



CK Reporter of the Week  
Ellie Perak, Denver

## Authors explain working as a team



**“T**he Dark Deep” has two authors known for other books, Ally Condie (“Matched,” “Atlantia”) and Brendan Reichs (“Nemesis,” “Genesis”). At a recent Tattered Cover appearance, they said that some of their hobbies and passions are soccer, their kids, golf, and skiing. The reason that they became authors is because they didn’t like their old careers. Brendan had originally wanted to be a lawyer, but it turned out to be a too serious job for an energetic guy. The problem Allie had was that she didn’t have time to write because of her job as a teacher. The places that they go in the book are made up, but based on the coast of Washington. They decided to work together on the book because they had been friends for awhile, and they were getting master’s degrees at the same time. While they were writing the book, they wrote out the lines together, and then each of them wrote every other chapter and had the other person edit it. The main trouble they had in creating the novel, they said, is that the book is in third person, so the authors had to work to make their views blend. After my interview, the authors made a short speech and then let the audience at the Tattered Cover Book Store ask them questions. They also personalized some posters and signed any books that were brought. You also had the opportunity to buy the book. They asked us a few questions too, and we had a speed round of “Would you rather . . .?” The authors were very friendly and did a great job of keeping everyone happy even with the bad weather outside. They also described their other books and everyone had a ton of fun. I would recommend going to the Tattered Cover for other author presentations and keeping an eye out for other fun events. I’m also looking forward to other books from these authors and future interviews.

## Team’s book has come out just in time for Halloween!

**“T**he Darkdeep” is about four kids and a bully. The bully takes one of the kid’s drones and flies it into Still Cove which has a steep cliff and really cold, icy water.

This is a place where most things don’t return from. There is a big cloud of fog over it, and it is rumored to have a monster living in it.

After the kids climb down the sheer cliff to get the drone, they realize that they do not find a drone but instead they find something much, much bigger.

The friends -- Nico, Tyler, and Emma -- end up with Opal as they try to figure out what the darkdeep is.

Nico is the son of a park ranger who shut down the timber mill, the city’s most productive company, to preserve a species of owls which causes Nico to get bullied.

Nico is a bit shy but when he does open up, his personality is really intense.

He either likes you or he doesn’t. Nothing in between.



Tyler is much shier than Nico and is Nico’s friend.

He is afraid of almost everything and believes that there is a sea monster in Still Cove, but he will do anything to help Emma who is a special friend to him.

Emma is very outgoing. She doesn’t really think in the moment and is impulsive. She doesn’t have much fear.

Opal starts out as the bully’s friend, but throughout the story we see her personality change a bit.

Logan is the bully. He is the son of the owner of the timber mill that was closed down. He is a rich, popular kid.

He hates Nico with a burning passion. The Darkdeep is a swirling well that if touched will consume the item that touches it and spit it out on the other side of the lake.

There is a house boat built around it to conceal it. Every time someone goes through the Darkdeep, they make a figment.

A figment is basically like a dream come true.

For example, if you are thinking of Godzilla when you go into the Darkdeep, when you come out there will be a Godzilla on the other side that disappears after a few minutes.

However as the kids kept jumping into the Darkdeep, the figments get stronger and stronger and eventually started to form on their own.

This is a horror book, and I would recommend it. It was a really enjoyable, but it was not easy as the plot can get confusing at times.

By the end of the book, however, you’ve put all the pieces together and have it figured out.



Interview, review and photograph by Ben Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

## Short, enjoyable book for young, and older, readers

**“W**icked Nix” by Lena Coakley is about a young fairy named Nix who has been tasked with protecting the forest from dangerous humans.

When one of these people thinks he can live in there, it’s up to Nix to kick him out or trick him out before the queen comes back and sees the human.

