



CK Reporter of the Week
Macy Gardner, Golden

Spy comedy has laughs for all

“Johnny English Strikes Again” is a hilarious movie that everybody should go see.

The main character is an Englishman (Rowan Atkinson) who used to work for the British spy agency MI7.

After he messed up his last case, he was fired.

However, when the British security system is hacked 10 days before the G12 summit of global leaders, he is the only spy who could be used because he’s no longer in the records and the other agent’s identities were all exposed.

MI7 calls him out of his new teaching career to do one more case.

After two cybersecurity hacks, they get him on the case and he starts out well, traveling to France on a lead.

His first task is to steal a suspect’s phone and go through it.

He makes numerous embarrassing attempts until his partner finally snatches it.

However, it was in a fancy French restaurant, and he had been posing as a waiter.

He started flame-cooking lobster before he was made aware that his partner snatched the device and he is so excited that he hurries with the pan, dropping the lobster on the ground.

Then, when he picks it up, he spills the alcohol a couple had ordered.

The still-burning lobster catches the spilt beverage after he leaves and -- *whoosh!* -- he has burnt down the entire restaurant.

Another example of his clumsiness and impatience is when he is chasing a suspect up a hill in his spy car and is cut off by a group of bicyclists.

Instead of honking, he shoots a tear gas missile at them, making them collapse on the side of the road so



he can get through; only to end up out of fuel at the top of the mountain, helplessly watching his suspect drive away.

He finds the suspect at a hotel later on, and they chat at the bar for a while.

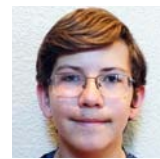
The rest involves a gun, energy pills, a lot of dancing, and a long drive.

This is a terrific movie that everyone can enjoy. It is rated PG and is great for a family outing or just going to the theater with friends.

I recommend this movie for anyone and everyone

aged 8 and up, since, if you are younger than 8, the only part you would understand about the plot of the movie is Johnny getting hurt.

However, if you are older, you should see this great movie.



By Jack Vanourek,
13, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

Nathan Hale’s latest puts more fun in history

“Lafayette” is the latest edition in Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales series.

Hale’s books are graphic novels that fictionalize American history. Other titles in this series include: “Raid of No Return,” on a 1942 bombing raid on Japan, and “Alamo All-Stars,” about the Battle of the Alamo in Texas.

Hale’s books are very funny, even though they are telling serious history.

Lafayette tells the story of Gilbert du Motier, a Frenchman who inherited the title of Marquis de Lafayette.

You will learn a lot about history and it won’t feel boring at all.

Alexander Hamilton or George Washington are much more famous names associated with the American Revolution, but Lafayette fought alongside the rebelling colonists to bring freedom to the United States.

Like I said, though, Hale makes this story funny.

Benjamin Franklin, for example, is described as looking like “a friendly potato,” while, when Lafayette is not very badly wounded, he woozily announces “Glory Awaits!” and tries to get back on his horse.

You might be asking how a French guy who gets wounded ends up as a hero of the American Revolution?

Lafayette was a captain in the French army, but was bored by the lack of combat.

Hungry for adventure, Lafayette sailed to America to volunteer to fight against the British, the despised enemy of France for hundreds of years.

Carrying letters of recommendation from French nobility, Lafayette approached the leaders of the Continental Army.

Astonished at his impressive background, the Army gave him the rank of major general at nineteen and sent him to fight alongside George Washington.

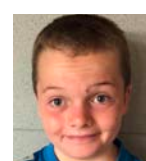
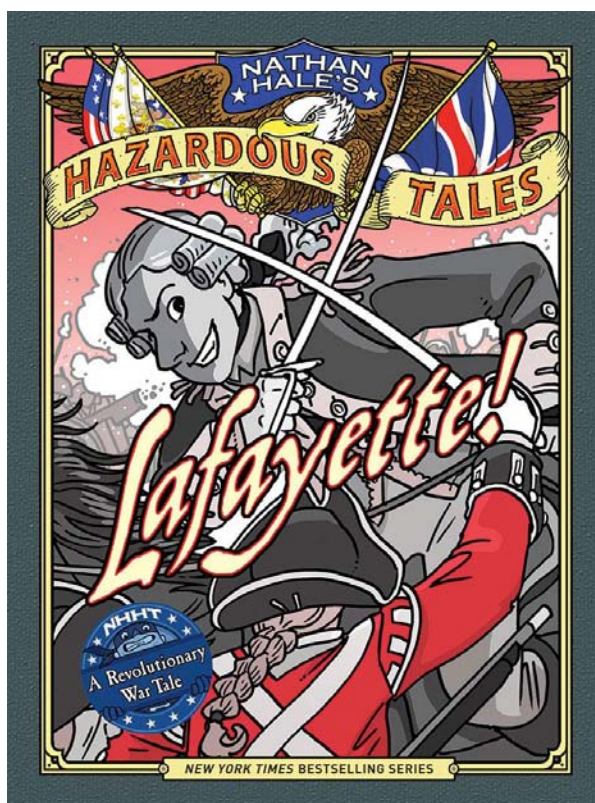
Lafayette proved himself at the Battle of Brandywine, saved Richmond, Virginia, from almost certain British invasion, and led troops during the decisive Battle of Yorktown.

