



CK Reporter of the Week
Talia Schanman, Cherry Hills Village

Stinky lives up to its name again



photo/Denver Botanic Gardens

Stinky is a miraculous flower at the Denver Botanic Gardens that blooms only once every two to five years.

The first time the fascinating flower blooms can be over 10 years after it was planted, and Stinky just bloomed again this past weekend!

Stinky is an *amorphophallus titanum* flower, one of the biggest flowers in the world.

The more familiar version of Stinky's scientific name is "corpse flower," because it smells like something dead.

Stinky is kept in one of the six tropical greenhouses that they have, out of the 12 total greenhouses at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Scott Preusser, one of the conservatory horticulturists, shared all kinds of information about Stinky with me.

Preusser said that the plant's bloom does not smell as bad as it could, because it smells even worse in hot, humid environments.

The fan in the greenhouse that is used to spread humidity also affects the awful smell.

The corpse flower can grow from three to 10 feet tall, but now it is four feet tall exactly.

Nick Snakenberg planted Stinky when the humongous flower was just a bulb. Since then he and Preusser have hand watered it, along with all the other tropical plants, every day.

After being dormant for one or more years, Stinky only takes one month to grow to a huge size.

When the plant wakes up, it can either turn into a leaf or a bloom.

The bloom is a huge flower while the leaf is more of a tree-like structure.

Stinky smells so terrible in order to attract pollinators.

There are not many bees that pollinate as much in the rainforest, so that beetles and flies are the main pollinators, and they are attracted to rotting meat.

Stinky is a very well known phenomenon in Denver and places around, and this famous *amorphophallus titanum*, or "corpse flower," is unquestionably very cool to look at and definitely worth going to see.

Unfortunately, Stinky's bloom only lasts a day or two, but this astonishing plant is still worth a trip to the Botanic Gardens!



By Chloe Whiteside,
12, a CK Reporter
from Broomfield

True stories bring Vietnam to a new audience

"Boots On the Ground: America's War in Vietnam," by Elizabeth Partridge, is one of the best books I have ever read.

It took my attention from the start, and I could not stop reading it. I finished it the first day I had it.

The book is a collection of firsthand accounts of what the war was like.

This book is terrific and should be read by teenagers all over America

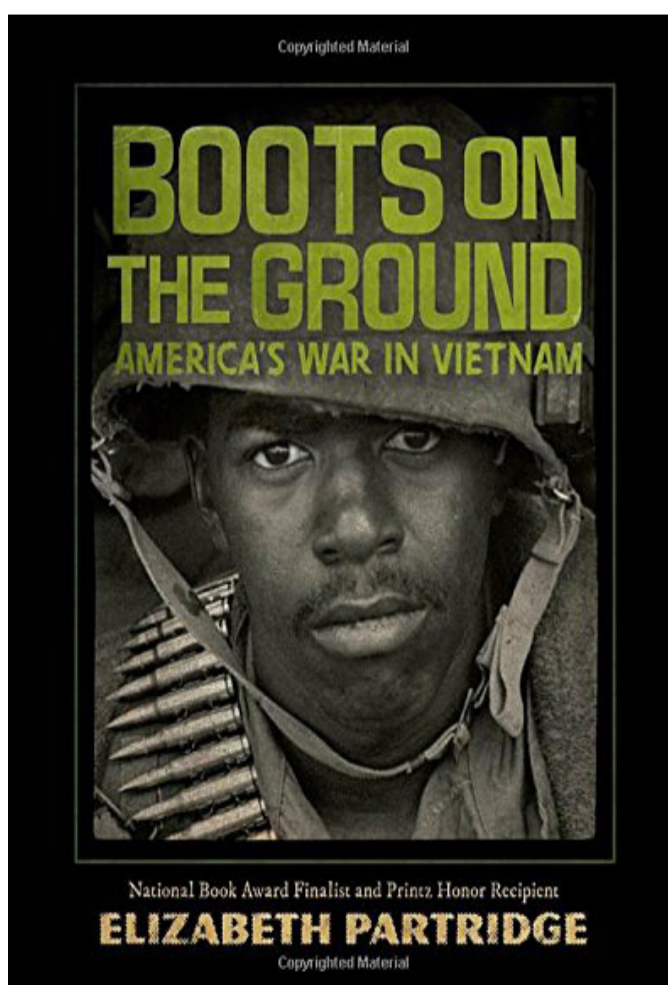
They had memories from four presidents, four Army veterans, a Green Beret, a Vietnamese refugee, a nurse, a medic, a machine gunner trained by Martin Luther King in peacefulness, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer, and more.

