



CK Reporter of the Week  
Hannah Hensley, Centennial

## Kenya's plastic bag ban working

As everyone knows, there's a growing movement in the United States to eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags.

Some other countries have taken the lead in this movement, including Kenya in East Africa.

People are now using reusable fabric bags and baskets to do their shopping, as they did years ago, before plastic bags became common.

Plastic shopping bags have been banned in Kenya for almost three years, and the ban has had a definite impact on Kenya's society and people's daily lives.

The ban was the result of a long campaign led by James Wakibia, a local student who made people realize that plastic bags were symbolic of the need for major environmental improvements.

Before the ban, the use of plastic bags was very common in Kenya, but they weren't disposed of properly and often ended up in the streets and waterways.

When the government decided to strictly enforce the ban, plastic bag litter was almost entirely eliminated.

"When it was said that people had to stop using those plastic bags, we saw that it was better," says Teresia Ngini, a local resident in the outskirts of Nairobi. "We will



A pig searches through a mountain of plastic waste accumulated before the ban.  
Photo/Anthony Ndulenyi

have a cleaner environment."

There are harsh penalties for anyone found using plastic bags — fines of thousands of dollars or years in jail — making Kenya's bag ban among the most severe in the world.

Not everyone is happy with the ban, however: Many vendors used to sell fruits and vegetables in plastic bags, and buyers would use them as well to keep produce fresh longer.

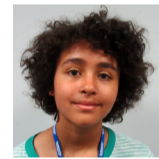
Not being able to use plastic bags has caused inconvenience for many.

Despite this, Kenyan citizens have been able to find ways to cope with the ban: People are now using reusable fabric bags and baskets to do their shopping, as they did years ago, before plastic bags became common.

So far, the ban has been helping to make living conditions in Kenya a bit better.

Streets and waterways are much cleaner compared to other developing countries where plastic bag litter is everywhere.

This is just a small step in making the country — and the rest of the world — a cleaner place.



By Nandi Strieker,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Antonito

## Slimy figurine fun

I was sent 42 "Pop Pop Snotz" capsules to try out.

They vary in price and quantity at Amazon, from about \$7 for 12 up to \$29 for a pack of 50.

It's an interesting product. It was fun to play with and it took around two hours to pop 42 sockets, showing that it has playability.

But in many of the sockets you could already tell that there was a character in it.

The point of the product is to sort through the slime and see if there was a character in it!

Why would you get this item if you could already tell that there were characters were in it?

It's as if you bought a mystery box that had what was in it posted on the outside.

On the downside, the slime was of poor quality.

When I first started playing with the slime, I quickly realized that it was very liquidy and hard to play with.

It would stick to your hand and leave disgusting residue on whatever it touched.

My sister, Hailey described the slime as "sticky, watery, and weird."

The purple and pink colors were slightly stiffer, improving the quality of the slime, but the green was nasty.

The figurines, however, were adorable.

They were bouncy, rubbery things that were about as big as a fingernail.

They were a bit of a choking hazard, but it was very unlikely that it would get into your mouth.

Some of them included a Hulk-looking figure, a

dragon in an egg, and a cute robo-cat.

I would give the Pop Pop Snotz a 3 out of 5 rating.

Although the slime was not very good, it was fun to see what kind of figurine you would get.

I would recommend this to younger children, from 6 - 10 years old.



By Chloe Whiteside,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Broomfield

## Fast car, slow puzzle

The newest 2019 Porsche 911 can go at a speed up to 183 miles per hour.

But the newest 2019 Porsche 911

3D puzzle by Ravensburger has a put-together speed far from that.

Recently my grandfather was in town and we thought it would be a great bonding project to put together and review the Ravensburger Porsche 911 3D puzzle.

To me, the puzzle was a fun experience, as I personally had never put together a 3D puzzle before, and the way the puzzle was laid out to become three dimensional made it truly astonishing to watch it form.

But, though the puzzle was interesting to put together, we did run into some obstacles.

