



CK Reporter of the Week
Ariana Bates-Erich, Arvada

Riordan's latest is not his best

"Nine from the Nine Worlds," by Rick Riordan, has many things that his other books have, such as humor, mythology, and quests.

There are many jokes in the book that will make you laugh.

The mythology is present in the story but it's not that descriptive compared to the other books; this doesn't contain that much information about Norse mythology.

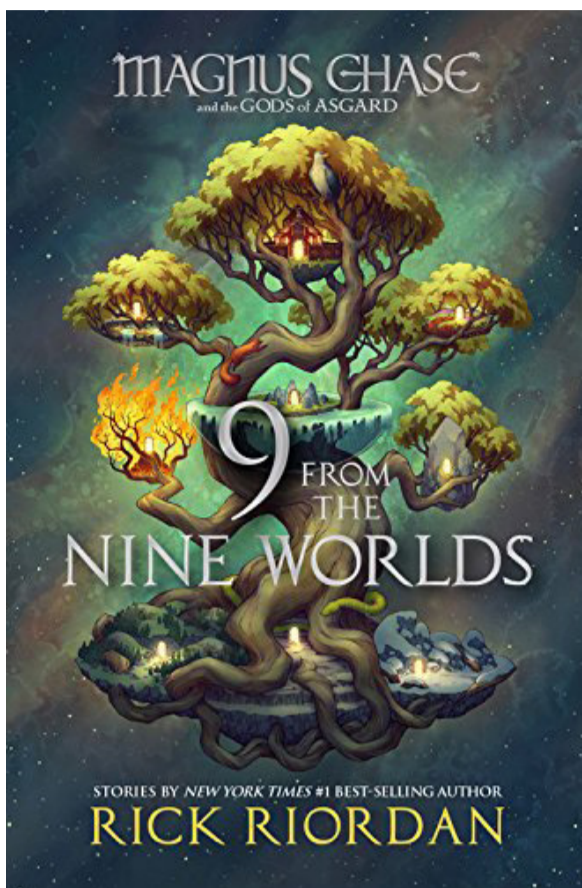
The short description of the story says that it was made to help the reader understand more about these types of myths, but it may not do so.

It all starts when Odin tries to choose a new head Valkyrie, Amir wears the wrong clothes, Blitzen has to stop a revenge hungry dwarf, Hearthstone has to save a old friend, Samirah has to take a picture of an egg, T.J has to bring a killer dog back home, Mallory helps a dragon, Halfborn is looking for the scales of a dragon, and Alex has to stop Surt.

It also says that it is a good read for fun and I agree with that.

The quests aren't like the others because they are short stories and they can't have a whole plot unfold and make one quest into a whole book. This makes them not be as substantial as his novels.

Even though this is a sequel to the Magnus Chase



series, Magnus isn't included in the book, except for his name being mentioned.

All of the characters in this edition have their own perspectives, which is similar to the Heroes of Olympus series and the Demigod Diaries, and so, if you wanted a book with the characters from the trilogy then you'll probably like this book.

The short stories aren't connected with each other, except for the few details that tell the reader that all of these events happened over the duration of a day.

Since the book is a continuation of a series it's probably better if you read the three books in the series before you read this one because it has some references to the other books, but it is okay if you don't.

I recommend this book for 9 to 15-year-olds because they will probably like it more than other age groups, but, if you want to read this book, I think you should borrow it from the library first and if you like it then you can buy it, but it is more of a one-time read.



By Suhani Agarwal,
13, a CK Reporter
from Centennial

Women at War

When most people our age think about why the Allies won WWII, they think about things like the Marines storming Iwo Jima, brave naval officers taking Guadalcanal and the pilots who dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

These are all reasons why the Allies won WWII.

But these answers overlook a crucial element in the war: the Homefront.

Not all military personnel were men, and not all fought overseas.

Liza Mundy's book, "Code Girls," tells the story of the many women working all over the United States, who secretly broke codes in WWII and contributed to the Allied victory over Germany, Japan and Italy.

Like me, you may not know much about the role of codebreaking in war, but after reading this book, you will understand the importance of codebreaking and the important role it played in WWII.

Most important, you will have learned about the role women played in this effort, something that was not acknowledged during or in the years after the war.

In fact, the women who broke code during WWII were prohibited from talking about their work, and were threatened with jail time if they

revealed the truth about their work.