As you can imagine, the book is full of stories of lost comrades, day-to-day war life, and the stresses of a war.

When I first got this book, I thought it was either going to be sad and depressing, all about the death and sacrifice, or it was going to be a complete nonfiction book with no real emotions, and just number reports.

I was wrong.

It turned out as a perfect combination of both.



This 200-page book teaches you to never judge a book by its cover: It is completely unique in the best way possible.

While giving you solid facts, it does not talk too much about the actual death or bodies.

This book has large pages but does have occasional pictures, and, if I was told to think of a way to make this book better, I would not be able to think of one.

This book is terrific and should be read by teenagers all over America, though perhaps if you are really sensitive to violence, or cannot handle talk about death, you probably should not read this book.

I think that it's best for ages 12 and up, because if you are younger than twelve, you either might not understand what is really going on, or you might be too disturbed by the contents.

But, if you are over the age of twelve, this is a great book about an important time it seems America would rather forget.



By Jack Vanourek,
13, a CK Reporter
from Littleton



Writing Is Fun!

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.

If it works, it might entertain small kids

Imagine being able to draw anything. Absolutely anything.

It seems like the stuff of dreams, right?

Maybe not.

With the smART Sketcher projector, that dream could become a reality -- if you can manage to get the machine to work.

The smART Sketcher arrives with a projector, a charging cord, and a memory chip.

The packaging is sturdy and easy to open, and the contents are simple to assemble.

The memory chip includes several pictures of animals, outer space, and fairy tale elements such as castles and princesses.

All you have to do is plug in the chip and the cord.

From there, you power up the machine and follow the directions in the instruction manual on how to navigate the different drawings.

The drawings provide a simple step by step explanation of how to draw a variety of images, but the buttons on the machine are hard to understand and one wrong click could mean all your progress is lost.

Also, while drawing, your hand could get in the way and make it far more difficult to replicate the image.

If you want a wider selection of images to draw, you have to download the app.

The extra functionality of the app is a little disappointing.

However, the app provides an easier access to the basic images on the memory chip, by using a layout where all the pictures are displayed on one screen instead of the projector scrolling through one image at a time.

The images downloaded off of the phone, though, are extremely pixelated and distorted, requiring some level of artistic skill to create a good picture.

The app also crashes every once in a while and kicks you off of the program.

At about \$150, this toy is not one that I would recommend, based on my personal experience, but, if someone else had better luck getting it to work, this could be a decent gift for a small child.

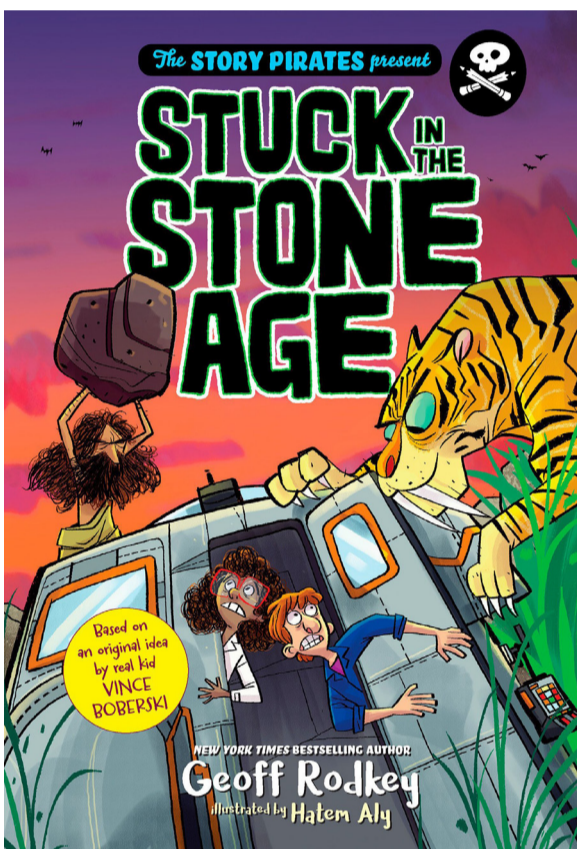
This toy is best suited for younger audiences who won't get bored by the limited selection of pictures provided by the projector or annoyed by the quality of the images provided in the app.

