japanese culture.

Being called "Butterfly" definitely suits the main character in the opera, whose real name is Cio-cio-san.

After doing these activities, we got to learn about Japanese culture and background information on the show.

A character from the show taught us some common Japanese words and phrases.

She explained that, though the opera is set in Japan, it would be sung in Italian, and that English subtitles would appear above the stage.

She even taught us a song in Japanese about cherry blossoms and springtime.

Next, we got to watch the opera, "Madama Butterfly," by Giacomo Puccini.

It's about a young Japanese girl who marries an

American naval lieutenant, but then he leaves her just a couple of days after the wedding.

She waits for three years and still has hope that he will come back for her and the child that she gave birth to while he was away.

Sadly, when he comes back, he doesn't come alone. He brings his new American wife with him.

Butterfly is devastated so, in keeping with the traditions of the time, she kills herself.

This was an exciting day at the little, yet beautiful town of Central City.

If this sounds interesting to you, watch for the program next year.

It will feature more fun things to do, and a good story to tell through the opera.



By Eva Perak,
11, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Listening to an old favorite a new experience



different than reading the book.

For one, it turns out I got a bunch of names and events wrong.

With the speed of my reading I end up skimming over some of the events and people.

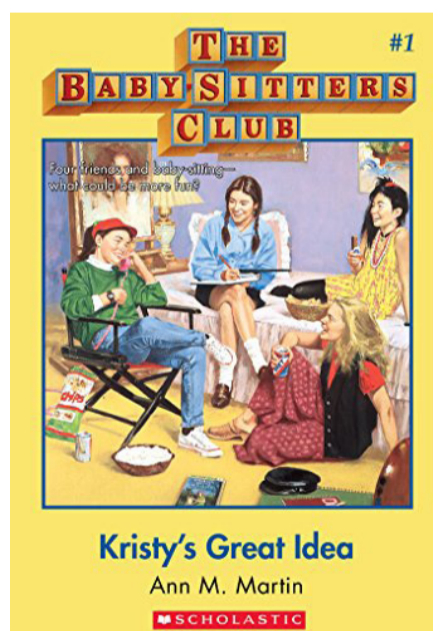
This wasn't a problem when listening to a book: The narrator (*Elle Fanning*) did an excellent job of narrating in a clear voice for anyone to understand.

I learned that for me, listening to someone read is actually something I enjoy.

However, as a middle schooler, the chances that someone will actually sit down and read to me are slim. The Audible presented me a way to be read to without having to pester someone into the job.

Audible is excellent for when you have to wait for extended periods or when you have a chore.

I was able to slip on my headphones



and be transported to another world.

One problem I faced, was that the reading was a little slow.

When I read, I zip through the pages, so the slow reading wasn't for me.

Luckily, there was a solution: There is a speed adjuster and the reading can go slower or faster.

I found a speed that worked for me, and I enjoyed the rest of the story.

The Audible did get a little confusing because I didn't always know who was speaking. The narrator tried to adjust her voice for each character, but I still was occasionally confused.

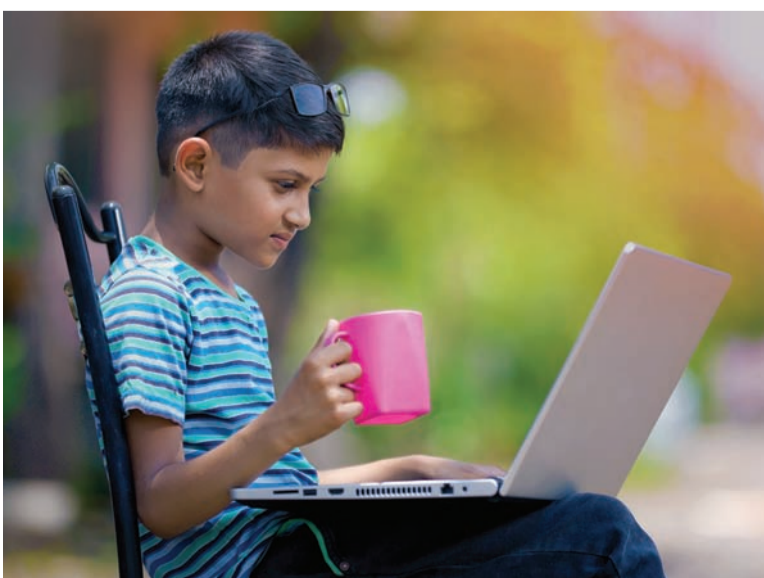
Audible was a great experience, and I really enjoyed listening to a book.

