



CK Reporter of the Week
Eva Perak, Denver

This Grinch is a lot less grinchy

The Grinch (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch) is fed up off the Whos because of one simple reason: He hates Christmas.

This drives him to want to take revenge on Whoville for reminding of how lonely he was during the holidays when he was little.

Cindy Lou Who (Cameron Seeley) wants only one present this year: For her overworked mother (Rashida Jones) who does everything for others, to be happy.

She will go to extreme lengths to give her mom this well-deserved gift.

I personally like the version that came out this year better for many reasons.

The two encounter each other and great things happen.

The original film adaptation of the book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss and the new version are very different but each has its points.

The first movie was more true to the book and the one that came out this year is more kid-friendly.

The main character, the Grinch, is a lot meaner and mischievous in the first version and a lot less so in the new version.

The two movies share the basic plotline, but their other main details are not the same.

Both have a narrator who rhymes in the style of Dr. Seuss.

I personally like the version that came out this year better for many reasons.

In this adaptation, there are many good themes that teach kids and adults more about how their actions matter and how to appreciate others.

The Grinch is not as sinister as he is in the original, so



younger kids can watch it without getting scared too easily, which results in a broader target audience.

I also thought that the storyline in this interpretation was as realistic as a fictional movie could get. This way viewers can relate to the story better.

There are also parts in the plot that are not present in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" that are funnier, more interesting and kid-friendly.

The whole movie is also more appropriate for younger kids, but, even though The Grinch is generally meant for kids, parents will enjoy it too.

If you want to see a cynical and mean Grinch, then you are better off not watching this movie.

But this is the movie for you if you want to watch a movie that gets you in the holiday mood.



By Suhani Agarwal,
13, a CK Reporter
from Centennial

Good movie about a very tough subject



The breakup of a family can be a crushing event, especially for a child watching it all happen.

"Wildlife", a new movie based on the novel by Richard Ford, shows a 14-year-old boy's experience when his parents break up and how he handles the situation.

Joe Brinson (Ed Oxenbould) lives with his parents, Jerry (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Jeanette Brinson (Carey Mulligan), in Montana in the 1960s.

"Wildlife" is an engrossing movie and I feel that anyone who's experienced a family breakup can relate to it.

Jeanette decides that she wants to spend more time at home with Joe, but soon after she quits her job, her husband is fired.

Jerry is offered his old job back, but he declines, saying that he doesn't want to work for people who treated him badly.

Eventually finding a new job fighting a nearby wildfire, Jerry leaves his wife and son behind.

Devastated by this, and facing financial catastrophe, Joe's mother begins to act irresponsibly, neglecting her family duties,

jumping into an affair with Warren Miller (Bill Camp), the owner of a car dealership where Jeanette said she was going to work.

Joe watches all of this unfold, unable to understand what is happening.

Due to his father's absence and his mother's carelessness, Joe is forced to become the man of the house.

In addition to school, he now has a job at a photo shop and has to do most of the housekeeping.

"Wildlife" is an engrossing movie and I feel that anyone who's experienced a family breakup can relate to it.

For those who have not, it opens the door to a frightful ordeal that you will be thankful for having been spared.

There isn't much action in this film, so it wouldn't be very interesting for people who want explosions and car chases.

There are some intense, deeply emotional scenes that I think make it unsuitable for children under 12.



By Nandi Strieker,
12, a CK Reporter
from Antonito



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Lakewood, 401 S. Pierce Street



More details at www.yacenter.org

Beautiful baby girl born at Denver Zoo

There is a new baby aye-aye at the Denver Zoo named Tonks, a little girl who is now just over three months old.

An aye aye is a type of lemur that is native to Madagascar and is critically endangered.

The locals in Madagascar think that the aye-eyes are bad luck and that they look kind of scary, so people tend to hunt them when they see them.

The aye-aye has big bright eyes, a long middle finger, wiry hair, and big pointy ears.

They aren't the cutest of animals, but they were decently interesting to watch. They are pretty fast when they move, and they kind of run and jump around the branches.

I interviewed Sam Beirne, the keeper of the capuchins and lemurs at the Denver Zoo.

The lemurs she watches over include the aye-eyes, brown lemurs, red ruffed lemurs, mongoose lemurs, and red tail lemurs.

Beirne said she spends about eight hours a day caring for all the lemurs and capuchins combined.

The aye-eyes are nocturnal and eat bugs, vegetables (especially sweet potatoes and corn), and leaf-eater biscuits.

