



CK Reporter of the Week
Ashley Gaccetta, Longmont

Fresh humor in a 'rotten' musical

Shakespeare is everything Nick Bottom wants to be: Rich, popular and a famous playwright. But how can he step out of the Bard's shadow and into the spotlight? Watch and see as "Something Rotten!" appears at the Buell Theater on its way around the country!

"Something Rotten!" is a Broadway musical set in Elizabethan London, where Nick and Nigel Bottom are struggling to make a living off of writing plays.

Desperate for an idea, Nick goes to a soothsayer who reveals the next big thing: musicals!

Further help from the soothsayer turns their new play into a hectic mash-up of musical elements from many beloved Broadway shows, including "A Chorus Line," "West Side Story," and many more.

The eclectic nature of the show leads to an opening for a multitude of jokes to rain down on the audience.

A knowledge of most Broadway musicals and Shakespeare will give you insight into a completely different level of the show.

For instance, the title itself pays homage to the line "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" from Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

However, even if you aren't a musical theater aficionado or an avid Shakespeare fan, there is still a plethora of jokes to keep you laughing the entire time.

The vividly colored costumes appear extremely accurate, except for a few deviations from the Elizabethan style for artistic purposes.

For example, Shakespeare's attire looks not unlike those of a modern rockstar, including leather jackets and a spiked shirt collar.

The set designs are brilliant, with Shakespeare's theater in the round also serving a multitude of other purposes, such as a rehearsal room and the interior of Nick Bottom's house.

The flat painted drop-down screens are exquisite, showing great care and detail. Overall, the design and



photo/Joan Marcus

detail of the show is impressive.

The phenomenal acting is no less than one might expect from Broadway, with actors who cross the line between playing, and being, their character.

"Something Rotten!" runs at the Buell Theater until October 29, with an ASL interpreted, audio-described, and open-captioned performance on October 29.

It is suitable for children 13 and up, due to mild swearing and extremely subtle mature content that

more likely than not would go over the heads of the younger audiences.

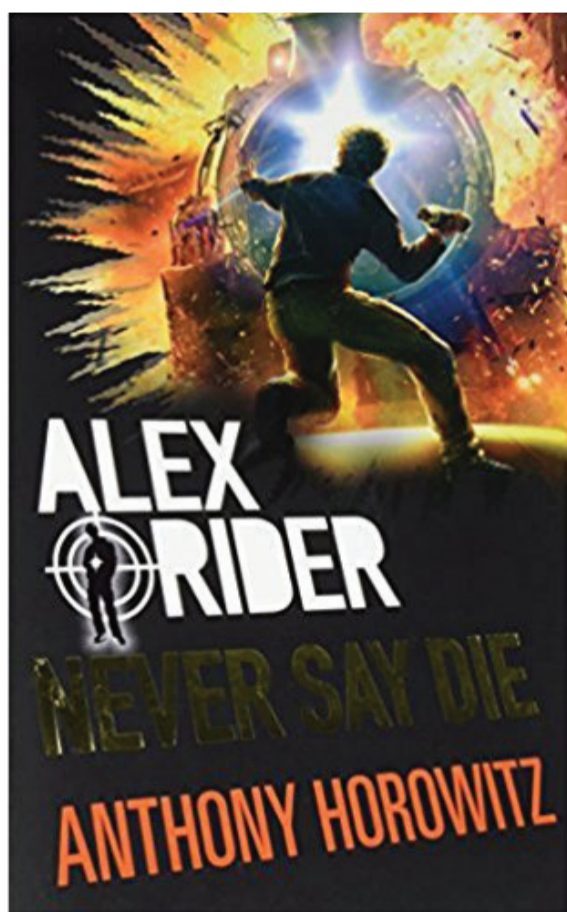
From the captivating actors to the genius design and script, this is a performance well worth seeing.

(E)ven if you aren't a musical theater aficionado or an avid Shakespeare fan, there is still a plethora of jokes to keep you laughing the entire time.



By Maria Ciobanu, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Alex Rider continues to provide action, thrills



"Alex Rider: Never Say Die," by Anthony Horowitz, is the thrilling tale of a child spy from London.