I would not recommend this toy to older children.



By Maria Ciobanu, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Sci-fi, humor and tips on making your own story



"Stuck in the Stone Age" by Geoff Rodkey, and illustrated by Hatem Aly, is about a kid named Tom Edison who goes by Ted because he is not THE Tom Edison.

He wants to be a scientist.

However, he is not very good at science.

He is so bad that he was getting worse than a D or an F. His teacher actually created a new grade just for him! He is hired by the CEASE laboratory that he wanted to work in, but only as a janitor.

The person that hired him told him that he could work his way up the chain, but all of the scientists knew that this is not how the system works.

Dr. Morice is a brilliant scientist who won an award when she was twelve.

She is now working on ways to solve humanity's energy problems.

She is also trying to become friends with her idol, another scientist, Dr. Vasquez. She ultimately meets Ted when he is cleaning up her space in the lab.

The book refers to the Stone Age because they manage to get stuck in a time machine.

They get taken back to 10,000 B.C. and meet Tooka the tiger. A saber-tooth tiger!

They also meet Doug and his tribe of cave men.

I won't tell you what happens, but it involves making

new sports and teaching the cave men new skills with some pretty funny events that take place.

This book explores the journey of Ted trying to become a scientist and of Dr. Morice trying to befriend her idol.

The story is like an adventure story with a little bit of humor, however it is primarily a sci-fi book.

It is designed for younger kids and thus is not a challenging read and is relatively short.

The book also has a story creation zone and actually teaches you how to make your own story.

Some of the parts include the setting, characters (a character creator), problems, types of stories, brainstorming, editing, climax, solving the problem, and finishing the story.

I thought this part was interesting and would definitely help you make your own story, if that is of interest to you.



By Ben Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Big Nate



Illegal fishing nets trap, kill 300 endangered sea turtles



Mexican environmental authorities were shocked and saddened last week by the deaths of 300 Olive Ridley turtles off the coast of Oaxaca, which faces south into the Pacific Ocean.

The Olive Ridley turtle is not as endangered as its cousin, the Kemp Ridley turtle, which is more familiar to Americans because it nests on the Atlantic Coast.

The loss of 300 turtles made authorities angry because the

cause was an illegal net that apparently was abandoned by a foreign fishing vessel and may have been intended to catch tuna.

Turtles are reptiles and cannot breathe underwater. If they become entangled in nets, they can easily drown.

The turtles were probably on their way to the beaches of Oaxaca for *arribadas*, the time each year when thousands of turtles come to lay eggs.

Olive Ridley turtles are native to warm waters and stage their *arribadas* along coastlines in the South Pacific, Southern Atlantic and Indian oceans.

Many of the nations where the turtles nest have begun programs to help them, including gathering their eggs to keep them safe and then releasing the baby turtles back into the sea.

Mexican authorities will attempt to find the net's owner.

photo/ Jose Ignacio Santiago Martinez

You'll find real magic in this short, fun novel

Leila Vernon — or as she was called back then, Leila Doe — had lived in Mother Margaret's Home for Children since she was a baby.

She had no memory of her birth parents, and the only thing they left with her was a key that she had had since she was dropped off at the orphanage.

Unlike the other orphans, Leila always tried her best to be happy; this made the other kids hate her and bully her whenever they could.

But one night, when a magician was performing at Mother Margaret's, everything changed for Leila: She wanted to be an escape artist.