Tonks' parents are Bellatrix and Smeagol, and they are ages 3 and 4. Tonks was about the size of half of an orange at birth.

Human-to-animal contact is very limited because the possibility of disease spreading is too high. When they do interact with Tonks, the humans wear masks and gloves.



photo/Denver Zoo

Only the keepers can be near her at this point. For this reason, I got to see the dad only and not the mom or Baby Tonks.

Their exhibit needs to be a moist, wet, and warm enclosure, because they naturally live in the rainforest.

They have continually growing incisor teeth, so they must constantly have things to chew on so that their teeth do not grow too long.

The enclosure is called the Emerald Forest if you are looking for them at the zoo.

They are pretty fast when they move, and they kind of run and jump around the branches.

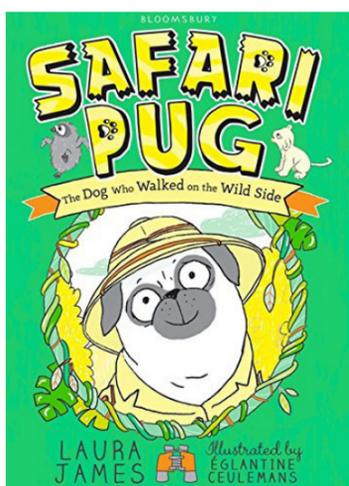
The aye-eyes are part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP). This means that there is a plan to help prevent the species from going extinct.

If you want to see the aye-eyes, then I would recommend that you wait a little longer before you come so that you can be sure that Tonks is on exhibit.



By Ben Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

'Safari Pug' might be good gift for younger sib



Pug is an adventurous dog, being a sailor and cowboy. "Safari Pug" by Laura James is a third book in a series about Pug and the plot is very simple.

Lady Mariam is Pug's owner and has a dream a lion is in her room and believes it is really happening.

She sends her housekeeper to look for it, who of course can not find it.

After she leaves, Lady Mariam tells Pug, "Tomorrow you get to meet a real lion."

Pug is nervous throughout the night.

The next day, they head to Animal World to see a lion, and there they encounter the famous TV star Arlene Von Bing.

They discover she is trying to steal penguins, monkeys, and meerkats and no one is noticing.

When they go to a show and see a white lion, Arlene Von

Bing grabs the lion and locks everyone in the room.

The plot continues and I found it to be very basic and more at the interest level for 1st and 2nd graders.

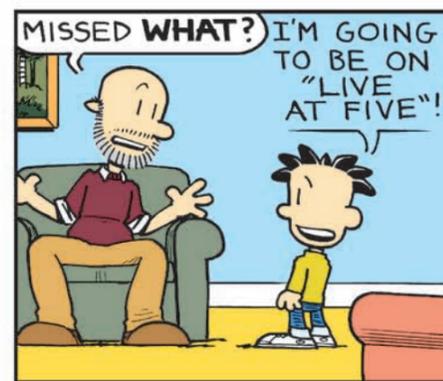
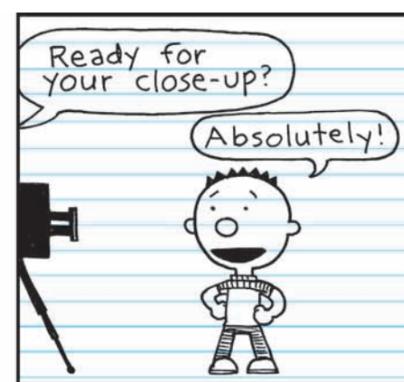
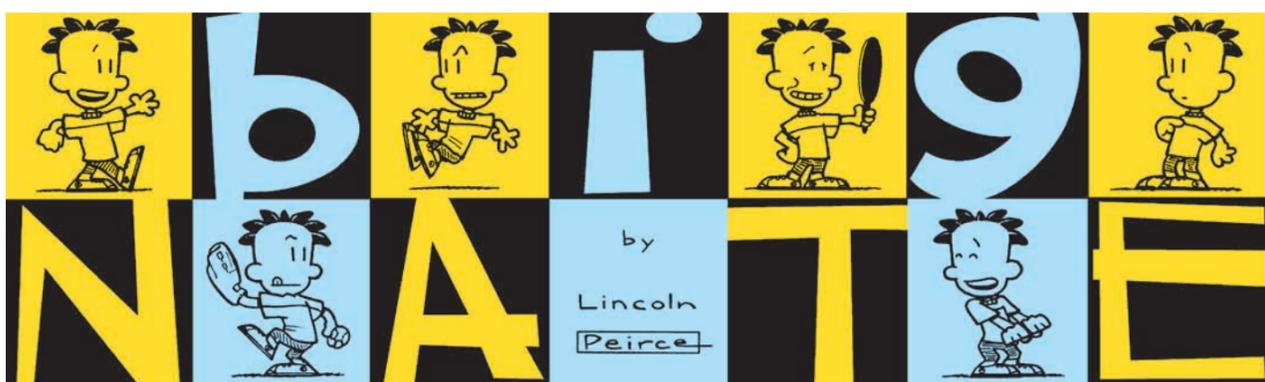
It was a short chapter book with 106 pages and would be good for a young kid who is learning to read as it had easy-to-read words and a simple plot.