I would for sure suggest this for people who are busy and always doing something with no time to read and people who don't care for the reading themselves, but would like the story.

I would listen to a book again.



By Izzie Intriago,
11, a CK Reporter
from Aurora



Writing Is Cool!

How Would You Like To Be A Real Reporter?

Find out about all the cool benefits when you apply to be a Colorado Kids reporter at Colorado NIE.com or by emailing dplewka@denverpost.com.

A tale of hosts, demons and discovery

Looking for a refreshing new novel about finding your place in the world... and fighting ghosts and demons?

Welcome to the world of "Elizabeth Webster and the Court of Uncommon Pleas," by William Lashner.

Elizabeth Webster has always been an outcast, both in her own family and at school.

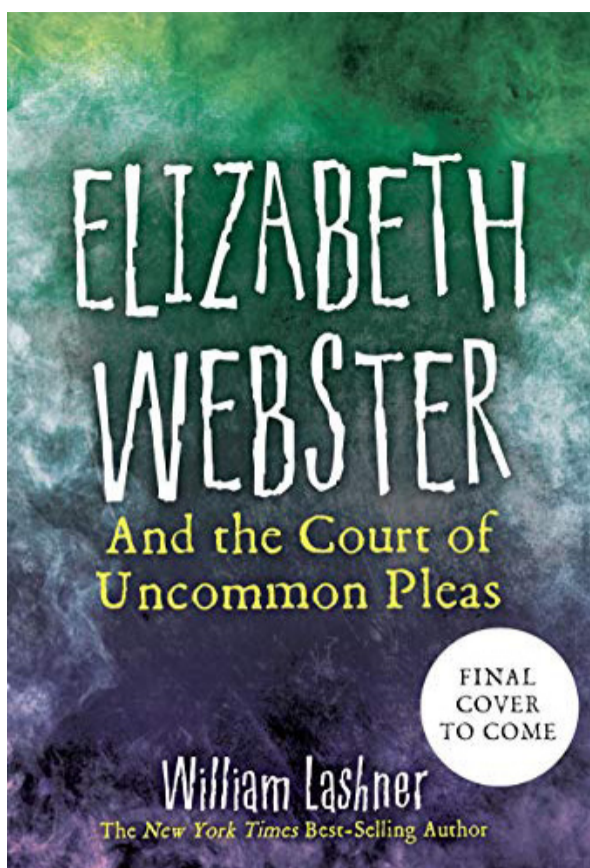
Her antisocial and quirky behavior ensures that almost everyone keeps their distance, and at home, her way-too-familiar stepdad and mom are constantly disappointed by her aloof behavior and stubborn decision to keep her dad's last name.

She never really knew her dad; he was always disappearing in and out of her life, even before the divorce.

Keeping the Webster name felt like a way to stay close to him.

The social balance at school – and in Elizabeth's life – are both thrown out of balance when sports superstar Henry Harrison unexpectedly approaches her at lunch and accidentally draws her into an encounter with the supernatural.

To help Henry with his ghost issue, to save her dad from impending danger and to do what's right, Elizabeth must discover both her family heritage and a



side of her that she never knew existed.

By helping Henry, she finds a heroine in herself and breaks free of the lies she's been fed her whole life.