Alex works for secret security team MI6, which was using technology and some of the best-trained agents in the world to fight terrorism.

He must travel around the world to find his presumed dead nanny, and to wash away the horrid memories of his past.

Alex needs lots of help to get his nanny back, though, from people like Colonel Ali Manzour, the head of the Jihad Amn Al Daoula, the Egyptian State Security Service.

Alex grew up with two bullies at his school. He "took care of them" by using the art of Aikido, a Japanese martial art that he learned when his uncle was still alive.

Aikido is a form of defense that is entirely non-aggressive. Its aim is to bring the attacker under control without the necessity of inflicting injury.

And more than strength, it demands relaxation in both body and mind.

Alex has endured many horrors in the past, like watching a clip of his nanny supposedly blowing up in a Jeep while she was escaping the hold of some terrorists.

Alex was strapped to a chair watching the video only 4 - 5 hundred feet away, in a fort in southern Egypt, just outside the town of Siwa.

He later leads the attack on the fort he was contained in.

This is a great book that, at 350 pages, is of average length.

This would be a great book for kids aged 12 and up, because if you are younger than 12 you might not do as well with the violence and gore described in the book.

This is the eleventh book in the popular series and there will be a twelfth book coming out in the future.



By Jack Vanourek, 12, 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 ColoradoNIE.com or by emailing dplewka@denverpost.com.

American Girl now has kits, and a boy

American Girl recently teamed up with MegaConstrux to make new building sets to go with the American Girl Dolls of the Year.

With "Lanie's Camping Trip," you can build a camper for the Doll of the Year from 2010, Lanie.

The set is geared toward kids eight and up, mostly because of choking hazards for anyone younger.

In the box, there is an activity/instruction book as well as six packages of building blocks and the American Girl Mini Figure with a block for her to stand on.

At the beginning of the manual there is a short story about Lanie and it tells you how to customize her mini-figure before the instructions begin.

The mini-figure itself has painted-on facial features as well as leggings and shoes, but the vest, dress and hair on the doll are plastic and removable for customization purposes.

It seems that the head, torso and shoes are also removable.

As for quality, the limbs are posable, which makes the doll more fun and the hair and facial features, although they are plastic, both look very realistic.

However, the smooth vinyl-like material of the body is easy to get dirty and scratch.

When you start building, you'll find that there are different packages of blocks, but they are not labeled, so you just have to look inside the package and compare the blocks to the one in the instructions to see which package to use.

Other than that, the instructions are fairly straightforward and are even color-coded to show you where to place the pieces, though the lack of markings

on the packages still led to some confusion when following the steps.

One part of the instructions that was helpful was that if there was something you had to build separately and then put on, it gave a picture and some small steps about how to attach the pieces before attaching them to the big product, but the instructions did get confusing at times.

A very helpful part of the instructions is the addition of building tips that are important to making the building process easier.



The final product, after 47 steps, is a wonderful camper set for the mini figure. It looks great and has many special additions like a storage rack, kitchen, and much more.

At times, the blocks were hard to put together but other than that they had very good quality.

This set seemed a little like a knockoff of the Lego Friends Kits, but the kits are unique in their own ways and, while the building

took a little time and there were some flaws, these sets seem great for American Girl fans to heighten their experiences.

It may not be perfect, but American Girl's MegaConstrux Lanie's Camping Trip kit is a lot of fun to assemble and then play with afterwards.

The American Boy Doll, Logan Everett, was released in February of this year, the company's first-ever boy doll.

Logan is Tenney Grant's bandmate and the drummer in her group.

He has short, light brown hair with a side part and painted-on eyebrows, closable gray-blue eyes, and the

normal nose and lips of an American Girl Doll.

The outfit Logan comes in is a teal T-shirt with the words "Play Loud" and a drum set under a blue-green flannel shirt as well as gray jeans and gray sneakers.

Logan is also wearing boxers underneath his pants.

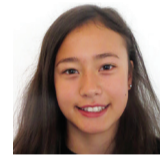
Like other American Girl Dolls, his body is soft cloth while his arms, face, legs, etc. are vinyl.

One special thing about Logan is that his hands are posed so he can hold drum sticks and other instruments.

