



CK Reporter of the Week
Reese Ascoine, Golden

¡Cuba! shows its culture, nature

Many people, including myself, don't know much about Cuba. The "¡Cuba!" exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science taught me a lot about the country.

As soon as you walk through the exhibit doors you feel almost as though you are in Cuba.

You're surrounded by colorful decorations and photos.

As soon as you walk through the exhibit doors you feel almost as though you are in Cuba.

One of the first things you learn are fun facts: Cuba is made up of more than 4000 islands and is the largest island in the Caribbean.

It is located 94 miles off the coast of Florida and has a population of 11, 238, 317.

You see photos and stories of everyday people in Cuba, and you get the sense that Cuban citizens love their country.

"There is no place like Cuba, where we are united, where everyone is equal, but different," says an urban farmer.

Part of the exhibit looks like a plaza. You see an old car, and replicas of a tobacco shop and a church.



When the US broke off relations with Cuba, mechanics there learned to keep American cars running well and looking good. This Chevy is a central part of the plaza, just as it would be back on the island. (c) Denver Museum of Nature & Science

There are tables where you can play dominoes and look at Cuban baseball cards, a sport which is very popular in Cuba.

There are also instruments you can play, and, once or twice a week, local musicians or dance groups perform in the exhibit.

About half of the exhibit is about the culture and people of Cuba, and the other half about the wildlife and natural environment.

One room displays the animals you can find in Humboldt National Park.

There are many animals that are unique to Cuba, including a solenodon, a venomous rodent.

It's lots of fun to try and spot the live anole lizards. Another room looks like a coral reef.

And the last is Cuba Wetlands, where a large fake alligator is jumping out of the water to catch a meal.

You can watch a short movie about Cuba.

Near the end of the exhibit you get to see Cuban poster art, and learn the stories of local Cuban Americans.

The exhibit does involve a lot of reading, so it probably isn't suited for very young children, but I think kids old enough to appreciate them would enjoy the interactive parts of the exhibit.

I think this is a very good exhibit. Its overall environment has great ambience, and I learned a lot about the country.



By Maya Fahy,
13, a CK Reporter
from Longmont



Dominoes is very popular in the Caribbean. It's an easy game to learn for players of all ages, but you can spend a lifetime becoming a true expert at. (c) Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Not enough art in new Shrinky Dink art kit

Shrinky Dinks' newest creation, Cool Foil Jewelry, is a great idea, but lacks the creativity that we all love.

For all of the other Shrinky Dinks that I have played with, you color the figures. With this set, you "foil" them.

If you have ever put on a fake tattoo, you will know just how to apply the foils. If you don't, there are very easy-to-read instructions.

The kit includes a sponge and 20 foils. There are also the classic Shrinky Dinks' charms.

First, you cut out the foil and find the matching charm. Then, you remove the plastic.

Next, to apply the foils, you soak the sponge. (It doesn't matter the temperature of the water.)

You press the foil on the shiny side of the charm, hold for ten seconds and it's done.

This was where my friends and I had a problem.

Some foils did not fit on the shiny side of the charm. We tested our luck and applied it on the rough side. It turned out totally fine.

We even agreed that it was better because the other side was smooth.

It turned out, though, that the charms were not a good fit for the foils. That made the toy seem junky.

You only bake them for one minute. You take them out and they are curled up.

Then pop them in the oven for 30 seconds more.

Something to know: If you are going to do it on the rough side you bake it five seconds longer, so you would do a minute and 30 seconds, take them out, empty the rest, then bake 5 extra seconds.

I felt sad that you could not color the decorations yourself.

I have mixed feelings about this toy because the creativity is lacking, but the results are excellent.

I could see why some people would prefer the foils over DIY, because it's simpler.

But if you want a long craft, this is not for you.

I have mixed feelings about this toy because the creativity is lacking, but the results are excellent. They even have a special glitter effect.

I think that this is a pretty good toy despite the flaws.



By Izzie Intriago,
10, a CK Reporter
from Aurora



AU PAYS d'en HAUT

(In the High Country)

The adventure begins
this week on
Page Four



Adventure set in the middle of Nowhere

Gus, a 13-year-old boy from Nowhere, Arizona (a town that's literally in the middle of nowhere), has been picked on by Bo Taylor for as long as he can remember.