Obviously, it's a puzzle, but it still suffered from slightly undetailed instructions as to how to put it together, and the pieces were labeled in a confusing way, which made it difficult at times to match certain

pieces with other pieces.

I would recommend this puzzle for those who have a creative mind and can visually imagine things without

needing step-by-step instructions, because to me, I sometimes need those extra steps to get me through the process of putting something together.

Because of this I would generally recommend this puzzle for 5th graders, or a little higher, and up.

This puzzle was fun to put together since it was something new to me that I had never really done before, but extra labels on the puzzle pieces and more detailed instruction would have made the puzzle easier to put together, and a little less confusing.



By Katherine Gagner,  
14, a CK Reporter  
from Boulder

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# National Spelling Bee worth the stress

*Editor's Note: As our 14-year-old reporters leave us in the new school year, we offer a personal reflection from an outgoing CK Reporter.*

words were from a 600-word study list we had been given a couple months prior.

I got my word: "Dudgeon."

I knew it, I spelled it, and I could breathe easy for a few more hours.

But Round Three was one of the most stressful things I've ever done.

The words were now random, and the difficulty levels were all over the board. Words could be as easy as "deceit" or as difficult as "parvanimity."

My turn came.

I stepped up to the microphone, took a deep breath, and got a word I had never heard in my life and had no idea where to start. In retrospect, "rumbustical" seems like an easy enough word, but at the time I was baffled.

After about a minute of debating with myself, I decided to get it done with and just spell.

I spelled, I got it right, and I was more surprised with myself than anyone else in the room.

In the end, I made it to the top 100.

Having spelled both my onstage words correctly, as well as scoring 21 out of 30 on the preliminaries test, I tied for 51st place.

This meant I wouldn't advance to the next round and that "rumbustical" had indeed been the last word I would ever spell in a competition.

I am, admittedly, an extremely competitive person, which is what led me to the Scripps Spelling Bee, but what I remember most is time spent with the other spellers.

The Bee hosts two major social events, which I spent goofing off with new friends and making memories none of us are likely to forget.

Here's some advice to anyone hoping for a shot at the crown: Enjoy the journey.

No matter how many words you spell correctly, if you don't have fun it's not going to be something you look back on fondly.

In the end, the quest for the Holy Grail is more important than if you actually find it.

So grab the dictionary and don't stop bee-lieving. Good luck.



Out of 11 million students who started their quest for the Holy Grail of spelling in August of 2018, only 564 made it to the big stage.

By May 30, 2019, only 50 were left standing.

The 92nd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee was one for the history books, and I'm very lucky to have been there to watch it all happen.

I got into the National Spelling Bee through a backdoor program called RSVBee.

Even though I had placed top 10 in the Colorado State Spelling Bee for the third consecutive year, I missed the cut.

RSVBee gave me a chance to participate in the National Spelling Bee, and even though I had to cover the plane ticket and hotel room, there was no way I was going to pass that up.

Fortunately, I was the recipient of the merit-based 2019 Bill Schaefer National Spelling Bee Scholarship.

This scholarship is provided by the Faulk family, the family of National Spelling Bee finalist Jake Faulk, and named after Bill Schaefer, who coached me for five years and runs the Denver Public Schools semantics team.

RSVBee has doubled the number of competitors in recent years, making the competition much longer.

The second round alone took eight and a half hours.

No speller had to sit onstage for the duration of all eight hours - there were so many of us we had to come onstage in three different groups.

One good thing is that the National Spelling Bee provides accommodations for learning disabilities.

This is extremely important, as children with disabilities such as myself don't always get a level playing field.

The Bee officials reached out to me and were more than willing to negotiate a solution that would best accommodate me, and I'm extremely thankful for that.

Instead of taking the preliminaries test with 563 other kids shuffling papers and fidgeting with their chairs, I was allowed to take the test separately with double review time.

During the onstage rounds I was a part of, I left the stage after I spelled my word instead of waiting for hours for the round to end.

It shouldn't be understated how impactful having these accommodations are for students with disabilities.