Elizabeth follows the cryptic clues she's been given and finds herself nose-deep in a murder investigation that's been covered up for over fifty years.

In a dangerous game where everyone wants to hide the truth, how will she ever find what's real?

This book is an absolute delight.

A heartfelt story of self-discovery doesn't exactly sound like the type of theme to slip into a tale of ghosts and demons, but the combination resonates beautifully.

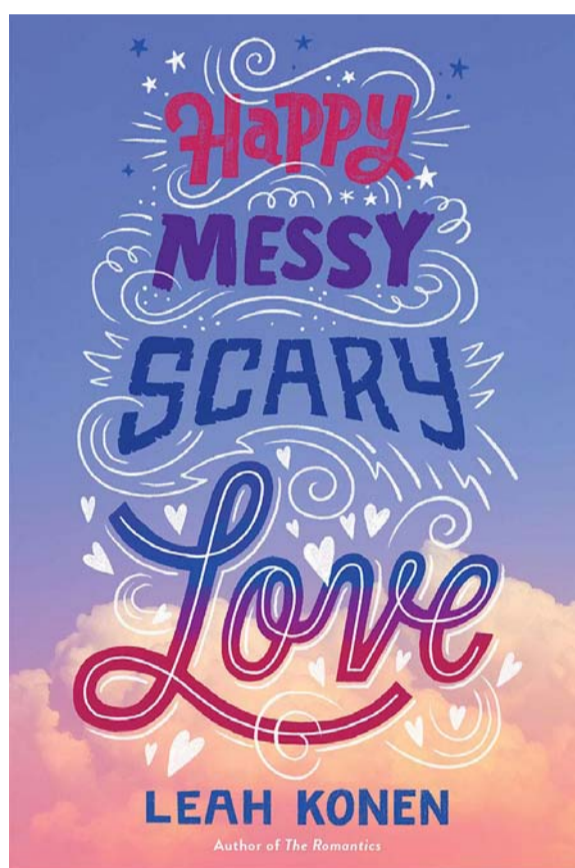
This book engrosses the reader completely by mixing in just the right amount of action, quippy dialogue, and uplifting moments.

"Elizabeth Webster and the Court of Uncommon Pleas" is a well-balanced novel well-suited for people ages twelve and up who enjoy teenage fiction novels and fantasy/science fiction.



By Sylvia Goodman, 14, a CK Reporter from Centennial

Romantic mess-ups make quite a summer



Everyone always has great plans for summer. But Olivia? Not so much.

In "Happy, Messy, Scary Love," by Leah Konen, Olivia will probably spend the summer watching many, many horror movies and chatting with her online friend Elm.

Konen creates a 17-year-old girl through the voice of Olivia.

Right from the beginning you can tell that she doesn't have enough self confidence, but you hope that she is going to find her way out of trouble while turning it into something beautiful.

Elm and Olivia have never shared very personal details about themselves, other than their ages and the fact that Elm's aunt is a low-budget horror-film-maker.

When Elm pushes her to show more about herself and sends her a photo of his handsome self, Olivia freaks out and sends him a picture of her beautiful friend, Katie.

While doing this, she never thinks they could meet in real life.

Sadly, when her mom signs her up at Ropeland she meets the most unexpected person there.

Olivia is confused but happy when she meets Jake at Ropeland.

Jake looks exactly like Elm and tells her that he has an account on Reddit as NightmareOnElmStreet.

Now, Olivia must play Carrie (*her Reddit profile*) on one hand, and Olivia on the other, so that Jake never finds out and everything is fine.

Or will it be fine?

Leah Konen tells a story of many scary movies, love, and a broken heart.

This is a good book for kids ages 12-18.

A high schooler would definitely relate to this book and the issue of not feeling good enough about yourself, and how that can lead to doing something stupid and ruining something wonderful.

Mostly, this book helps capture a summer as older kids with their own personalities and habits.



By Eva Perak, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

Big Nate



Will a fungus mean bye-bye bananas?