I think the author did a good job keeping the book interesting for younger kids.

It was too young for me but it is a good book for younger kids.



By Reese Ascoine, 9, a CK Reporter from Golden



Is there a fast dog in your future?

While political parties squabble over vote counts in the November 6 elections, one result is clear: Greyhound racing will end in Florida in two years.

An amendment to end the sport was strongly approved by voters with 69% in favor of the ban and 31% opposed.

This might not sound like a big deal, but there are only 17 greyhound race tracks in the country, and 11 of them are in Florida.

Opponents of the sport said that the dogs are treated poorly, with little social contact and a good chance of injury.

Those who enjoy the sport say that greyhounds love to run and that they are treated well because they make money for their owners.

But even successful greyhounds retire from the track after two or three years, and the adoption of these animals, as well as dogs who don't do well in racing, has become

popular among dog lovers.

What the new law means is that several thousand greyhounds will need homes at the end of 2020.

If you think a fast friend sounds like a good idea, you should know that these sweet, gentle dogs need a calm home and a good fence, since they don't like a lot of noise and commotion, but are true hunters and will run away after rabbits or other small animals.

And they're faster than you are.



Exciting story takes place in a complex world

“Children of Blood and Bone” by Tomi Adeyemi is about an old society with three classes.

The Kosidan, or middle class, The Maji, or wizards and witches, and the nobles.

Many years ago the powerful Maji ruled the planet.

The healer Maji could stop plagues, the water Maji could control forest fires, the grounders and welders could build homes and castles quickly.

The Maji did many great deeds, but some Maji who got control of the throne abused their powers.

They terrorized the citizens.

So a man led a rebellion. Thousands joined, and after he found a way to combat the magic, they took down the powerful Maji.

They killed every Maji they could, but left the children, since they did not have their powers yet.

The new king got rid of magic, leaving thousands of undeveloped Maji, known as Diviners, orphans.

Anyone who showed signs of magic was killed.

Every Maji and Diviner had one unique distinction, white hair. If you had white hair, you were beaten, considered worthless, terrorized by the dreaded guards, and even the normal people.

Every single Diviner wished magic could run through their veins, and would do anything for it. But the regime of the new king was relentless.

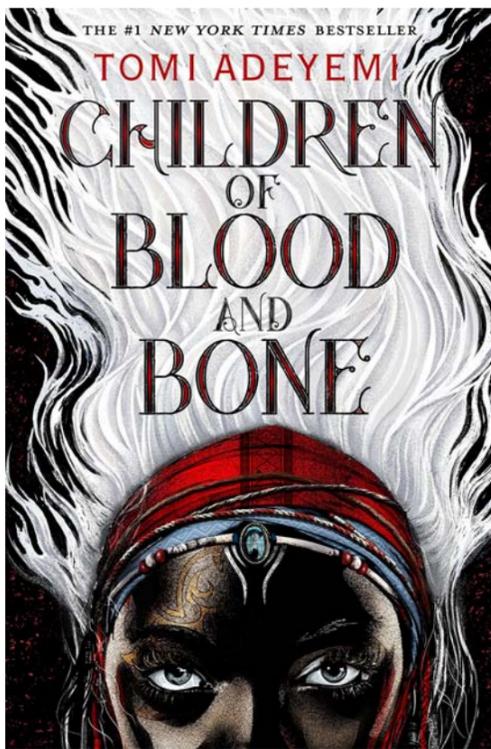
There was a tax for even just being a Diviner. If you didn't pay it, you became a slave. If you were sold into the stocks, as it was called, it was brutal, unpaid labor, and you would likely never get out.

And the worst part was that only Diviners could be put into the stocks.

The story starts when Zelie, a Diviner, goes to trade. She goes to the market with a very rare fish, and gets more money for it than she had ever seen in her life.

On her way out though, someone running from the guards grabbed her.

It was obvious that she needed help, and because of what she had been taught, Zelie helped her escape.