Instead of having to participate in a competition where the rules are against them, they can compete to the best of their abilities.

The preliminaries test was Round One.

Going into Round Two, the first on-stage round, I was fairly confident, since the



photo/ScrippsBee



By Maria Ciobanu, 14, a CK Reporter from Denver



## 10 books in, series still kickin'

"Switching Goals," by Alex Morgan, is a fun read.

The story begins with Devin, who plays for the Kentville Kangaroos, the "Kicks" for short.

She moved from Connecticut to California in the first book, and met Jessi, Emma, Frida, and Zoe while playing for the Kicks.

Frida, the actress, has an audition for a commercial.

Convinced Devin is her good luck charm, she brings her along.

While waiting for Frida, Devin gets asked to be a model! Her mom agrees, and Devin begins her modeling gig.

The first few ones go alright, but some go haywire! Meanwhile, all Devin's friends are obsessing over a future-telling app. When fortunes start coming true, Devin is forced to think about her future too.

Should she be a model or a soccer player?

And what should she do about her friend's Sweet Sixteen? She really wants to go to, but can't convince

her mom about her flying out to Connecticut.

The pressure of the future is on in this short novel about soccer, friends, and the unexpected future.

I love this series, and this newest book, the tenth, didn't fall short.

I really enjoyed this book. I liked the plot twists and the soccer parts of the story.

I would recommend this to friends or family members who are into soccer.

I love this series, and this

newest book, the tenth, didn't fall short.

The series is super fun, innocent, and perfect for all ages.

The low suspense level makes it ideal for younger readers, but it is also great for older readers because Devin is in 7th grade.

But, especially, this book is really fun for soccer fans.



By Izzie Intriago, 11, a CK Reporter from Aurora

## Big Nate





# Dragon series grows along with its readership

**D**ragons, magic, and mystique: "Wings of Fire: The Poison Jungle," has much to offer for young fantasy readers.

This book series is by Tui T. Sutherland and is one of the better-known, well-praised kids' fantasy books.

This latest in the series keeps right up with that streak, being intriguing and interesting, if with a bit of an odd plot.

It is thirteenth in the extensive series, split up in groups of five, this being the third book of the third set, so you probably want to read the other 12, or at the very least, I would suggest reading the other two in this set.

The series is about dragons, and all the main characters are dragons, with numerous species with different habitats, abilities, and appearances.

Of course, with dragons, there is a presence of violence, harm, and death, but Sutherland tries to stay away from such topics unless necessary, and even then, it is only mentioned briefly and without much description.

The books have gained more violence and other teen-plus concepts over the length of the series, although, since the original readers are around 15-17 now, she is trying to make it still entertaining for them, too.

And there are some good parts of that, too, since there is an increase of romance, which helps move along the plot, makes that plot seem less shallow, and gives it some deeper, more meaningful concepts.

This entry is about 300 pages, depending on whether or not you count the prologue and epilogue.

As mentioned earlier, there is a bit of an odd plot, with mind-control and a mys-

terious person or thing behind it, so it can be a bit weird and irregular.

But, it is still pretty coherent and easy enough to follow.

There are definitely good aspects, too, like the characters.

They are each different, but 90% have everyone's best interest in mind and are very kind and sweet, though they show it in different ways.