Are bananas in danger of becoming extinct? No, but banana growers are facing a crisis that could change the way they do business, and the exact banana that lands on your breakfast table.

A type of soil fungus that has seriously damaged banana plantations in Asia, Australia and Africa has reached the Americas and threatens our bananas.

That's the bad news, and it's very bad indeed, because all it takes for this fungus to spread is for a bit of infected dirt to cling to someone's boot or to the tires of a truck and go from one plantation to another.

But there's more involved and one factor is that

we've been eating the same species of banana for several decades, a type called "Cavendish."

It's very vulnerable to the fungus, but it's not the only banana in the world.

It just happens to be a hybrid banana that ships well, ripens at a good rate and tastes good, making ideal as a product that can be in stores everywhere.

South and Central American growers will, no doubt, come up with a new variety that ships well, tastes good and is immune to the fungus.

Let's hope they find it before the Cavendish becomes rare and expensive.

photo/ Steve Hopson

Story of transgender student worth reading

"Zenobia July," by Lisa Bunker, is a story about acceptance.

The novel follows the life of Zenobia July, a transgender girl (*someone who was assigned the gender of a boy at birth, but identifies as a girl*).

While Zenobia is dealing with moving in with her aunts, and to a new middle school, she is also trying to accept herself, which may prove to be harder than she thinks.

Zenobia is a teenager who struggles with confidence and feeling like herself.

When she goes to her new school, she can finally be who she is, unlike in past schools.

Zenobia hopes that is enough to fit in.

When someone hacks into her school's website to put up offensive memes, Zenobia decides to take it upon herself to figure out who they are and bring them to light.

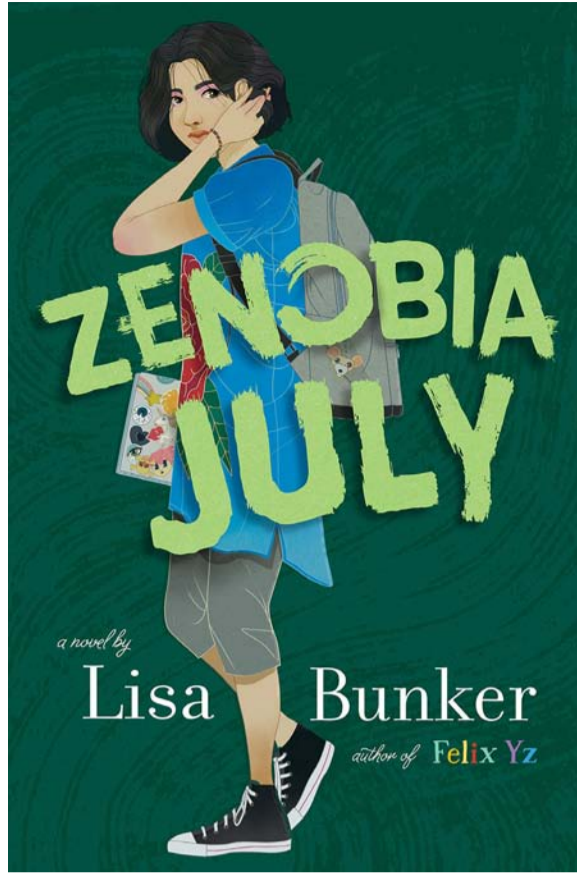
She hopes to do this without bringing herself into the spotlight along with the perpetrator.

Zenobia July has a lot of LGBTQ+ (*lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning*) representation.

For example, Zenobia's friend Arli is a genderqueer person (*somebody who cannot be categorized as male or female*).

Arli uses the pronouns vo, ven, and veir instead of she/he, him/her, or his/hers.

However, an unrealistic part of the added pronouns is when Zenobia was asked to call Arli by them, the new words were added to her vocabulary and she started using them without skipping a beat.



Switching pronouns is modifying the way that you not only talk about someone, but also think about them.