Despite the complexity of having to learn all the terms used in the book, this is a book that is more than just interesting.

That's only the start of a book filled with explosions, getaways and royalty.

This is a terrific book because when you read it, you seem to be whisked away into the world of the book, and you want to read more.

Despite the complexity of having to learn all the terms used in the book, this is a book that is more than just interesting.

I finished this 500 page book in a single day because I was so interested that that was all I did.

I recommend this for anyone above the age of 11, because there is a lot of fighting and death in

this book.



By Jack Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

There's some good news for gorillas, whales



Numbers of mountain gorillas in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have grown from 600 in 2008 to 1,000 today. (Photo/ Charles J Sharp)

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference is currently being held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. So far, it has announced a mixture of good and bad news for the world's plants and animals.

The good news came for mountain gorillas and for both fin and gray whales.

Mountain gorillas, which were on the verge of extinction, have nearly doubled their numbers from 600 in 2008 to about 1,000 today.

The main conservation group hosting the conference, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, reports that the gorilla's recovery is a combination of good law enforcement and careful tending.

Authorities have been doing much better in fighting gorilla poachers, while additional training of veteri-

narians on how to treat gorillas in the wild has cut down on unnecessary deaths.

However, one way in which gorillas have been better protected also had to be regulated:

Ecotourism, where people come to see nature, has helped convince local people that live gorillas are a good source of income for their communities.

But authorities had to put limits on how many tourists could visit the apes and how close they could get, as crowds of humans can be stressful and upsetting.

Meanwhile, bans on whaling have allowed both gray and fin whale populations to grow to better numbers, though fin whales remain in the "threatened" category, while the gray whales, as well as the mountain gorillas, continue to be endangered.

The news out of the Egypt conference has not all been good, however.

Overfishing continues to be a serious threat to a number of fish species.

It's not just a problem for the fish being caught and sold to food producers around the world, but also for "by-catch," the fish that are not wanted by commercial fishermen but that get caught in the large nets and are either thrown back dead, or ground into animal food or fertilizer.

One of the plants that is now considered threatened is the titan arum, known as the "corpse flower," the giant, foul-smelling flower that was featured in CK recently when one bloomed at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

While the flower may do well in carefully tended greenhouses and conservatories, it is in danger back in its home on the island of Sumatra, due to careless

forestry and the destruction of forests entirely.

The UN group is updating their list of endangered and threatened species, but is hoping that their "good news" stories will encourage people and governments around the world to become more active in preserving a balance of nature.

Inger Andersen, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, told the BBC that the good news shows that conservation can work.

"These conservation successes are proof that the ambitious, collaborative efforts of governments, business and civil society could turn back the tide of species loss," she said.



In 1988, a hunter spotted three juvenile gray whales trapped in Arctic Ocean ice near Alaska. He enlarged breathing holes with his chain saw, then alerted US and Russian authorities, who managed to save two of the three youngsters. (NOAA Photo)

Sudoku

				5	1
5		4			
	2		1		
			5		2
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 4.



Brainteaser

Astronomer Edwin Hubble, who discovered that there are more galaxies than just the Milky Way, was born on this day in 1889, so our answers this week will begin with "H" in his honor.

1. The animal whose name is Greek for "River Horse"
2. This lighter-than-air gas is an element that's part of water
3. Small town that looks a lot like the cartoon town of South Park and is at the intersection of routes 24 and 9 in the geographic bowl that really is South Park.
4. Meat from the hind leg of a hog that has been smoked.
5. Budapest is this country's capital.
6. Greek name for the messenger god called "Mercury" by the Romans
7. Thing made of rope or leather that goes around a horse's head to help lead it.
8. Comet that approaches Earth every 76 years and will next return in 2061.
9. The only type of bird that can fly backwards
10. A six-sided polygon

(answers on Page Four)

Beyond These Pages!

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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

Adoptable Greyhounds
 Endangered Species

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

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

Chapter Two – Good Neighbors, Good Friends

(Our story so far: It is Easter Sunday, 1800, and 15-year-old Antoine Guilbault is preparing to leave Quebec to head up the river into the high country as a voyageur.)

Maman and Jean Paul were in the kitchen when Antoine came back to the house.

"One moment," Maman said, and Papa came from behind the curtain that separated their bedroom, wearing a fresh shirt and trousers, his hair wet and combed for church.

Once they were all together, Maman nodded to Jean Paul, who raised a dipper full of the Easter water Papa had drawn from the St. Lawrence that morning. "God bless our family, and the Good Lord watch over my brother on his travels," he said, then sipped the water and passed the dipper to his mother.