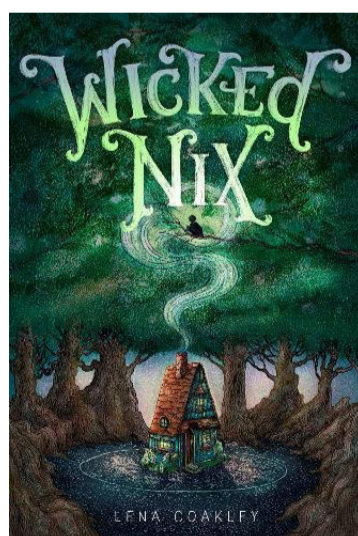
Not everything is black and white, though.

The new human won’t leave, and there’s something he reminds Nix of...

“Wicked Nix” uses Irish and Scottish mythology and spins it into a new story that younger kids will like.

This book is for kids ages 8-10. This is a short story too, only 176 pages.

It had a really simple vocabulary, but the story was interesting,



so older kids can still get meaning out of it.

While the premise of the book is fairies and legends, “Wicked Nix” also has a message of finding out who you are while keeping who you are right now relevant.

This message can get through to kids because it’s seen through the eyes of someone just like them, rebellious and a little wild.

The beautiful illustrations by Jaime Zollars really add a sense of authenticity to the story.



By Sylvia Goodman, 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial



## 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](mailto:dplewka@denverpost.com).

# Fourth in series brings more adventure

**"The Last Kids on Earth and the Cosmic Beyond,"** by Max Brallier, is an illustrated novel set in a post-monster-apocalypse town called Wakefield.

The monster apocalypse had happened a year ago and this is the first winter since then.

The main character is a kid named Jack Sullivan. He lives in a treehouse with Quint Baker and Dirk Savage his two friends.

He also lives with June Del Toro his true love.

The other inhabitants of Wakefield are friendly monsters including one named Bartle.

People who like characters who are absent-minded cool kids would like Jack.

People who like characters that improvise would like any of the four main characters because they improvised a lot.

I especially liked Jack.

The story starts off when Jack, Quint, Dirk and June find a message on a radio that says that there are more humans.

In the book, the author does not go into detail, but people just starting out with the 4th book in the series would probably want to know how and where they got the radio.

Also, the pictures in the book were not very descriptive but the author did put annotations so that helped.

I do think that the pictures got better with fewer annotations as the book progressed.

So they get into their car "Big Mama" and start driving but, have to stop when there is a snowstorm. *(It was very cool that the author named the car.)*

Then, they decide to catapult themselves off the top off their treehouse in a toboggan.

What Jack and his friends don't know is that they will not only be catapulted into snow but they will be catapulted into something much bigger and darker, something that will threaten their world and the universe beyond.

The 272-page book was funny and I would definitely read the other books in the Last Kids on Earth series.

I would recommend this book for kids who are around ten who like science fiction and action-packed hybrid novels.



By Wesley Schlachter, 11, a CK Reporter from Boulder

# Magical contest, spiced with sibling rivalry

**"Wizardmatch,"** by Lauren Magaziner, is the story of a girl named Lennie Mercado who has the simple magical power of invisibility.

She can now hold her single invisibility for 15 seconds, which she is extremely proud of.

This brunette wishes to have more than one power though.

Her chance comes when her grandfather, or "Poppop" decides to retire and step down from his position.

This eventful and humorous story was an interesting and fairly quick read of about 295 pages.

Besides its expected humor, it also included some stunning cover image art and was written very creatively and well.

In my opinion this book was aimed at a slightly younger age range than me, about 5th or 7th graders.

It was a short read, but, regardless of age group or reading level, I really enjoyed this book and it did indeed make me laugh to myself and, again, it was written wonderfully.

Though "Wizardmatch" may have been not much of an advanced read, it was still a joy and definitely something others would like, regardless of the recommended age group.

After all, what would you do for all powers and overwhelming control, even if it meant sibling sabotage and out of control rivalry?

This eventful and humorous story was an interesting and fairly quick read

With this shocking event occurring, his grandchildren from all around come to compete to win all the powers and become next Prime Wizard.

Sibling rivalry at its highest to compete to win it all or lose it all becomes known as none other than Wizardmatch.



By Katherine Gagner, 13, a CK Reporter from Boulder

# Big Nate



# Dogs want to learn new words; It pleases their humans



**H**ow much do dogs understand language?

For instance, if you say "Get in the car," does your dog really understand the words you said, or does he know that, when you open the car door, he should get in?