I have read several of the books in Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales series and enjoyed them all.

Like the other Hale graphic novels, Lafayette is funny and informative.

A reader of “Lafayette” learns a lot about the American Revolution; I was even able to catch an error on page 119 which gives the date of the Battle of Yorktown as 1871 (*one hundred years after it happened*).

I highly recommend Lafayette, especially for fans of graphic novels or history. You will learn a lot about history and it won’t feel boring at all.



By Aidan Muldoon,
11, a CK Reporter
from Denver



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.

Nice idea, but poor quality at a high price



Smooshy Mushy Babies are an adorable and fun toy, but the quality of the foam is terrible and the price is way more than this toy is worth.

I loved this toy but was still disappointed. The squishies came ripped, also, the plastic bottle containing the squishies with fake milk may come leaking, because we read some reviews on Amazon, and this had happened to many people.

They also fall apart eventually, because it happened to me.

They do get a little boring after a while, if you are older.

Also, they are more expensive than they are worth. On Amazon, they are 25 dollars, and at Target, they are 15 dollars.

There are only two squishies, a bottle with chains that hold the two squishies together, a sticker, and the "plastic bottle with fake milk" containing the squishies.

Obviously, this toy is not nearly worth as much as that.

A cool thing I found about these squishies is that when you put water in the rips it will make them more squishy.

I would not recommend this toy for younger kids, because they rip easily, and younger kids will easily rip this toy, due to the bad quality of its foam.

This toy smells very nice and it is a cute toy.

I love this toy but the price, and the quality of the foam, is not my favorite. This is a cute toy, but be aware of the issues.



By Reese Ascione, 9, a CK Reporter from Golden

Spanking bans seem to decrease teen violence

It seems like a simple idea: Children learn from what they experience.

But what if they learn that, when you are angry, it's okay to hit someone?

And what if they begin to learn that lesson when they are tiny children, from being spanked?

Corporal punishment -- hitting, slapping or spanking -- is such a tradition that it seems it would be impossible to get parents to give it up.

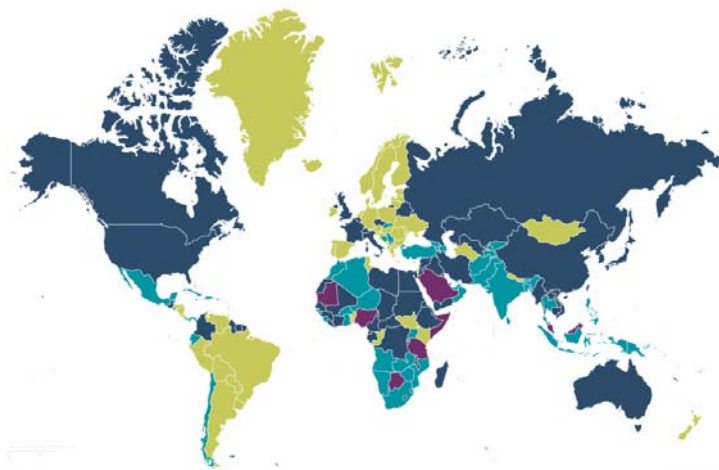
And perhaps it's something that should be left up to families, not the government, to decide.

But there are now 54 countries around the world that have laws against hitting, slapping or spanking children.

In some countries, including the United States, the laws vary.

In the US, it's illegal to beat children as a punishment for crime, and most states have laws against spanking small children in preschools.

But different states have different laws about spanking in the home or in schools. *(Going to the interactive map with the link given will let you see more details.)*



Countries in green-tan have banned all corporal punishment, while light blue countries are moving towards similar laws. Dark blue countries make some, but not all, spanking illegal. For an interactive map with details go to <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/> *(The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children)*

However, a growing number of nations now have laws against all spanking.

This doesn't mean that parents get dragged away to jail for any spanking, though they can go to jail for seriously hurting children, even in countries that allow spanking.

As with other laws, fines and punishments depend on the seriousness of the crime. The point of the laws is that, in those countries, hitting is wrong.

A recent study suggests that that message may result in less violence as children grow older.

Researchers gathered information from over 400,000 kids in 88 countries.

They found that, in countries where all corporal punishment is forbidden, fighting by adolescent boys was only about two-thirds as common as in countries where spanking is allowed in homes and schools, and less than half as frequent in those countries among adolescent girls.

They were quick to say that this doesn't mean an end to spanking is sure to lower the rate of fighting.

It could be that countries that ban spanking are less violent to begin with.

Big Nate



Sudoku

	5				
			3		2
2		1			
		4		1	
			1		3
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 3.



Brain teaser

Ivanka Trump turns 37 years old today, so our answers this week will each begin with the letter "I."