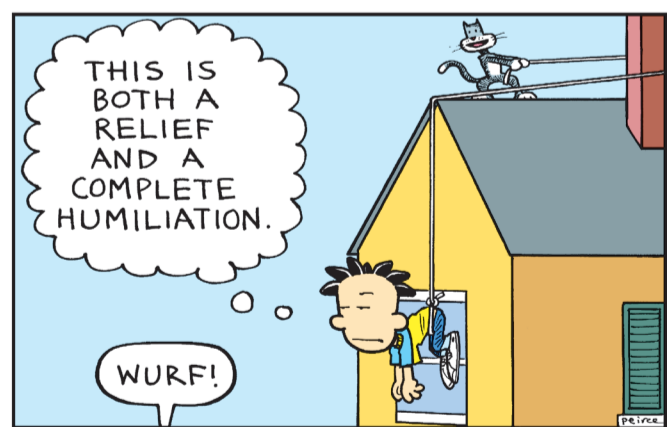
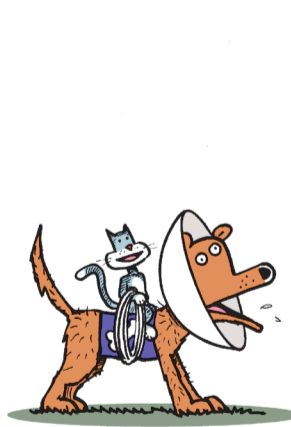
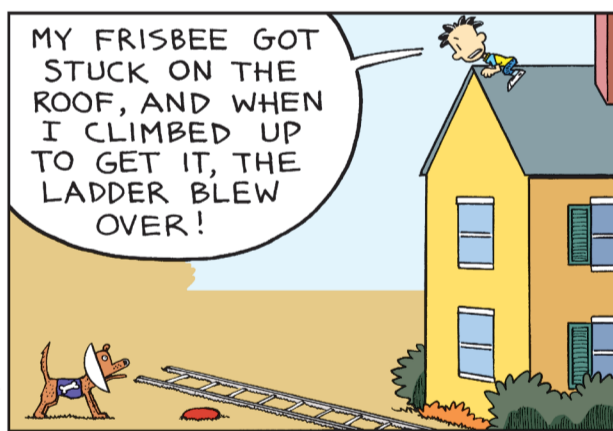
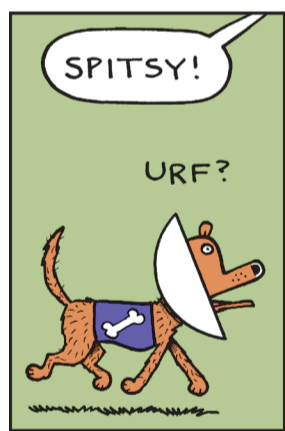
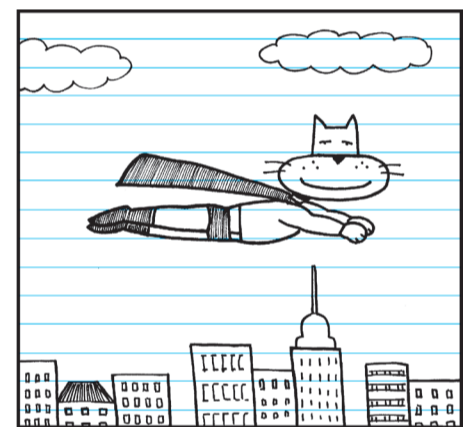
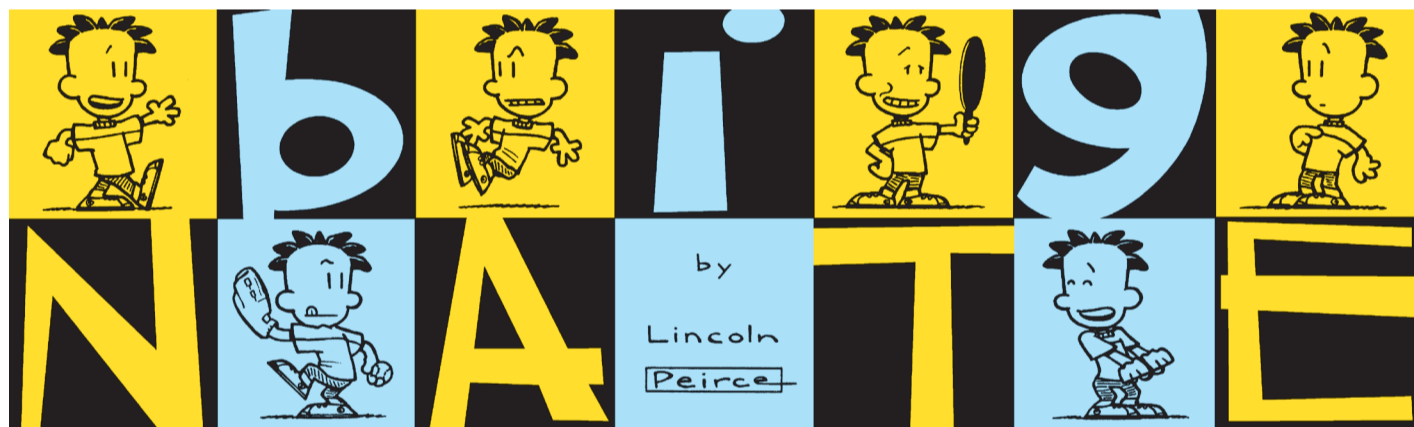
Currently, there is no book about Logan, unlike his companion Tenney, but there is a drum set and performing outfit for the doll.