With the help of some dogs who have been trained to stay very still in an MRI device, researchers at Emory University came up with an experiment.

First, they taught the dogs the

names of two different toys, and to fetch the one named.

For Eddie, seen in this picture, it was soft little "Monkey" and hard, squeaky "Piggy."

Eddie's owner would then stand in front of the MRI machine and say "Monkey" several times, then hold up Monkey, and do the same with Piggy.

The MRI would read Eddie's brain waves to see how he responded to familiar names.

Then the owner might say "Monkey" but hold up a Barbie doll. Or the owner might say a nonsense word and hold up Piggy.

Here's the interesting thing: The dogs reacted just the opposite way people do to words they've never heard before.

Their brains fired up even more for the new words. Researchers think they may be trying to understand and please their humans.

photo/ Gregory Berns, Emory University

# Marbles, magnetism, gravity a solid recipe

**G**ravitrax is a new and incredible type of marble track.

By using magnets, gravity, and motion, kids can have fun with a whole new level of marble track. Instead of just being a set of tubes to roll a marble in, you can use railways, sharp turns, and propelling magnets to experiment.

The kit comes with a cardboard grid that you can easily assemble.

I think that anyone who likes to build and experiment with physics should get this toy.

By inserting the plastic pieces in the holes in the grid, you can make sure everything is stable.

You can also use the grid spacing to measure the distances and easily connect railways.

How the railways work is an easy and short method.

The plastic pieces that have turns, intersections and more on them also have small holes on the edge of the marble track.

The railways end in rods, and then, when you insert the rod into the hole, it holds steady and makes the marble run smoothly over larger pieces of grid.

The kit also comes with stackable plastic pentagons used to increase height and



allow gravity to do its job.

Without gravity and elevation, the only way for a marble to move is through the magnet propeller.

How the magnet works is, you line up two of the small metal marbles on one side of the metal magnet/divider, and none on the other, then when a metal marble approaches the empty side, the magnet pulls the ball towards it and the energy is transferred through the metal balls, causing the force to be transferred to the ball on the double side of the track, making it move forward.

This is similar to the Newton's Cradle device, where energy is transferred through metal balls.

The Gravitrax starter kit comes with 122 pieces, but you can also buy add on packs with different momentum manipulators.

On Amazon, the main starter kit costs about \$57, which, is pretty pricey.

Although it is a bit expensive, though, I really enjoyed this new style of marble run, and I think that anyone who likes to build and experiment with physics should get this toy.



By Jack Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

# A century ago, influenza hit the world hard



Soldiers from Fort Riley, Kansas, ill with Spanish influenza at a hospital ward. (Photo/US Army, via Wikimedia)

The First World War ended 100 years ago next month, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

But, although the shooting stopped, the death did not.

This week is the 100th anniversary of the start of a flu pandemic that broke out shortly before the end of the war and killed 50 million people worldwide.

The war was part of what made this pandemic so widespread and deadly.

Troops were concentrated in small areas, often with poor sanitation, a perfect environment for the flu virus to spread.

In addition, these troops were from all around the world, so they didn't share the sorts of immunities people would have who lived in a single community, and large numbers of men were often moved from one place to another, bringing the flu virus with them.

And it's also important to remember when this was happening: Viruses would not be discovered for another dozen years, so not only did doctors not know just what caused the flu, but they had no vaccines with which to fight it.

They also had no antibiotics yet for people who came down with pneumonia as a result of the flu.

This particular strain of influenza is called "Spanish Flu," but it didn't really start in Spain.

The name comes from the fact that Spain was a neutral nation. Because it was not involved in the war, news organizations were not being restricted in what they could report.

As a result, much of the early reporting about the fast-spreading disease came from Spain, and so it was called "Spanish flu" before people realized that it was really everywhere.

As you see in the chart, the greatest number of deaths from the flu came from October to December of 1918.