Not even their families knew the truth.

As far as they were concerned, their daughters, wives and sisters were secretaries.

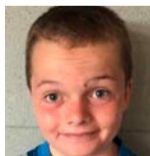
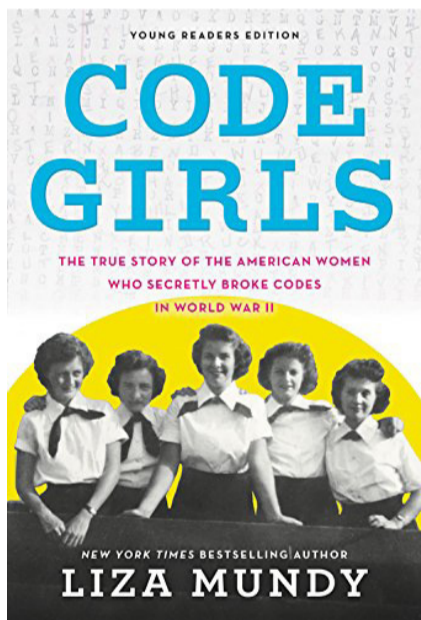
At 207 pages, Mundy's book is a bit longer than some literature for young adults, but shorter than many other books about the history of WWII.

Mundy organizes the book around the different locations in the United States where the female code breakers worked, and each section tells the story of individual women who worked there.

Each story is unique, like that of

Ann Caracristi, a college student who washed her hair with laundry soap, and broke the Japanese water transport code!

I highly recommend Code Girls, particularly for any readers interested in history, mathematics or the role of women in history that textbooks do not always address.



By Aiden Muldoon,
11, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Barista Bar is fun but short on supplies

If you like milkshakes, the "Creative Cafe Barista Bar" is for you.

This machine makes delicious froth that you can pour on top of milk, or just drink plain.

The "Barista Bar" is really easy to set up, with all the steps in pictures so that you can follow along with the directions better.

This milkshake maker has spots for everything you need to make a milkshake: holders for spoons, stencils, and powder shakers.

The "Creative Cafe Barista Bar" comes with stencils, spoons, chocolate and strawberry powder, power shakers, styrofoam cups, a plastic measuring cup, and recipes for different milkshakes.

The chocolate and strawberry powders add really good flavor to the milk, but there is hardly any of it.

Don't use the "Barista Bar" for a party, because there is hardly enough of both types of powder for, at maximum, six people.

I have five younger siblings, all under the age of 10, who loved the "Creative Cafe Barista Bar."

They loved pretending that they

were waiters and waitresses at a restaurant.

All the kids enjoyed making designs with the stencils on top of every drink they made. The "Barista Bar" is kind of like a mini Starbucks for them.

I think that kids 6+ would love this machine more than kids younger than this because it's a lot harder for little kids to work the milkshake maker

without breaking it.

But one thing is for sure, kids every age love drinking these delicious beverages!

The "Creative Cafe Barista Bar" costs about \$25, which I think is a perfect price for this.

You might buy this if you have younger kids (6-12) or if you have younger siblings who like cooking.

I really like this toy, but it could be even better if it came with twice the amount of powder.



By Ellie Perak,
11, a CK Reporter
from Denver



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.

Museum fire is tragedy for more than Brazil

When the first reports came out last week that Brazil’s 200-year-old national museum was burning, they called it a tragedy for the nation.

But after more thought, the reports began to call it a tragedy for the world.

The fire broke out last Sunday, September 2, shortly after the museum had closed for the day.

By dawn, despite the best efforts of fire fighters, only the walls of the building were left.

In Brazil, sorrow began to turn to fury: The old museum was a national treasure, and yet it had been allowed to fall into disrepair.

People began to demonstrate in the streets of Rio de Janeiro, protesting that the fire might have been put out if the building had modern fire-fighting systems in place.

Even the fire hydrants outside the museum failed, and water had to be taken from a lake.

And although the cause of the fire has not yet been announced, they also protested that a building with better maintenance might never have caught fire in the first place.

But it did not take long for Brazil’s tragedy to

become a tragedy for the world, as people began to realize that the two million exhibits in the museum were not all from Brazil, not by far.

One good piece of news came fairly soon, as Jews from around the world contacted museum authorities about an ancient Torah, one of the oldest copies of their sacred book, that was at the museum.