It wasn't that big of a deal for him until Bo tries to make him eat a jumping cholla, a cactus known for jumping onto its victims.

Fortunately, Rossi Scott, the best dirt bike racer in Nowhere, manages to rescue Gus.

On the downside, Rossi has to give Bo her prized motorcycle, Loretta, to make him leave Gus alone.

Determined to repay the favor, Gus makes a deal with Bo: Bo says he'll give back Loretta if Gus can get a piece of gold from Dead Frenchman Mine.

"24 Hours in Nowhere," by Dusti Bowling, is a story about friends taking care of each other through difficult times.

Dead Frenchman mine got its name when a man named William Dufort stole a bag of gold many years ago and was killed when the mine caved in.

His partner, Jose Navarro, was shot by Dufort and died shortly afterwards.

The only reason Gus knows about this story is because his great-grandfather, Fergus Foley, died from a rattlesnake bite on that same day.

Not only is finding the gold incredibly difficult, but it's also terribly dangerous.

Others have tried to find the gold in that mine since then, but all of them wound up dying in the mine instead.

As much as Gus knows that it's a terrible idea, he accepts the deal.

Now, Gus is trapped in the mine with Rossi, his old friend Jessie, and Matthew, one of Bo's cronies.

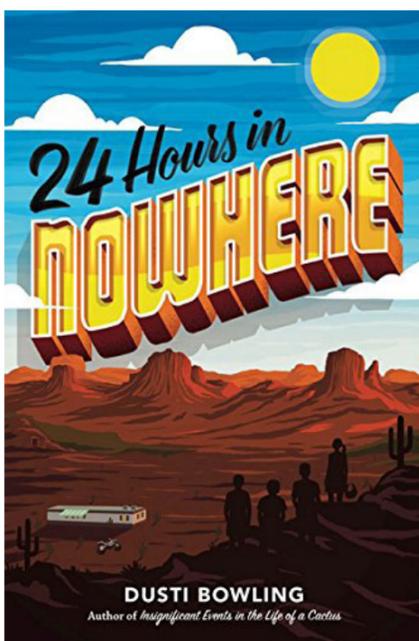
Nearly forgetting about the gold, the four kids have their minds set on one thing: finding a way out.

With barely any food or water and no light except for a few dying flashlights, the four kids have to find a way to work together to escape from the cave, restore their friendships ... and maybe even find William Dufort's gold.

At around 260 pages, "24 Hours in Nowhere" is a short but captivating book that's great for elementary to middle-grade students.

As a fan of Bowling's previous book, "Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus," I was disappointed to find that this book wasn't as much fun.

Despite this, I still enjoyed it and felt a strong connection to the characters.



By Nandi Strieker, 12, a CK Reporter from Antonito

A combination of mystery, laughs and murder



The zombie apocalypse is coming!

Well sort of.

Ernestine is obsessed with starting a zombie apocalypse.

She and her stepbrother, Charleston, are trying to catch a zombie, when their very rich landlady, Mrs. MacGillicuddie, is almost murdered.

The two kids investigate the mystery to find the "almost murderer."

Sweet, smart, adventurous and very funny "Ernestine Catastrophe Queen," by Merrill Wyatt, is full of mystery that sucks a person in on the first page.

This girl is the type of girl who won't stop trying until she solves a problem, and in this case, an almost murder.

She makes a person want to explore catastrophe the way she does it.

She makes it seem like an adventure.

"Ernestine Catastrophe Queen" can absorb someone, and it is like eating a delicious, large, piece of cake even though you are only reading a book.

Imagination plays a big part in this book, which is perfect for kids around 8 to 10.