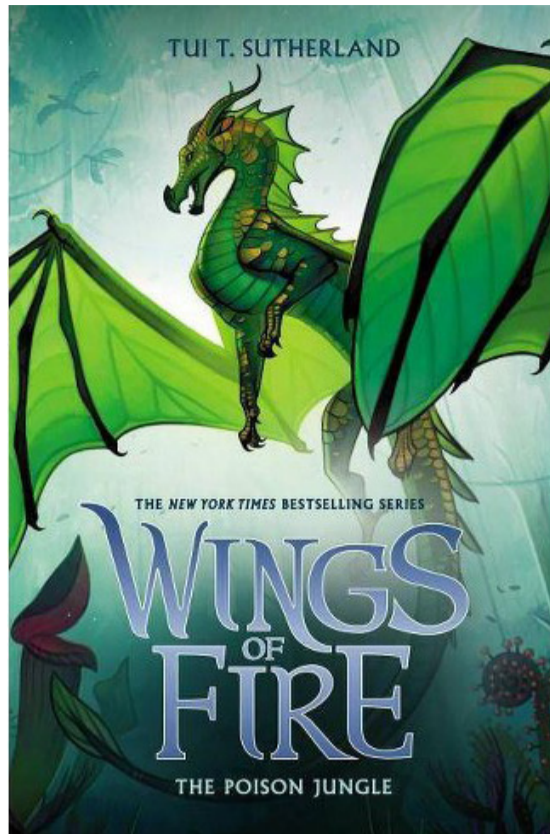
Also, the characters have an attitude throughout that's positive and can-do, which is often much better than the pessimistic attitude that some book characters have.

Moreover, they realize that they have to work for their success, and they're willing to get dirty and put serious effort in, which is starting to become rarer in everyday life.

Sutherland also does a great job of adding a few odd things in, like how one of the breeds of dragon can spin silk, which is a pretty unique ability, and there are dozens of other examples of her ingenuity, like how in some of her earlier books, there was a breed of dragons that can only breathe fire in warm temperatures, an idea I'd never seen before.

I enjoyed this book and expect that a large portion of young fantasy readers will appreciate it, too.

Despite being a bit more geared to older readers than earlier parts of the series, it's still a great kid's book, and a chip right off the rest of the series' block.



By Thatcher Mulholland, 13, a CK Reporter from Broomfield

# YouTube fined for misusing kids' information

**T**he Children's On-Line Privacy Protection Act is a federal law intended to protect young web surfers from giving up personal information or being unfairly targeted for advertising.

The main rule is that websites intended for kids under 13 are not allowed to collect personal information about kids.

You can set up a character there to keep track of how you do in games, but doing that can't require you to tell them your real name, your email, your home address, your birth date or other personal information.

The website is also not allowed to store cookies that let them send you ads for their own products or to sell your information to other companies so that they can show you advertisements.

This is easy enough to understand for websites that are really just for kids.

It's a little trickier for websites that kids enjoy but that are for all ages.

For instance, when COPPA first came along, Sports Illustrated didn't have to worry about it too much. The magazine and its website are popular with kids, but they're not just for kids.

However, SI Junior, their website for kids, had to start being careful how it handled information about its visitors, because it was a site for kids.

Now YouTube is in trouble for the way it has been dealing with young viewers and was fined \$170 million dollars for violating COPPA.

YouTube is for all ages, but it has certain types of videos that are clearly and specifically aimed at kids.



You can think of it as being like a bookstore with different sections for people with different interests.

But, just as that bookstore owner would put kids' books all in one part of the store, YouTube was aware that kids were visiting often to see the videos that were intended for them.

How can we tell? Because YouTube was telling advertisers how easily they could reach kids with their messages if they advertised on YouTube.

YouTube has agreed to stop collecting information about viewers of kid-oriented videos and to require

those who post videos to identify them if they are aimed at children.

In addition, kids will no longer be able to comment on videos without their parents' permission, and anyone posting kids' videos without identifying them properly as aimed at young viewers may get fined as well.

\$170 million isn't a huge amount to a big company like YouTube, which is owned by Google. YouTube earns about that much in profits every two days.

Still, it's a good reminder to on-line companies that COPPA is real, and matters.

## Sudoku

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

**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

**It's Columbus Day! At least, it's the birthday of Chris Columbus, director and producer of many very popular films including three Harry Potters and two Percy Jacksons, so our answers this week will begin with "C" for his initials.**

1. The biggest city in Illinois, though it isn't the capital.
2. A baby whale
3. bcd fghjklmnpqrstvwxyz
4. The player who hikes the football to the quarterback
5. Leather trousers without a back or seat worn to protect a cowboy's legs as he rides through brush
6. A type of vulture found in California or the Andes Mountains
7. Author of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"
8. Havana is its capital
9. Only US President elected twice but not in two elections in a row
10. The count of people living in the United States that is made every 10 years as required by the Constitution

(answers on Page Four)

# Michigan's governor plans to make flavored vape oils illegal

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer is about to make her state the first to ban flavored vaping oils.