Changing the pronouns that you call someone is not only hard, but it may be adding several new words to your vocabulary.

The novel has several details about Zenobia's surroundings making the reader feel more involved.

When she goes to her new school, she can finally be who she is, unlike in past schools.

Zenobia hopes that is enough to fit in.

Bunker uses a lot of description about what a challenge it is to be a teenager, especially the social aspect of it, making the story extremely relatable.

The book uses very easy to understand language, and the author leaves some of the characters' genders up for the reader's interpretation, which is refreshing.

I rate the novel a 7 out of 10 because the LGBTQ+ representation is not entirely realistic.

Despite that, I recommend the book to teens and up who like to read about controversial subjects.



By Jaden Sutherland, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Years of climate change followed eruption

The Sunda Strait in Indonesia, between the islands of Java and Sumatra, is about 9,500 miles from Denver, nearly as far apart as you can get on the planet.

But on this date in 1883, the eruption of a volcano there destroyed several islands, sent tsunami waves as far as South Africa, 5,000 miles away, and sent clouds of dust and chemicals up into the atmosphere that changed the weather and climate of the planet for several years.

The volcano on the island of Krakatoa was known to be dangerously active.

There were periods when people lived there, but it was often uninhabited because it was so dangerous.

The volcano came to life in May, 1883, with several strong eruptions, and people on nearby islands began to watch it cautiously.

Then, on August 27, four huge, explosive eruptions destroyed nearly the entire island, with explosions so loud that they could be heard in Western Australia, nearly 2,000 miles away.

The shower of hot ash and rocks, the flow of gases and the enormous tsunami waves swept through the region.

At the time, authorities said that more than 36,000 people had been killed, either



by the toxic gases or by the 120-foot tall tsunami, but later estimates put the death toll much higher.

However, even after the eruption quieted down, the damage continued.

Krakatoa had sent tons of ash miles into the atmosphere, together with huge amounts of sulphur dioxide.

Just as smoke from distant wildfires can cause spectacular sunrises and sunsets, so, too, the ash in the atmosphere made for colorful skies around the world over the next five years.

But the sulfur dioxide mixed with clouds and reflected sunlight back, causing the global temperature to fall by nearly two and a quarter degrees Fahrenheit.

The world saw changes in weather and climate that included massive, deadly blizzards in our part of the world, including the Schoolhouse Blizzard of 1888, that gets its name because it sprang up in the middle of the day, stranding children in one-room schools across the prairies or making it nearly impossible for students who had been dismissed early to find their way home in the blinding snow.

This eruption, the deadliest in modern history, happened long ago, but its impact remains a fascinating, frightening and important example of how changes in one part of the world can be felt throughout our planet.

Sudoku

			2		6
	5				
		6			
				1	
5	2		4		
		4	5		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

President Lyndon B. Johnson was born on this date in 1908, so our answers this week will begin with "C" for "Civil Rights," to honor the laws he helped pass that helped make racial discrimination illegal.

1. Like an alligator, but with a more narrow snout
2. Your aunt's son is this to you.
3. This East High School graduate plays the role of James Rhodes/War Machine in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
4. Long, green vegetable sometimes pickled, sometimes cut up in salads
5. When they first worked on the prairies of the West, they were known as *vaqueros*.
6. Denmark's capital, it has a statue of the Little Mermaid in its harbor
7. Dressing up as a superhero; people do it at comic conventions
8. Herb used in Southeast Asian cooking and in making pico de gallo
9. This Teller County mining town is right next door to Victor
10. A more elegant name for a merry-go-round

(answers on Page Four)

Africa nears freedom from polio as Nigerian efforts pay off

Last year, these students at the American University of Nigeria got together with members of the Rotary Club to promote a final drive against the deadly disease.

This year, Nigeria got news that is good for all of Africa and the world: There have been no new cases of polio there for three years.