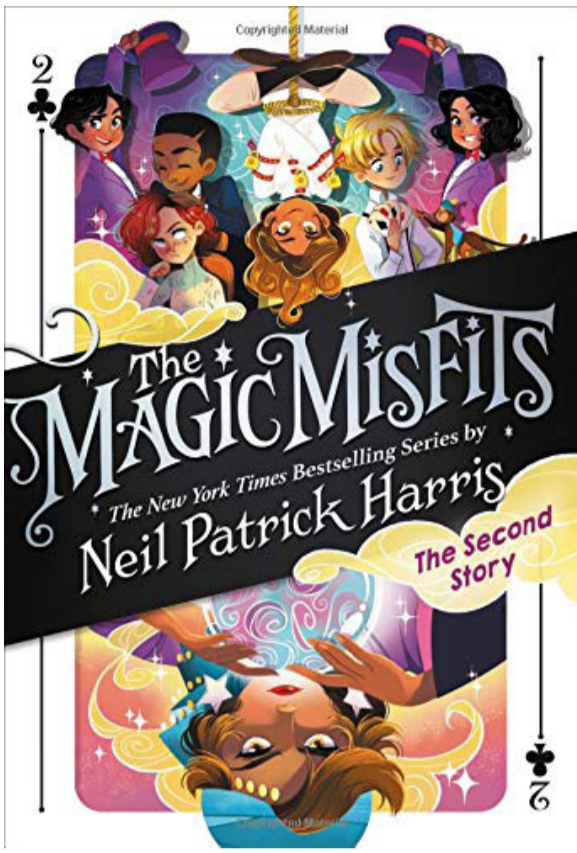
"The Magic Misfits: The Second Story" by Neil Patrick Harris — as its title says, the second book in the series — is an exciting story about magic and mystery.

Several years have passed, and Leila — now an expert escape artist — lives with her friend, Carter Locke, and her parents: her dad, Mr. Dante Vernon, the magician who performed at the orphanage, and her "Poppa", whom her friends call "the Other Mr. Vernon."

Leila, Carter and their four friends, known as the "Magic Misfits," always work together, whether it's to help out at Mr. Vernon's magic shop, to perform magic tricks, or to save their town.

It had been weeks since the Magic Misfits defeated B.B. Bosso, one of Mr. Vernon's childhood friends who grew up to be a criminal, and everything seems be back to normal; that is, until Sandra Santos — a famous psychic and another of Mr. Vernon's old friends — arrives at the magic shop and things start to get weird.

However, having Sandra come to visit is the least of the kids' problems. She



actually seems to have taken a liking to the Misfits and even asked Leila to perform at her show.

But Bosso's pet monkey keeps breaking into Leila's house, and there are rumors that Mr. Vernon and his friends set a hotel on fire when they were kids.

When the day of Sandra and Leila's performance arrives, the Magic Misfits begin to wonder if Sandra has a connection to peculiar events that are happening.

"The Magic Misfits: The Second Story" is a great read for anyone who's interested in magic.

Inside the book, there are several magic tricks that you can perform, along with a key to read Morse code.

In the table of contents, the names of the chapters are written in code, and there is a key at the beginning of the book to decipher these as well.

I hadn't read the first book, but since the first few pages are just an introduction to the characters, it was pretty easy to understand.

It's also fairly short, at only about 280 pages, but it's still a captivating book for all age groups.



By Nandi Strieker, 11, a CK Reporter from Antonito

NASA shows particles from storms and fires

The first thing to know is that this is not a photograph.

Like a lot of NASA images, it was created by combining photography with data, and adding color to make its importance clear.

(Those images of galaxies and nebulae you see from the Hubble are a combination of photography and data, too. The photos by themselves would not have all those colors!)

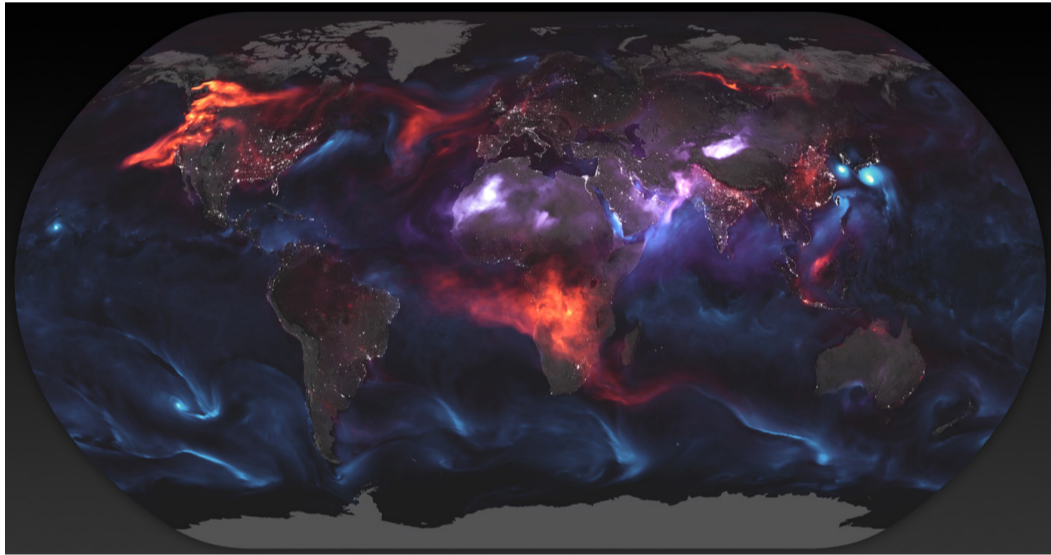
The important thing about this image is that it shows where various particles get into our atmosphere.