1. There are 33 places named Springfield in the US, but only one is a state capital, the capital of this Midwestern state.
2. An animal with head, thorax and abdomen sections, and six legs.
3. Poachers kill too many elephants for this, the substance their tusks are made of.
4. An extinct, fishlike marine reptile from the Triassic to Cretaceous periods
5. Nation whose cities include Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
6. In "The Princess Bride," this word apparently does not mean what Vizzini thinks it means.
7. Type of rock formed by extreme heat, as in a volcano
8. An African antelope, or a popular model of Chevrolets
9. A triangle with two sides of the same length
10. Almanzo Wilder married a girl with this last name.

(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 this story

Can anti-spanking laws help
make kids less violent?

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 Thirteen: Nellie Bly, Businesswoman

Our story so far: Nellie quit reporting to write children's serial stories, but she didn't turn out to be good at fiction. She went back to The World and was sent to Chicago to cover a railroad workers strike.

Her stories about the Pullman Strike were some of the best Nellie ever wrote.

When she left Pullman, she interviewed the governor of Illinois and then visited a model city for workers at another company, a model city that really did help the workers live better lives.

Her trip to Illinois was very successful.

But she wasn't happy. She wrote a sad letter to her old friend from Pittsburgh, Erasmus Wilson, whose column had started her career in journalism, nearly 10 years before.

"How I would like to see you! What a long time it has been, and how little I am doing. And I used to have such hopes!"

She wasn't writing many stories for The World anymore. She wasn't even staying at her house in the city most nights, but at her farm in the countryside outside New York.

"Can you picture me as a farmer?" she asked Wilson. "I helped plant a barrel of potatoes this spring and I thought I was having loads of fun. But I soon got over it. The most I can do now is to walk through the garden and see how things are coming on."

She still did some good stories. She spent two nights in an inner city apartment and wrote about the lives of poor people there. She traveled upstate to Saratoga Springs and wrote of the bad effects gambling was having on that beautiful vacation spot.

Then she went back to Chicago to interview Eugene Debs, the railroad worker who had led the strike against the Pullman company. While she was in the Midwest, she traveled out to Nebraska and South Dakota to write about poor farmers in a land without enough rain.

And then she quit writing for The World entirely, and took a job with The Times-Herald, a new paper in Chicago.

She investigated the Cook County Jail, and, after her story appeared in the paper, things improved there. She went to another Chicago jail to write about it, but didn't find anything wrong there.

It was a new job in a new city at a new paper, but it was the same old work, and Nellie was tired of it. She stayed at The Times-Herald for only five weeks.

The next thing she did to change her life, however, was a very big change indeed.

On April 5, 1895, Nellie Bly married Robert Seaman, a wealthy businessman from New York. Neither of them had ever been married before. Nellie was now 31 years old. Robert Seaman had just turned 70.

The couple returned to New York and the gossip started almost at once. Some people joked that this must be another Nellie Bly trick to get a good story.

His family said she had married him for his money, and they weren't making a joke of it.

But Nellie Bly had money, she didn't need a man to pay her way, and she proved it. She went back to the World yet again and worked there for a year. Then she and her husband left for Europe.

Suddenly, she was no longer Nellie Bly. She was Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman, retired newspaper reporter.

And yet she couldn't just stop being Nellie Bly. As her husband grew older, she began to run his business, which made the big steel milk barrels used to haul milk on trains. By the time he died in 1904, she was completely in charge.

She brought in new ideas for treating the workers, based on what she had learned in Illinois after the Pullman Strike. She even invented a better design for steel drums.

And the company may have been run by someone named Mrs. Seaman, but the advertisements said, "The Iron Clad Factories are the largest of their kind and are owned exclusively by Nellie Bly, the only woman in the world personally managing industries of such a magnitude."

The Iron Clad Manufacturing Company made good products. It sold a lot of them.

And the workers were happy. It seemed perfect, except for one thing. The company always seemed to be short of money, and the accountants could never seem to figure out why.

The investigative reporter who had discovered so many dishonest people had somehow missed seeing the ones closest to her. Her own business manager and accountants had been stealing money from the company. The Iron Clad Manufacturing Company was going out of business.

The next ten years were very difficult. Nellie spent time in court trying to get money back from the people who had stolen it, and she spent time in court trying to defend herself against the people to whom her company owed money.

This was one time when Nellie Bly's stubborn, bold nature was not helpful.

She often lost her temper and refused to cooperate with people and with the courts.

Finally, she packed up and left for Vienna. There, she hoped to get advice and money from a friend to help with her problems. And besides, while she was in Vienna, she could get away from all the people who were trying to get money from her. It would be a chance to stop and think.

What she hadn't expected was to be in the middle of a World War. On July 28, 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia and Germany invaded Luxembourg. On August 1, Nellie Bly got on board a ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean anyway.

Next Week: Nellie Bly in War and Peace

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Illinois 2. insect 3. ivory 4. ichthyosaur 5. India 6. inconceivable
7. igneous 8. impala 9. isocles 10. Ingalls

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