As for the quality of the doll, everything is the same high quality as a normal American Girl Doll except his hair is a bit coarser and harder to style.

If you're looking for a unique doll with a cool story, Logan would be a great addition even though his wardrobe and accessories are limited at the moment.



By Kayla Mitchiner, 12, a CK Reporter from Golden



Lego will release 'Women of NASA' figures next week



Among the toys being released this holiday season is an important one for people who care about getting girls involved in STEM.

Lego has just announced a new set of minifigs and dioramas based on four women from the American space program.

The four minifigs in the set are based on:

Sally Ride, the first American woman in space.

Software developer Margaret Hamilton, who created on-board

programs for the Apollo missions.

Nancy Grace Roman, who helped develop the Hubble Space Telescope, and

Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman in space.

(The original plans for the set included Katherine Johnson, known from the "Hidden Figures" film, who calculated launch and landing angles for the Apollo project, but there was a problem getting permissions from her family in time to get the Lego set built.)

In addition to the minifigs, the

set includes kits to build three display platforms: One for the two astronauts that includes a Space Shuttle, one for Grace Roman with a model of the Hubble and a third for Hamilton.

The 231-piece set was approved after a suggestion that was made in February received thousands of votes from Lego fans.

In 2014, Lego released the "Research Institute" set with women scientists, after a 7-year-old wrote to complain about a lack of STEM role models for girls in Legos.

Museum exhibit features little-known dinosaurs

The "Ultimate Dinosaurs" travelling exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science has lots to offer for both kids and adults.

It is an exhibit that focuses on the earliest dinosaurs in South America, Africa and Madagascar.

All of the unique dinosaur types in this exhibit are from the Southern Hemisphere and you will see many dinosaur bones, fossils and casts of dinosaur bones.

The little kids at the museum when I was there were not so much into the science part of the exhibit, but they really liked the lab area and the little stations that they could find throughout the exhibit.

The stations have toy dinosaurs and you can play with them and make them do what you want.

A lot of the stations have things that little kids can touch and they seemed to like the stamp collecting, as it was kind of like a scavenger hunt.

The stamp collecting sheet is a paper everyone gets that they can use to remember the names of some of the dinosaurs.

After collecting the stamps, you get to keep the paper.

Each stamping station has an interactive piece of equipment.

For example, one of the stations has a game where you have to match the head to the main body to the tail. Another has a microscope that lets you look at the little creases in the fossils.

The fossil lab is where visitors can work on uncovering the casts of fossils.

The stuff on top that the guests chip away is made of a mixture of sand and cement.

When I was there, this area had a lot of kids busy at work focusing on using a chisel to hit the sand away. These types of activities kept the kids interested.



photo/Ben Vanourek

There is a unique, light-projected video against a wall, showing a herd of dinosaurs migrating. You can walk next to the wall and act like you are a Sauropod walking with the dinosaurs.