Fortunately, that Torah was not on display at the moment, and had been locked in a safe at the nearby university, safely away from the fire.

Other treasures, however, were not so lucky, and mummies from ancient Egypt, native carvings from North America’s Northwest Coast and fossils and stuffed animals from throughout the world, including what may be the oldest human fossil in the Western Hemisphere, were destroyed in the blaze.

Scientists throughout the world mourned the loss of specimens because of the research which such museum collections make possible.

Experts from around the world are coming to Brazil to try to save as much from the ashes and rubble as they can.



Above, the fire raged through the night at Brazil’s National Museum as firefighters struggled to control the blaze, using water from a nearby lake after hydrants failed to work.

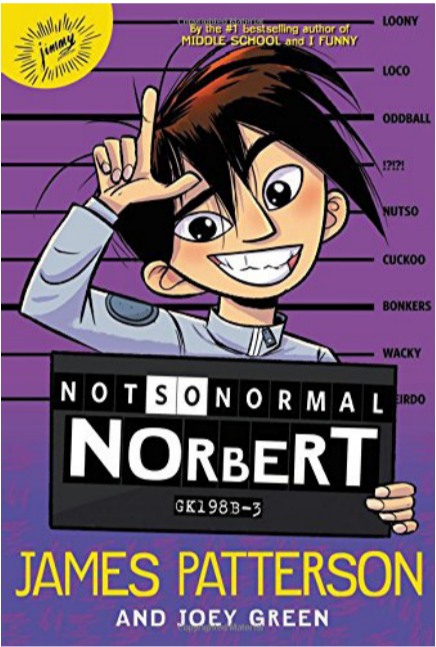


(AP Photo/Leo Correa)

Sometimes, not fitting in can be a good thing

“Not So Normal Norbert,” by James Patterson, is about a seventh grader named Norbert Riddle.

Norbert lives on the planet United State of Earth with his aunt and uncle and goes to Middle School 1022 in Region 54.



the cosmos, for being different and dangerous.

Being stuck on the other side of the universe isn’t going to help Norbert find his parents, who were taken away from him when he was 5.

But Zorquat 3 isn’t that bad.

In fact, it is kind of good.

This book was really fun and I would recommend it to kids around the age of 10 who like comedy, excitement and adventure.

This book was terrific, as each page presented a new bit of excitement.

According to Loving Leader, being original and having an imagination is bad.

The planet is ruled by a dictator named Loving Leader. He makes everyone wear boring gray jumpsuits to all be equal. In fact, everything on the planet is gray and dull.

According to Loving Leader being original and having an imagination is bad.

One day Norbert does a funny impression of Loving Leader and gets caught!

He gets banished to Zorquat 3, a planet on the other side of



By Wesley Schlachter, 11, a CK Reporter from Boulder

Big Nate



Sudoku

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



Brainteaser

California became our 31st state on this date in 1850, so our answers this week will all begin with the letter “C.”

- Major US city at the southwestern tip of Lake Michigan
- Labor leader known as a co-founder of the United Farm Workers
- Small, daisy-like flower used to make a popular type of yellow herbal tea
- Mythological creature with the head, arms and trunk of a man combined with the body of a horse
- Graduate of Denver’s East High, known for his role as “James Rhodes/War Machine” in Avengers movies
- Reed instrument sometimes called a “licorice stick” because of its color
- Pen name of Charles Dodgson, the author of “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”
- San Luis is the seat of this county on Colorado’s southern border
- Bogota is its capital city
- Term for an animal whose diet consists mainly or entirely of meat

(answers on Page Three)

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

Brazil Museum Fire

Nellie Bly's report "10 Days in the Madhouse"

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 Six: Blackwell's Island

Our story so far: Nellie succeeded in making the police, judge and doctor think she is a poor, mentally-ill Cuban woman. Now she has been sent to the "lunatic asylum" on Blackwell's Island!

"What is this place?" Nellie asked the guard who was leading her up from the boat.

"Blackwell's Island," he replied, "an insane place where you'll never get out of!"

The lawns and gardens of Blackwell's Island were beautiful, and the asylum itself was also very attractive, with a great spiral staircase that visitors always commented on. But for those forced to stay there, it was not pleasant at all.