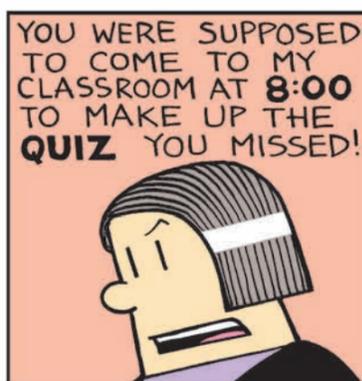
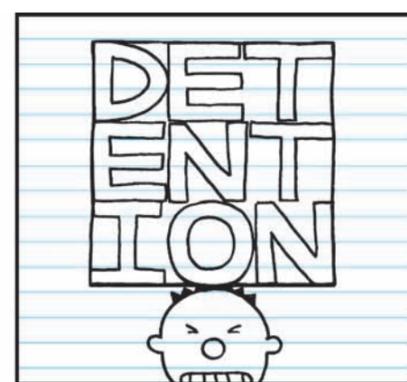
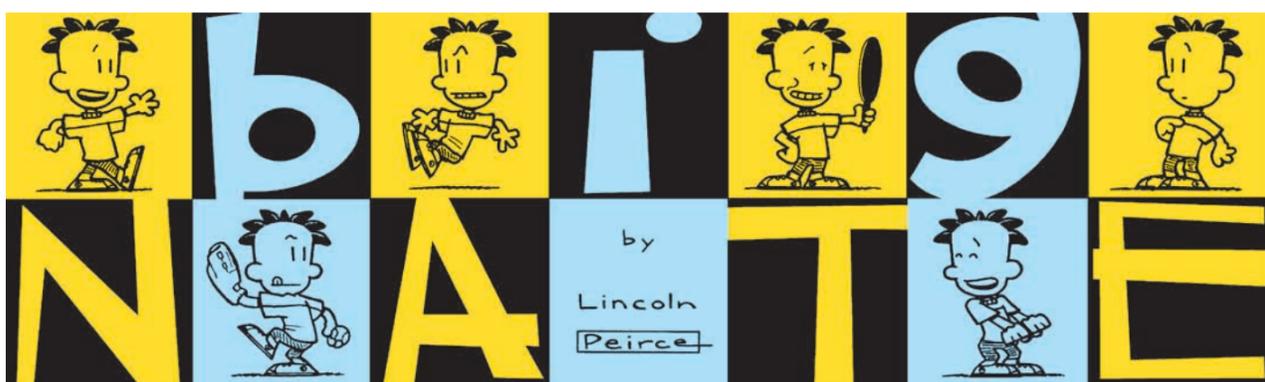
You should get "Ernestine Catastrophe Queen" at your library or from a bookstore near you.

This very funny and mysterious book is worth reading and buying.

Merrill Wyatt makes crime interesting, and murder something you want to stick around for.



By Eva Perak, 10, a CK Reporter from Denver



Could a laser contact aliens? (If so, is that a good idea?)



A researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has come up with an idea that raises two questions.

The first question is technical. Could we build a giant laser, focus it on a nearby star, and use it to send a signal saying "We're here!"

We could probably build the laser, though it would be larger than any we've built before, and very expensive.

And, if it's powerful enough to do the job, it would probably blind anyone who looked at it.

But the researcher, James Clark, has an answer to that: Put it on the dark side of the Moon, where only a few orbiting space stations ever float past.

TRAPPIST-1 is a star about 40 light years away with several exoplanets that could host life.

Even at the speed of light, messaging with one of them would

not only take 40 years for each message, but would first take a lot of fooling around to learn to read each other's blinks.

The other question Clark's idea raises is if we want to do that.

Science fiction movies show evil aliens coming to destroy Earth, but our own American history shows how, when one civilization begins to come to another, even with good intentions, the results are not always pleasant. image/MIT

Miss Peregrine series continues to be fantastic

In the fourth and latest installment of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, "A Map of Days," by Ransom Riggs, 16-year-old Jacob Portman and his friends take on a new set of challenges: Resentment from their peers, reconstruction of the European peculiar government, and the hectic fend-for-yourself design of the American peculiar society.

Throughout time, peculiars have been resented and feared for their special skills.

Otherwise human, each peculiar has one power, ranging from invisibility to raising the dead, and everything in between.

For that, they are hunted and persecuted relentlessly. For the peculiars, help comes in the form of an ymbryne; which is a peculiar that can shapeshift into a bird and create a replay of any day called a loop (*a safe haven for peculiars as long as it is rewound by the ymbryne who created it*).

At least, this is the case in Europe.

In America, ymbrynes are strangely absent, leaving the loops they created to be rewound by amateur loop-keepers.

After the defeat of one of the most dangerous threats to peculiardom in history (*in the third book of the series*), Jacob Portman goes back to Florida in an attempt to balance a non-peculiar normal life with his new peculiar one.

After hearing what he has to say, his parents attempt to lock him up in a psychiatric ward.