For the people who are interested in the science information, there was a ton of it.

There was even a station that showed how fossils are created.

You also get to learn about historic continents such as Pangea and Gondwana (which included all of the continents of the Southern Hemisphere) as well as the modern-day continents and what dinosaurs lived there.

On the Madagascar platform there is a cast of a Majungasaurus skeleton, a pug nosed crocodile, or at least that is its nickname. It was oddly shaped and one of the first dinosaurs to exist.

The Majungasaurus caught my attention, as I had read about them before.

Then, on the Africa platform you can find a Malawisaurus. It lived in the Cretaceous era, which means it lived toward the end of all of the dinosaurs.

It was a sauropod so it had a long neck.

This is an excellent exhibit, and I plan to return at a later date with the rest of my family. The exhibit will be in Denver until January 15.



By Ben Vanourek, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Yellowstone study causes needless worry

Last week, we reported on an asteroid that passed near the Earth, which, while it was quite close, wasn't close enough to worry about.

It was the size of a house, but it was still not large enough to do any massive damage, even if it had been headed for our planet, which it wasn't.

Now here's another science fact that sounds scary but that you probably shouldn't worry too much about.

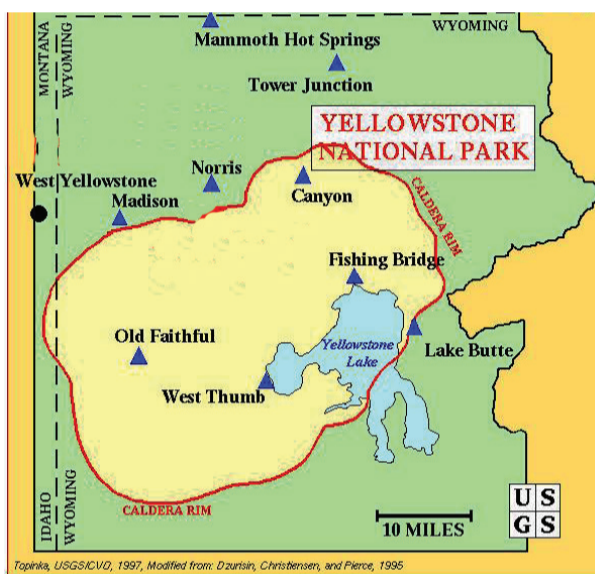
Yellowstone National Park is built on a caldera, a sort of valley that forms after a huge volcano eruption that releases a lot of magma, or hot, melted rocks.

There is still magma underneath the ground, which is why Yellowstone has all the geysers and hot springs that make it so famous: That hot magma heats up the waters in the ground above it.

If you have studied volcanoes, you know that there are extinct volcanoes, which are mountains that were formed by volcanoes long ago but are completely cold now and will never erupt.

There are also dormant volcanoes. "Dormant" comes from the French word for "sleep," and a dormant volcano is one that might wake up sometime, but that we don't worry too much about.

An active volcano is one that, as the name suggests, is very apt to erupt and may have a constant lava flow, like Mount Kilauea in Hawaii.



Topinka, USGS/ICVD, 1997, Modified from: Dziurisin, Christensen, and Pierce, 1995

Some dormant volcanoes are quite apt to wake up, others are really nothing to worry about. The Yellowstone caldera is really nothing to worry about.

The three large volcanic eruptions that caused the caldera to form happened 2.1 million years ago, 1.3 million years ago and 630 million years ago.

Will there ever be another eruption there? Sure, of course, but that's not an interesting question.

The interesting question is *when* it will erupt, and recently, some researchers came up with what sounded to many people like an answer to that question.

Previously, geologists believed it would take centuries for the caldera to fill up with magma again. But the researchers examined crystals in the area and found that, in fact, it can fill up quite quickly, in maybe 10 years instead of a century or two.

Some people thought they meant that this was already happening and that there would be a massive supervolcano exploding and doing great damage to our

whole continent.

But the researchers quickly worked to calm everyone down: They weren't saying that it *was* happening, only that it wouldn't take as long if it ever did happen.