That means Nigeria is very close to being officially polio-free and, as the last place in Africa where the disease had occurred, that would make the entire continent free of the disease.

The one step left is to set up a system to survey the nation to be sure no unexpected cases pop up.

It has often been difficult, in developing countries with many isolated, rural areas, to deliver vaccines, particularly if the climate is warm.

Transporting vaccines on bad roads over long distances in hot weather has been a challenge.

But the challenge of wiping out a disease that can be fatal and often leaves its victims unable to walk or even breathe on their own was worth taking up.

Rotary Clubs, charities and governmental agencies from around the world have come together to make vaccines available to help wipe out polio.

Now only Pakistan and Afghanistan have small numbers of polio cases.



photo/AUN

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 CK Reporter!
<http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Banana Fungus
 Krakatoa
 Goodbye, Polio!

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

Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



Sharing Native Arts and Fun

The Denver Art Museum will host its 30th Annual Friendship Powwow and American Indian Cultural Celebration Saturday, September 7, on Martin Plaza, just east of the museum entrance between 12th and 13th Ave.

One of the Denver Art Museum's longest-running events, the powwow will feature American Indian dancers, drum groups, artist booths, and more.

The DAM's Friendship Powwow is a celebration of the vitality of American Indian cultures. Throughout the day, visitors can watch dance competitions, participate in hands-on activities, and enjoy their first (or 101st!) piece of fry bread.

All powwow activities and general museum admission are free.

The powwow is active from 10 to 5, but you won't want to miss the Grand Entry at 11 am.

This annual event brings native people from throughout the continent together to share their art, their dance and their foods in a day of fun and competition.

While native people from different tribes and nations often gathered for celebration and to trade, long before the coming of Europeans, the competitive dancing of the powwow is said to have begun in the Wild West Shows of the 19th century.

Entire families from various tribes were part of the traveling shows, displaying their culture for tourists in an age before television or filmed documentaries, but, after hours, when the crowds had left, they would relax, exchanging and comparing dance moves.

These casual "Show me how you did that" conversations gradually became fun competitions and evolved into the spectacular, elaborate contests seen at modern powwows.

CK Calendar

Friday, August 30

"Playmobil the Movie" opens at area theaters. Animated feature film inspired by the Playmobil brand toys.

Tuesday, September 3

Second Star to the Right Bookstore on Pearl Street will have a "book launch" -- the debut of a brand new book -- at 6:30 for Colorado author Lindsay Lackey's new middle grade novel "All the Impossible Things." Meet the author, see the book!

Thursday, September 5

Author Jeff Seymour will discuss and sign "Nadya Skylung and the Masked Kidnapper," the sequel to Nadya Skylung and the Cloudship Rescue at 7 pm at Tattered Cover's Aspen Grove bookstore.

Friday, September 6

"Aquarela" opens. This documentary film shows water around the world, from giant ice forms to spectacular waterfalls.

Friday, September 13

"Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits" opens at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Explore the psychology science behind some of the riskier sports, such as wingsuit flying, ice and rock climbing, parkour and free diving with simulations and other activities.

Friday, September 20

The seven-acre corn maze at Chatfield Farm opens for weekends. For exact dates and other details, visit <https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/corn-maze>

Friday, September 27

"Abominable" opens. In this PG-rated, animated Dreamworks film, a young girl and her friends attempt to bring a yeti back from Shanghai to his home in Nepal, avoiding the villain who would dearly love to capture a yeti.

Friday, October 4

Deadline for Tattered Cover's 36th Annual Scary Story Contest. Young Colorado writers from kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to write an original mystery, suspenseful thriller, or humorous Halloween tale. Last year's winning stories and this year's entry form are here: <https://www.tatteredcover.com/scary-story-contest>

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. crocodile (or caiman) 2. cousin 3. (Don) Cheadle 4. cucumber
 5. cowboys 6. Copenhagen 7. cosplay 8. cilantro 9. Cripple Creek
 10. carousel

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