You can also see that the largest bulge was just

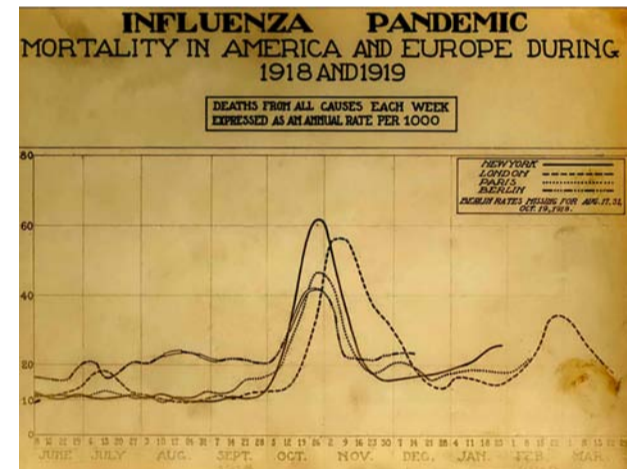
before the war ended on November 11.

As soldiers began to return home, they brought the flu virus along with them.

The pandemics were no longer concentrated in military camps but began to spread through civilian areas as well.

The most anyone could do was to make patients as comfortable as possible and try to keep people who were ill isolated from those who were not.

Today, influenza remains a serious health problem, and people are urged to get flu shots to help prevent the disease.



graphic/Wikimedia

## Sudoku

			3	1	
4					
				5	1
	4		6		
			5	3	
	6	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

**Edson Arantes do Nascimento, widely believed to be the greatest soccer player and one of the greatest athletes of all time, was born in Brazil on this date in 1940, so our answers will begin with "P" for his nickname, "Pelé."**

1. Around Christmas, you might hear about these birds perching in pear trees.
2. The conquistador who invaded Peru and destroyed the Inca Empire.
3. Manila is the capital of this nation of many islands.
4. Author and illustrator of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," "The Tale of Benjamin Bunny" and "The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher," among others.
5. In Roman mythology, he is the god of the Underworld, and of the dead.
6. This Venetian merchant is famous for traveling the Silk Road to China before any other Europeans, and also for being a game children play in swimming pools.
7. Two P's in this Mark Twain story of a royal boy and a poor boy switching places.
8. The partial shadow in a lunar eclipse
9. One-time steel town south of Colorado Springs on I-25
10. This endangered Asian mammal is also called a "scaly anteater."

(answers on Page Four)

## 'Routine launch' tests safety procedures

**W**hen a Soyuz rocket failed to launch properly on October 11, there was plenty of bad news to go around.

The spacecraft had lifted off from the launch site in Kazakhstan correctly, but soon began to shake as a booster rocket failed to separate properly.

The mission was aborted, leaving NASA astronaut Nick Hague and cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin the task of going through their emergency procedures in order to return safely to Earth.

The capsule automatically separated and began its descent back to Earth, where parachutes slowed it down for what was still a very rough landing.

Hague said later that, since this was his first launch,

he relied on the more experienced Ovchinin to let him know what was normal and what was not, but, of course, very little is normal when a flight has been canceled halfway into orbit.

The bad news was, first of all, that they would not get to join the other three people in the International Space Station, and, worse, that there will be no more flights until the problems that had caused the emergency had been figured out.

But the good news was that the safety procedures and equipment on the Soyuz craft worked exactly as they were designed to work.

Hague and Ovchinin were soon back at the cosmodrome, safe and sound.

photo/NASA



# 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

Dogs and Language

"Spanish Flu"

Soyuz Safety

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 Twelve: Challenges and Changes

*Our story so far: Nellie returned from her trip around the world to find fame and applause everywhere but at her own workplace. So she quit and signed a contract to write serial stories for young readers.*

Just because you can play the trumpet, that doesn't mean you can play the clarinet. And the best tennis player in the world may not be very good at baseball.

Nellie was a great reporter, that didn't mean she could write good fiction.

Maybe she should have known; Back in 1888, she had written a novel, "The Mystery of Central Park," which didn't sell very many copies despite her fame.

There don't seem to be any issues in libraries of the paper with her serialized adventure stories, so we don't know how good they were.