They are stopped in the nick of time by Jacob's peculiar friends, who wipe any memories of strange behavior or stories from his family's minds.

After Miss Peregrine decrees that her wards should take "normalling lessons" from Jacob to learn how to blend in, the peculiars make a pit stop at the house of Jacob's grandfather to pay their

respects to the late Abraham Portman.

There, Jacob finds a secret cellar and learns about his grandfather's so called "business trips," catapulting him into an adventure to step out of his grandfather's shadow and shoulder his legacy at the same time.

This book is one plot twist after another, each more riveting than the last.

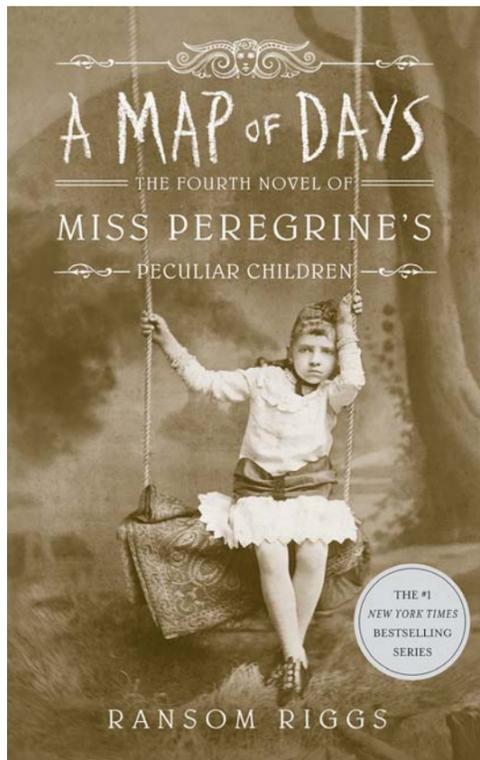
Ransom Riggs possesses an incredible knack for storytelling that makes the novel both rich in detail and emotion, as well as easy to read.

The use of early black and white photos as an accompanying piece and inspiration for the story is an ingenious idea that really contributes to the feeling that you, as the reader, actually are there.

Riggs' use of descriptive details alongside the old pictures really helps to captivate the reader.

I would not suggest reading this book without having first read the previous three volumes, as there are many details that don't make any sense by themselves.

However, the other books are just as fantastic as this one. I would highly recommend this entire series for those who can dedicate themselves to a new (*and rather peculiar*) world, because these novels are worth every second.



By Maria Ciobanu, 14, a CK Reporter from Denver

Wait a minute! What just happened here?

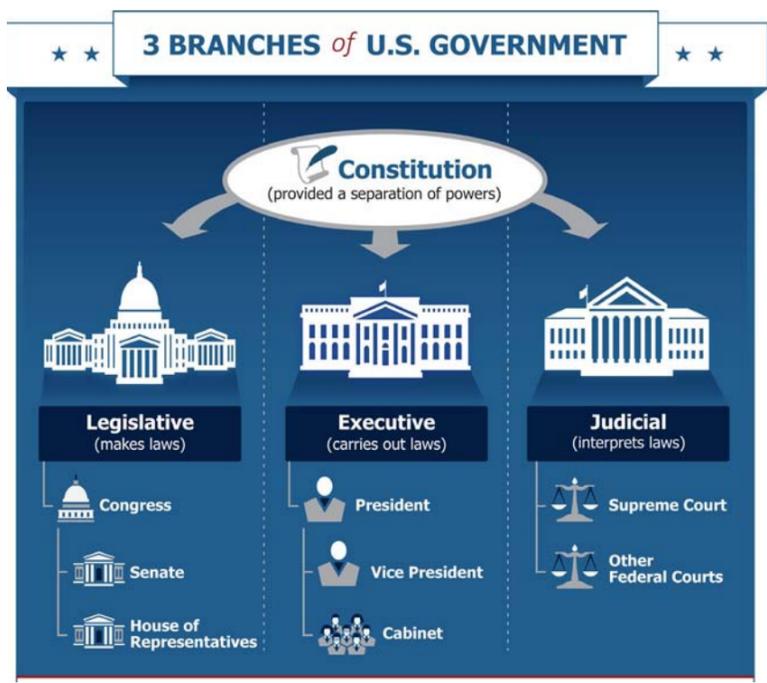


illustration: USA.GOV

Last week was Election Day, when voters went to the polls to make decisions about our government.