Many of the women at the asylum truly did need help, and, in a world that did not have modern medicines and treatments, a hospital was the only place they could find that help.

But Nellie quickly realized they would not find help on Blackwell's Island.

The asylum was cold, but it was only September, and the heat would not be turned on until October. The nurses had extra clothing; the patients did not.

And the food! Supper was a bowl of five prunes, a thick piece of bread with butter that nobody could stomach and weak, unsweetened tea that tasted of the copper kettle. When they had meat for dinner, it was boiled and tough. When they had fish, it was boiled and tasteless. The boiled potatoes were cold. You could ask for bread without the terrible butter on it, but that wasn't much good, either.

"I cannot tell you of anything which is the same dirty, black color," Nellie reported. "It was hard, and in places nothing more than dried dough. I found a spider in my slice, so I did not eat it."

Once a week, the women stood in line for baths in the same cold water, one after another. The water got dirtier and dirtier, and, when it was changed, the tub was not wiped out before the new water was put in.

Then they were dried off with the same two towels. Clean clothing was only given out once a month, unless visitors were coming.

Nellie was not the only woman in the asylum who didn't really belong there. Some were immigrants who spoke such poor English that they couldn't answer the doctor's questions. Of them, Nellie wrote: "Can such carelessness be excused, I wonder, when it is so easy to get an interpreter?"

Others were mildly retarded, but, as Nellie said, "I have seen many other women ... whose sanity was never questioned, who were not any brighter."

Those who had genuine mental problems were in danger of becoming targets of the staff, who would tease them until they began to act out, and then would beat them for it.

When one old woman was dragged away and beaten, Nellie "told some of the physicians of the occurrence, but they did not pay any attention to it."

Nellie had planned to act violent so she could find out what happened in the parts of the asylum where those patients were kept, but after hearing from some who had been there, she decided not to.

The story wasn't worth broken bones, and a dead reporter wouldn't be able to write any story at all.

As it was, Nellie was getting plenty of information just acting like one of the regular patients. And yet she wasn't just one of the regular patients: She was still the pretty young Cuban woman about whom the judge had worried so much.

Sometimes, people came to the asylum looking for missing wives, sisters or daughters. They would always be taken to see the mysterious Cuban girl.

But reporters also came from time to time, and Nellie was horrified one day to come to the visitors' area and see a familiar face: A reporter she had known since her days in Pittsburgh!

"I saw by the sudden blanching of his face and his inability to speak that the sight of me was wholly unexpected and had shocked him terribly," she wrote.

Determined to deny it if he announced who she was, she found a moment while the nurse was distracted to whisper "Don't give me away!"

"Do you know her?" the nurse asked.

"No, this is not the young lady I came in search of," the reporter answered.

He may have been the only reporter who visited Blackwell's Island to see the mysterious girl and didn't write a story about it.

The Sun ran a front page story about "the most peculiar case that ever came into the hospital." The Times wrote about the "mysterious waif." The Herald and the Evening Telegram also carried stories about her. How Col. Cockerill and Joseph Pulitzer must have laughed!

And yet having their fearless girl reporter on Blackwell's Island was no laughing matter.

"The insane asylum on Blackwell's Island is a human rat-trap," Nellie wrote. "It is easy to get in, but once there it is impossible to get out."

Finally, she was called down to meet a visitor who was not a curious reporter, but an attorney sent by The World to get her out. He didn't announce who she was, however, but merely said she had friends who were willing to take charge of her and that she didn't have to stay in the asylum anymore. Nellie, of course, agreed to leave.

And yet, she wrote, it wasn't easy to walk away from the women she had met. "For ten days, I had been one of them. Foolishly enough, it seemed intensely selfish to leave them to their sufferings."

But she was not going to leave them to their sufferings.

She was going to write a series that would turn Blackwell's Island upside down.

Next Week: The Famous Nellie Bly!

text copyright Mike Peterson, illustrations copyright Christopher Baldwin, 2002

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Chicago 2. (Cesar) Chavez 3. chamomile 4. centaur
5. (Don) Cheadle 6. clarinet 7. (Lewis) Carroll 8. Costilla County
9. Colombia 10. carnivore

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.

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

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

Denver Post Educational Services
5990 Washington St.
Denver CO 80216
(303) 954-3974
(800) 336-7678

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.



ColoradoNIE.com