These tiny bits of matter are called "aerosols" because they become part of the atmosphere.

Though dust clouds and smoke are visible, these particles are too small to see, but they're all up there and this graphic image shows where they come from and where they are most common.

The graphic was created with data gathered on August 23, and you may be able to guess what the orange sections represent: Black carbon coming into the air from fires.

In North America, that's coming mostly from wild fires, and, just as the smoke



from California's fires has been visible for people far away, the carbon in that smoke is drifting a long distance from the fires themselves.

But it doesn't require disastrous wildfires to put carbon into our atmosphere: The orange in south-central Africa is simply coming from controlled burns as farmers there burn off their fields, as they do each year.

And, of course, carbon also comes from factories, automobiles and similar sources, mostly in cities.

Something natural is shown in blue, which is salt being blown into the atmosphere by ocean storms.

At the far left, for instance, you

see a small blue dot, which is Hurricane Lane, which brushed Hawaii last week. Larger storms can be seen around Japan and Korea on the right side of the map.

There is also dust in the air, shown in white, and you can see where winds are blowing in the Sahara Desert in North Africa and the Taklamakan Desert in Central Asia.

These particles are too small to see, but they are everywhere, and, while you read this, you're breathing in millions of them. Now you know where they come from!

Sudoku

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

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.
The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.



Brainteaser

On this date in 1781, Spanish colonists in California founded the city of El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de los Ángeles de Porciúncula, so our answers this week will each begin with "LA."

1. City where you would find the main campus of the University of Wyoming
2. The language spoken in Ancient Rome
3. The wingless, wormlike form of a newly-hatched insect before it goes through metamorphosis and gains its adult form
4. Author of the "Guardians of Ga'hoole" series of books
5. Vientiane is the capital of this nation in Southeast Asia.
6. A cord or ribbon worn around the neck to hold a whistle or an identification card
7. An eel-like freshwater fish that feeds on other fish by attaching its mouth to their sides, this destructive parasite is considered an invasive species in many waters.
8. Molten rock is "magma" underground, but called this when a volcano erupts.
9. A maze, especially the one in Greek mythology in which the Minotaur lived
10. Flat, wide noodles, often served in layers with tomato sauce, meat and cheese

(answers on Page Four)

Goats like to hang out with happy people

It's not hard to make friends with a goat, but it helps if you are a cheerful person.

They'd rather be around happy people than grumpy ones.

If you've spent much time around goats, you already know that they can be as full of fun and energy as dogs, but now a group of scientists have shown that, like dogs, goats can tell when you're in a good mood.

And that's when they'd prefer to be around you.

The experiment, by researchers from Queen Mary University of London, took place not in a laboratory but at the Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats, about an hour southeast of the city.

It wasn't very complex: They put up pictures, with one of a person frowning and another of the same person smiling. Then they'd let a goat come in and see the two pictures.

They admitted they didn't know if the goats would even look at them, or if they might try to nibble the paper.

But the goats were interested, and, most of the time, they went up to the picture of the smiling face and examined it more closely.

This sounds simple, but it shows that the goats can understand not just how we act and the tone of our voices, but our moods and emotions as well.

And they prefer happy people. photo/Hamid Soufi



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

Sea Turtle Deaths

NASA & Particles

Goats and Happiness

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

Woman of the World: The Story of Nellie Bly

based on Brooke Kroeger's "Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Feminist, Reporter"

Chapter Five: To the Madhouse!

Our story so far: Nellie has a chance to work for Joseph Pulitzer's newspaper, the World, if she is willing to pose as a poor, mentally ill woman and investigate conditions at the hospital on Blackwell's Island.