This was an "off-year election," which means that the President was not up for election, because that is a four-year term and we have elections every two years.

Senators serve for six years, but their terms don't all expire at once. Things are timed so that one-third of them are up for election every two years.

But members of the House of Representatives serve for two years, so every Representative is up for election each time we vote.

Congress -- that is, the Senate and the House -- is where laws are made.

New laws have to be approved by a vote in each house of Congress, and then go to the President to be signed.

He can refuse to approve a law, and then either Congress lets it go or they can vote on it again. If two-thirds of them approve then, it becomes a law despite the President.

Plus, each house of Congress has its own special powers.

The House is where tax and spending bills start. The Senate still has to vote in favor of them and the President still has to sign them. But they can only start in the House of Representatives.

The Senate has the special power to confirm judges and other federal officials. The President recommends them, but the Senate then votes to approve his choices.

Since the 2016 elections, both the Senate and the House had Republican majorities.

Because President Trump is also a Republican, this made it easier for him to suggest laws he wanted and have Congress approve them.

But last week, voters put a majority of Democrats in the House, while Republicans kept their majority in the Senate.

So President Trump will still be able to appoint judges easily, but Congress will have to cooperate or we may have two years when very few new laws are passed.

Sudoku

			5		4
		6			
	1				
				3	6
1			4	5	
	5			1	

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

Caryn Elaine Johnson turns 63 today, so our answers this week will all begin with "W," since she's better known as Whoopie Goldberg.

- In "The Lion King," Pumbaa is one.
- Olympia is the capital of this American state.
- Author of "Stuart Little" and "Charlotte's Web."
- This Fort Collins native was an All-American at CU and a star player in the NFL before he became a justice of the US Supreme Court.
- The family of the orchestra that includes the clarinet, saxophone and bassoon.
- Aviation pioneers Orville and Wilbur.
- This dog is a smaller version of a greyhound.
- The cowboy who takes care of the horses, a model of Jeep or perhaps a brand of blue jeans
- Famous sports stadium in London that also hosts major concerts and American NFL games
- The capital of Poland

(answers on Page Four)

Could llamas hold the secret to the ultimate flu vaccine?

One of the important rules of science is that the key to finding new things is to always be curious.

There may be no better example of curiosity and discovery than the possibility that maybe the cure for flu will come from llamas.

What's more, becoming a scientist can help you find other curious people. A whole team of scientists from California's Scripps Research Institute somehow came up with the idea and apparently nobody laughed at the notion because they did some serious science and came up with some serious results.

One of the problems with developing vaccines for the flu is that the flu virus is constantly evolving, so that the vaccine that worked pretty well on last year's

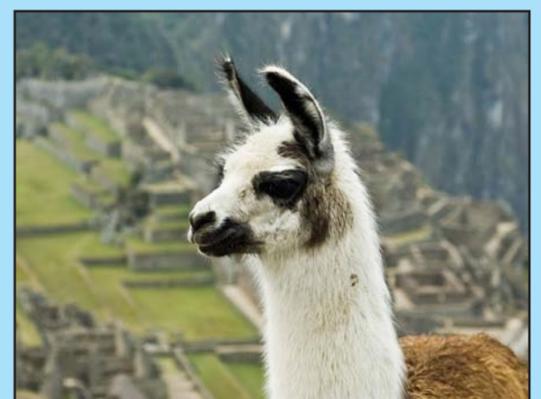
flu virus might not work at all on the version of the virus that comes out this year.

That's where llamas come in.

Human antibodies are large and sit on top of the flu virus. As long as the virus keeps changing that top portion, it can make new forms that human antibodies don't work on.

But the llama's antibodies are tiny and cling to a part of the flu virus lower down, like the stem of a mushroom. That part of the virus is pretty much the same for all forms of flu.

Using a form of llama antibodies worked to keep mice immune from all types of flu. With luck, time, and more testing, we may get to use it ourselves.



photo/Alexandre Buisse

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

Lasers and aliens

How Government Works

Llamas and the flu

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. warthog 2. Washington 3. E.B. White 4. Byron "Whizzer" White 5. woodwinds 6. Wright 7. whippet 8. wrangler 9. Wembley 10. Warsaw

Au Pays d'en Haut (To the High Country)

Chapter One – The Voyageur's Son

Introduction: It is Easter morning, April 13, 1800, in a riverside farmhouse near St. Sulpice, Quebec, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River some 45 kilometers northeast of Montreal. Everyone in this story is speaking French unless it says otherwise.