But however entertaining they may have been, they weren't the beginning of a career in fiction writing for Nellie. At the end of three years, when her contract with the New York Family Story Paper ended, she came back to The World.

But not to exactly the same job as before. When Nellie had been the first of the "girl stunt reporters," every story was a new adventure. But now every paper had stunt reporters, and they were running out of good, new ideas.

Besides, stunt reporting was for cub reporters, and Nellie Bly was no cub.

Instead, she went back to her first interest: Writing about poor working people.

There was plenty for her to write about: 1893 was a bad year for workers and for businesses.

Some companies were closing down completely, and others had to fire some of their workers because they didn't have enough for them to do.

And some companies would just announce that they weren't going to pay their workers as much anymore, even the ones that already worked there. This made the workers mad, of course. Sometimes, they would go on strike, refusing to work until things changed the way they wanted them to.

There weren't many laws then about how workers should be treated, or what was fair and legal during a strike. Some business owners would just hire other workers. Then it could become violent, because the strikers would beat up those workers.

And sometimes the business owners would hire people to keep the strikers away from the mines or the factory, and that became very violent, too. Sometimes, people died in the violence around these strikes.

It was a scary time, but a very interesting time to be a reporter.

Nellie's first story ran on the front page under the headline: "Nellie Bly Again." In it, she interviewed Emma Goldman, a young woman who had been put in jail for making speeches the police said encouraged strikers to be violent.

Nellie's interview didn't try to show who was right or wrong, but she did ask Goldman questions about her beliefs, and she tried to let readers see what Goldman was like and to let them read her opinions for themselves. That was more than many other reporters had done in covering Goldman.

But Nellie was still Nellie, and she didn't mind putting opinions in her writing. In fact, people looked forward to her stories for just that reason, and she had come back to The World to do that kind of writing.

So when she did a story about the Salvation Army and felt they were not spending money wisely to help the poor, she said so, and gave readers tips on how they could help poor and homeless people themselves.

And when a man named Jacob Coxey organized a march of unemployed people on Washington, Nellie joined other newspaper writers in criticizing "Coxey's Army."

"My whole heart has been with the working man and woman," she wrote, "but I believe in justice and right. I do not think workmen should make a circus of themselves, and I do believe they are strong and powerful enough to right their wrongs in a dignified way and without the aid of selfish and greedy schemers."

When Nellie traveled to Illinois to write about the Pullman strike, she expected to speak out against the strikers in that same way.

By inventing comfortable railroad cars, George Pullman made it easier for people to travel long distances, and that helped the railroads. Better railroads meant there could be more factories all around the country and more jobs.

Pullman built a town near his factory, with houses, schools, churches and parks for the workers. It was hard to understand why they would go on strike, even though their wages had been cut by 25 percent.

But they were on strike, and other railroad workers were refusing to work with any train that had Pullman cars on it. The railroad owners refused to take the Pullman cars off, because they didn't want to help the strikers. And President Cleveland insisted that the trains must run, because otherwise, the mail would not get through.

It was a very bad situation, and Nellie was prepared to write about the ungrateful strikers and how they were hurting America.

Like all good reporters, though, Nellie listened. And when she spoke with the strikers' families, they explained that, when Pullman cut their pay, he didn't cut the rent on their company houses. In the nearby towns, rent was lower, but if you moved out of Pullman, Illinois, you would lose your job at the Pullman factory. Most of the people she talked to didn't want to strike. But they didn't want to lose their homes or go hungry, either.

Nellie changed her mind about the Pullman strike, and she wasn't afraid to say so. "What I had seen and heard in Pullman had not only converted me into a striker, but had left me very despondent as to the ultimate fate of the employed, men and women."

In the coming months, however, it was Nellie's own fate that would take some unexpected turns.

## Next Week: Nellie Bly, Businesswoman

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



## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. partridge 2. Pizarro 3. Philippines 4. (Beatrix) Potter 5. Pluto  
6. (Marco) Polo 7. The Prince and the Pauper 8. penumbra  
9. Pueblo 10. pangolin

# ColoradoKids

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free of charge for classroom use.  
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