New York Assistant District Attorney Henry Macdona thought it was far too dangerous for a young girl like Nellie Bly to have herself thrown into the lunatic asylum at Blackwell's Island.

Nellie had gone to him for advice, and to make sure she wouldn't be arrested for lying to the police, judges and doctors she would have to fool.

And she would have to lie to them; If even one of them knew she was a reporter, she might not be treated the same as a regular patient.

Macdona saw how young she was, and how small, and told her she might not have the strength to get through the experience without serious harm.

But Nellie jumped out of her chair, stamped her foot on the floor and told him nobody was going to keep her from going out there and finding out the truth!

"That settled the question in my mind," he later remembered.

He agreed to give her immunity: Her daring plan might not be strictly legal, but the district attorney's office would let her try it anyway.

Besides, she would do it with or without permission.

The World's editor, Colonel John Cockerill, left it up to Nellie to figure out how to get into Blackwell's Island, and she left it up to him to figure out how to get her out again.

Before she left, he gave her these instructions: "Write up things as you find them, good or bad; give praise or blame as you think best, and the truth all the time. But I am afraid of that chronic smile of yours."

"I will smile no more," Nellie promised him.

She went back to her rented room and began to practice. She stayed up all night, staring into the mirror, making her eyes as large as she could, and reading ghost stories to upset herself.

Then she put on some old clothes and set out on her assignment.

Nellie's mother had run a boardinghouse back in Pittsburgh, and Nellie was living in one in New York.

But now she went to a different kind of boarding house, a place with few frills for women with little money.

Most of the women there had jobs but didn't make enough to live somewhere nice.

The rooms were plain and the food was bad. Nellie kept to herself, staring and sometimes writing odd things down in a little notebook.

That was one of the tricks she had decided on: If she wrote silly things down all the time, nobody would notice when she took real notes.

When anyone asked her anything, she just said she didn't know or couldn't remember. She said everything was very sad. Then she started talking about all the crazy people in the world, and the others began to wonder about her.

When night came, she said she didn't want to go to bed, but just to sit on the stairs all night. One kind woman helped her to her room, but Nellie just sat up on the side of the bed and wouldn't lie down. The other women weren't worried for her: They just wanted that crazy woman out of there!

In the morning, the woman who ran the home called the police and they took Nellie down to the police station, and then to court. When she was asked who she was and where she came from, she said she didn't know.

Then things almost went wrong. Though Nellie had put on her plainest and oldest clothing, she was still the same person who had worn pink dresses and white stockings to school.

Even Nellie's plainest, oldest clothes were very fashionable, and the judge was concerned that this pretty, well-dressed young girl must surely have a family somewhere worried about her.

"I wish the reporters were here," he said. "They would be able to find out something about her."

At that, Nellie grew frightened. She hadn't found a permanent job in New York, but she'd done quite a bit of reporting for the Dispatch, and there were many reporters who knew her by sight. If the judge called in the wrong reporter, her secret would be out!

The judge had her taken to a back room and spoke with her privately.

She let him believe that she was from Cuba, and used some of the Spanish she had learned in Mexico.

Finally, he brought in a doctor, who looked at Nellie's tongue, examined her eyes, took her pulse and listened to her heart. She was probably on drugs, he said, and they put her in the ambulance to go to Bellevue Hospital.

There, she was taken to a long, plain hall with benches, where three other women were waiting to be examined. Nellie asked one of them if she knew that she was in the hospital for the insane.

"Yes, I know, but I am unable to do anything," she answered. "The doctors refuse to listen to me, and it's useless to say anything to the nurses."

Indeed, that was what Nellie learned for herself: Once you had been declared insane, nobody would believe anything you said. The doctors didn't bother listening, and the nurses who worked with the poor, mentally ill women simply didn't seem to care.

Soon a doctor came, looked at her tongue, took her pulse and then asked her a few questions.

She told him she didn't know where she was from, and that she didn't have a job.

And so Nellie Bly was declared insane, and sent off to Blackwell's Island.



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Laramie 2. Latin 3. larva 4. (Kathryn) Lasky 5. Laos 6. lanyard
7. lamprey 8. lava 9. labyrinth 10. lasagna

Next Week: To The Madhouse

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

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