Antoine had just raked out the live coals from the back of the hearth and was rekindling the fire for morning when his father came in the door and put the bucket of Easter water on the table.

"You take the first drink, son," Gabriel Guilbault said, taking a tin dipper from the hook on the wall and holding it out to him.

The small branches in the hearth had just begun to catch fire;

Antoine crossed them with larger pieces of wood, then stood and brushed the ashes from his hands onto his pants legs before taking the dipper. He put the bowl gently into the bucket, pushing it just enough below the surface to let it fill with the cold water.

He drank, then swished the dipper in the bucket. "A blessed Easter, Papa," he said, as he handed the dipper back, filled again.

His father drank some of the icy water. "And may the Good Lord provide a good spring, and a good year ahead, my boy," he replied. He hung the dipper on the rim of the bucket. "Any sign of your mother or Jean Paul yet?"

"I heard Maman stir a bit as I came down the ladder, but I think she went back to sleep," Antoine said. "Jean Paul? Of course not!"

His father smiled. "I should make him get up and help, but it is both a holiday and the Sabbath, and, besides, he'll have plenty of work soon enough."

Indeed he would, Antoine thought, as he put on his coat and followed his father out into the brisk dark morning. The ice was gone from the St. Lawrence here at Saint Sulpice and the river traffic between Montreal and Quebec, and on out to the ocean, had begun weeks ago.

That was not all that was starting up again with the coming of spring. Brigades of voyageurs were already at Lachine, packing their canoes for the long trip into the pays d'en haut (*PAY den Oh*), the wilderness where furs were gathered, and it was time for him to report to the North West Company and go up river, too.

He had signed a contract when the recruiter came to town last November.

He was only 15, two years younger than his father had been when he went up river. But Antoine was stronger than most boys his age, even in Quebec, where boys pitched hay to their cattle, hauled rocks from fields and cut trees for firewood and timber.

Besides, he had reminded his parents, his father had run the farm with little help until three years ago, when he became old enough and strong enough to do a full day's work. Now Jean Paul was that age and could take his place.

And his parents had to admit that, however they felt about his going, the family needed the money he would bring back.

His father had long looked forward to the day when he would have both his sons working alongside him on the farm, but the fact was, the family needed the money more than Gabriel Guilbault needed the help of two strong young men.

Antoine would probably be back in the fall, but, if he were chosen to go north, it would be for no more than three years. At the end of his time, he'd come back to St. Sulpice stronger than ever and would be that much more help to his father.

Antoine had made his argument, but at that last, his mother sighed and looked off into the distance, and he knew why.

It had been seven years, not three, since Alexis Gauthier had gone to the pays d'en haut, and then north, and then had disappeared forever.

Antoine's father had opened the side door before he got to the barn, and the cows were already leaving for the pasture to seek the early green shoots of spring. He grabbed a hay fork and began to pitch their soiled straw bedding into a wheelbarrow.

The wood of the cows' stalls, freshly rebuilt in the past six months, was still yellow. Once it had been decided, Antoine had taken on extra work, for two reasons.

One was to put the farm into perfect condition, so that Gabriel Guilbault would need only tend his cows and plow his fields, while greater tasks could wait until Jean Paul was older and Antoine was home again.

But the other was to help build his muscles, and his stamina, even more. A voyageur must paddle all day until it was time to sleep, and then awaken to paddle again.

And when the rapids were too much, or when they needed to go from one river to the next, he would have to carry a 90-pound pack or two, and perhaps the canoe as well, up hills and over rocks and down hills again to the next water.

Gabriel Guilbault had taken his son out onto the St. Lawrence and taught him to wield the long, thin paddle of the voyageur, but mostly, he had taught him to work, to work hard, to work without pause, to work without asking for rest, or for help, or for mercy.

His father nodded to him silently and went back to the house, as he had for the past year, leaving Antoine to clean the barn and spread fresh bedding.

Antoine worked fast so he could clean his boots and wash up for the Easter Mass.

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



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