At the moment, they said, there is absolutely no evidence that the caldera is currently filling and no reason at all to think Yellowstone will erupt in our future.

Sudoku

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 6 | | 4 | |
| | | | | 6 | 5 |
| | | 3 | | | |
| | 6 | | 4 | | 2 |
| | | | 3 | | |
| | 4 | | | 1 | 6 |

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

The United Nations was founded on this date in 1945 to help preserve world peace after World War II, so our answers this week will begin with "U."

- Four-stringed guitar-like instrument from Hawaii, its name means "jumping flea."
- The U.S. army in the Civil War also went by this one-word name.
- Kiev is the capital of this European nation.
- A "parasol" is carried to shield you from the sun. When it rains, carry this instead.
- Three-letter abbreviation for the part of a computer that you would plug a flash drive into, also called a "serial port."
- The person who shows you to your seat at a wedding, or a singer and actor whose last name is Raymond.
- Public services like gas, water, electricity and sewage.
- State where you would go to see Bryce Canyon National Park.
- 2009 Pixar film about an old man who ties balloons to his house and flies away with a young boy and a dog.
- Metallic element essential for making atomic generators or atomic weapons.

(answers on Page Four)

What sounds like a cheesy monster movie is really happening

Some of the best science fiction is written by real scientists, but here's something that sounds like a really bad monster movie, or one of those foolish fake-science shows on cable television:

Alligators versus Sharks!

It's not fiction, however: A pair of biologists have learned that alligators on the Atlantic and Gulf shores are eating sharks.

They pumped the stomachs of 500 healthy gators and found the remains of three kinds of shark.

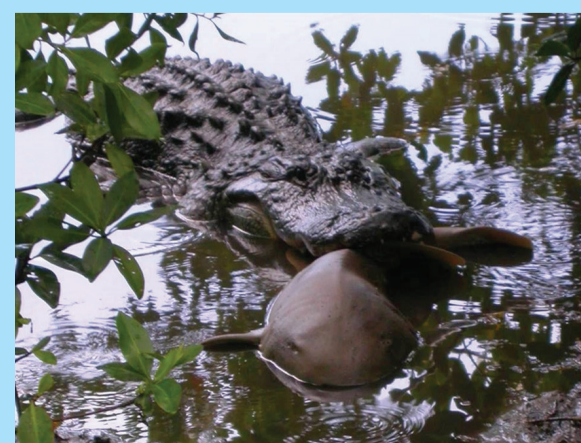
It's not exactly "Jaws Meets Sharknado," mind you. In this picture, an alligator in Florida is minding down on a nurse shark who wasn't old enough or big enough to try eating the gator instead.

What may seem surprising in all this is that sharks live in saltwater while alligators live in fresh water.

You would think they'd never meet, but in estuaries – the places where rivers or swamps feed into the ocean – there are areas of water that is salty enough for the sharks but not too salty for the alligators.

Those are also good places for young sharks to hide out from the predators in the ocean, but it turns out they aren't very good places to hide from alligators, who will eat just about anything they find swimming around.

The biologists said they'd heard stories of large sharks eating small gators, too, but they hadn't been pumping sharks' stomachs to find out. photo/USF&WS



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

Lego's NASA minifigs

The Yellowstone caldera

Gators vs. Sharks!

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

Ariadne and the Magic Thread

Chapter Seven: The Sword in the Ship

Our story so far: Theseus has asked Ariadne to get his sword from the hostage ship, which he predicts will break its steering oar and be beached overnight for repairs.

Ariadne crouched behind a rock in the darkness, looking down at the hostage ship as it lay pulled up on the beach. King Minos had allowed the Greek ship to stay only until the repairs were completed, but had ordered it moved well away from the crowded harbor.

The ship's master and captain were working on the long steering oar by the light of a large fire by the water's edge. Nearby, the rest of the crew sat behind a fence that had been put up to keep them in one place, under guard. Ariadne could see them sitting in groups around small fires, talking quietly while the Minoan guards kept watch over them.

Theseus had told her to throw a pebble among them so they would know she was nearby. They would start a quarrel so the guards would gather around and she could slip onto the ship.