"A Blessed Easter, and God watch over us all, wherever we may be," she said, and drank, and replaced the dipper. "Papa?"

They stood with heads bowed as Papa said the Lord's Prayer.

"Now, ready for church, Antoine!" Maman ordered. "You will go to Confession after Mass, yes?"

"Yes, Maman," Antoine replied. "I spoke to Father Gamache last Sunday."

He began towards the ladder to the loft where he and Jean Paul slept, but she gestured for him to wait. She dipped her thumb into the water and made a cross on his forehead, then looked into his eyes for a moment before waving him towards the ladder.

Even without Alexis Gauthier, she would have worried, Antoine told himself, as he changed into his clean clothes. All mothers worry. But she worried more, knowing how Alexis had disappeared up the river without a trace.

The Gauthiers were waiting at the gate as the Guilbaults came down to the roadside. It was a Sunday tradition for the families, whose farms stood side-by-side on the low, flat banks of the St. Lawrence, to walk into town together for Mass, and, for years, the adults had walked ahead while Antoine walked behind with Louise, who was his age and so had always been his best and nearly his only friend.

Their little brothers, Jean Paul and Maurice, used to run on ahead, but now that they were 12 and 10, simply walked along talking as well.

"Our last walk to church for a long time," Louise said.

Antoine agreed. "I will do my chores in the morning and leave for Lachine. If I get there soon enough, I could be on the river Tuesday morning with the next brigade."

Louise said nothing. They walked along quietly until Antoine spoke up again. "Jean Paul prayed for me this morning with his Easter water."

"As he should," Louise said.

"Do your parents still pray for Alexis to come home?" Antoine asked.

"Of course."

"You needn't worry about me," he said. "Your father was back in the fall and home all winter. Mine stayed away the full three years, but he was home at the end of his contract."

"My uncle Jean was gone six years," Louise said, "but he sent word that he was taking a second contract, so he wasn't really late."

She gazed out over the muddy, unplowed fields. "Sometimes letters get lost."

Antoine stopped walking, and Louise turned to face him. "If I go north or take a second contract, I will send three letters by three different brigades," he promised. "One of them will surely arrive."

"And how many letters will you send if you drown, or if you are killed by natives?" she asked, but waved away the angry question as her eyes filled. "I'm sorry, Antoine, I'm sorry. I miss my big brother."

"I know," Antoine said. "He was our hero when we were little!"

She nodded quietly, looking down, as they began to walk again. "It's so dangerous, so far away and such a long time," she said. "I wish you could stay, but I know that you must go."

"We need the money," Antoine answered. They walked together quietly for several minutes before he admitted the truth. "And, Louise, I really want to see it! I want to go!"

Antoine was at the offices of the North West Company in Lachine just before sunset Monday.

He stood in line until he reached the desk where a man was signing up voyageurs in his ledger.

He held out his copy of the contract.

The man took the paper, then smiled at the new, clean knee-length hooded capot Antoine's mother had made for him, and the fresh red toque on his head. "Sure you can keep up?"

"My father taught me to paddle," Antoine said, "and he made me carry heavy loads all winter. And he has always sung the songs while we worked in the fields."

"Grand Portage and back, in the middle," the man declared, writing "milieu" next to Antoine's name in the ledger.

"Take a bundle," he pointed at a stack in the corner, "and be on the wharf two hours before dawn." He turned his attention to the tall voyageur next in line.

Antoine knew what was in the bundle: A shirt, trousers, a bandana and a blanket. He had brought only his paddle, a knife, some silver rings to trade with the natives and a twist of tobacco. He didn't smoke, but his father said tobacco was good for trading with other voyageurs.

The sun had set while he was indoors. Now the dockside was crowded and noisy with voyageurs and their families and people with things to sell.

Men were shouting and singing and waving bottles in the air, and he could hear songs and laughter and fighting, all at the same time.

"They'll go on like that all night," a voice said. Antoine turned and saw the tall voyageur who had been behind him in line. "Come, we'll get some food."

"I brought some smoked meat," Antoine said, but the older man brushed the idea away.

"Next time, you can buy supper for some penniless young pork-eater," he said. "Tonight, it's my turn."

Text c. 2014, Mike Peterson – Illustrations c. 2014, Dylan Meconis



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. hippopotamus 2. hydrogen 3. Hartsel 4. ham 5. Hungary
 6. Hermes 7. halter 8. Halley's comet 9. hummingbird 10. hexagon

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

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