Whitmer announced the plan, which only needs the agreement of the state's Department of Health and Human Services, because of her concern that companies are using the flavors to attract young people.

"Companies selling vaping products are using candy flavors to hook children on nicotine and misleading claims to promote the belief that these products are safe," Whitmer said. "That ends today."

Under the new rules, companies will only be allowed to sell flavorless or tobacco-flavored vape oils.

The vaping industry is unhappy, claiming that the move will harm those trying to quit smoking and that vaping businesses will go out of business if they can no longer sell fun-flavored oils.

However, Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services is investigating several cases of lung infections there apparently caused by vaping, and the US Center for Disease Control is looking into more lung disease cases across the country that seem to have been caused by e-cigarettes.

Some cities, including San Francisco, have banned e-cigarette sales, but this is the first time a state has moved to regulate vaping.





# 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

YouTube Fined

Michigan Vaping Law

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

# Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



## Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits

Visit the Denver Museum of Nature and Science starting September 13 and go inside the minds and bodies of extreme athletes to explore the psychology of their motivations and learn about the science behind some of the riskier sports, such as wingsuit flying, ice and rock climbing, parkour, free diving, and much more.

"Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits" focuses on the environments in which extreme athletes perform: in the air, on snow and ice, in the water, on the rocks, and on the ground. You will experience these sports through profiles of international athletes illustrating amazing commitment and perseverance. Immersive exhibits and hands-on activities showcase the science, creativity, and innovation in extreme sports and inspire you to learn more about your own personal limits.

The Museum enhanced the experience with profiles of several extreme athletes from Colorado and a Ninja course built by Ninja Nation.

You'll have a chance to virtually race the backcountry slopes, get a sense of balancing along a high-line, discover what it's like to pilot a wingsuit, take a virtual leap off of a cliff, traverse kid-sized climbing walls for everyone that test grip and flexibility, snuggle into a portaledge hanging tent and imagine dozing off on a rock ledge, test your concentration abilities and your inclination to participate in extreme activities and run that ninja course (Be sure to wear sensible shoes, not flip-flops or high heels!).

For more details, visit <https://www.dmns.org/visit/exhibitions/extreme-sports/>

## CK Calendar

### Saturday, September 21

Sensory friendly evening of the "Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits" exhibit, designed for those who need to dial back the sensory stimulation. Enjoy some low-sensory time with reduced sound, increased lighting, and a supportive environment for families with sensory integration issues. Spots limited, registration recommended. 6-8 pm, details at <https://bit.ly/2jWNXYf>

### 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>

### Wednesday, September 25

"60 Minutes in Space," 7 p.m., Gates Planetarium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Go "behind the stories" in space science using the best images and animation available to help understand new developments. Seating is limited to first come, first served. Please use the Main Entrance on the North side of the Museum. For details, <https://www.dmns.org/visit/events-and-activities/>

### 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, September 27

"Maize in the City" opens. This colossal collection of corn mazes and other activities in Thornton offers a variety of activities for people of all ages. For ticket prices and other details, visit <https://www.maizeinthecity.com/>

### 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>

### Friday - Sunday, October 11-13

Pumpkin Festival, Chatfield Farms. Includes pony rides, horse-drawn hayrides, photo booths, carnival games, barrel train ride, mini-corn maze for kids 10 and under, jumping pillow, express face painting and chance to purchase a pumpkin from the patch. Ticket prices vary, see <https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/pumpkin-festival>

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Chicago 2. calf 3. consonants 4. center 5. chaps (chaparejos)  
6. condor 7. (Eric) Carle 8. Cuba 9. (Grover) Cleveland 10. Census

# ColoradoKids

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