And yet she was afraid. If she were caught helping the Greeks, her father would not be gentle with her. He would treat her the same as any traitor. Maybe, to show his fairness, he would treat her more roughly.

She picked up a pebble from the ground, but she didn't dare stand up to throw it into the fenced area. Even if she did stand, she was still too far away. She had to get closer, but she was scared of being seen.

Ariadne reached into the bag that hung from her shoulder and took out the spool. She laid it down on the ground behind the rock. "Please take me to the ship," she whispered.

The spool quivered and began to vibrate as the thread unwound, looping around and behind rocks in the darkness. Ariadne took the thread between her thumb and forefinger and, crouching low, followed it across the beach, carefully stepping with an even tread to avoid scuffing the gravel and making noise.

She drew closer to the ship. It was sitting on the beach so that the space where the steering oar should have been attached was in the dark, on the side away from the fire, just as Theseus had promised it would be.

But she came to the end of the thread before she had reached the ship. Ariadne crouched in the darkness, wondering why her guide had stopped there.

Then she realized what she had to do.

She still had the pebble in her left hand. She shifted the thread to that hand and put the pebble in her right, then straightened up and tossed it among a group of Greek sailors who were sitting playing a game with dice. As it landed, she felt the thread in her other hand begin to quiver and snake off toward the ship again.

"You did not!" one of the sailors said loudly, and threw the dice at the man across from him. That man jumped to his feet and shouted back, and then all the Greeks were standing and shouting as the Minoan guards hurried over to that part of the fence.

Ariadne followed the thread around the end of the ship. It was tilted enough that she wouldn't have to get on board to reach the part where the long, heavy steering oar would have been fastened between two strong wooden pins. She stood on the gravel beach, feeling the edge of the ship between the thick pins. Yes, there it was! A loose piece of wood!

She lifted it up and, as Theseus had promised, there was a space hollowed out underneath. Her hand felt cloth. Carefully, to keep from making any noise, she drew the long, thin cloth bundle up and out of the hollow, then replaced the wooden plug.

The sailors were still arguing. There was no signal to let them know she was finished. It was too dangerous for her to throw another pebble while the guards were all looking into the fenced area. She just had to get away before they stopped.

But now the captain and the ship's mate had left their work and were standing by the fence, shouting orders at the sailors, adding to the noise. The guards were shouting at the sailors and at the captain and mate, who were shouting back at them.

Everything was exactly as Theseus had promised it would be.

Ariadne followed the thread, almost running, away from the ship and the guards and back behind the rock where she had started.

"Thank you," she whispered, and the spool vibrated and silently rewound the thread. Ariadne replaced the spool in her shoulder bag, then undid the cloth bundle.

The sword had no sheath or belt; there was no room for that in the hiding place. It had only the linen wrapping, wound around to keep it from rattling as the ship moved. The hilt was ivory, with thin gold designs to decorate it, but also to make a firmer grip. The blade was short and thick, and as keen as a bronze edge could be sharpened. The sword was polished and well-cared for, but it also had the look of a weapon that had seen use over many years.

Ariadne replaced the cloth to make sure the guards wouldn't see a flash of reflected firelight from the blade as she fled through the darkness.

She had almost forgotten something that Theseus had asked her to do. Ariadne stood and peered carefully over the rock to count the guards.

Then she tucked the cloth bundle under her arm and slipped away up the rocky slope. Once she reached the road, she started to run, but then forced herself to walk. Few people would dare ask the princess what she carried under her arm, or what she was doing out at night, but she still needed to behave naturally.

She met nobody on the road to town, and there were very few in the streets there, either. She was able to walk up to the Labyrinth entry without anyone seeing her.

This was where Theseus was supposed to meet her, but the courtyard was empty. Ariadne looked around.

Something had gone wrong.



Sudoku Solution

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 |

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. ukelele 2. Union 3. Ukraine 4. umbrella 5. USB 6. usher 7. utilities
8. Utah 9. Up 10. uranium

text copyright 2003, Mike Peterson -- illustrations copyright 2003, Marina Tay

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

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.

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

Denver Post Educational Services
101 W. Colfax Ave.
Denver CO 80202
(303) 954-3974
(800) 336-7678

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

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.



ColoradoNIE.com