



American girl at an Indian wedding



Imagine the stimulation of every sense: vivid, luxurious clothing and decor, hundreds making pleasantries, the flavor of diverse curries on your taste buds, the heaviness of traditional clothing against your skin, and floral scents wafting into your nose.

That is a glimpse of an Indian wedding, an extravaganza of cultural magnificence that I recently had the pleasure of attending.

To begin, the bride spent over seven hours having intricate henna put on her hands, lower arms, feet, and lower legs. This process was only preparation for the calm chaos to arrive.

This jamboree started with a prayer titled “Ganesh Pooja,” in which the bride, her family, and a chanting priest circled a coconut.

This ritual was enacted before a velvet swing, with poles of barbour leaves and a frame of fresh marigolds.

Lavishly dressed guests enjoyed consuming delicacies over conversation until the late evening.

Unlike in American weddings, many of the rites went on behind the scenes, unobserved by the guests.

Later that evening, a royal blue light cascaded over baby pink and white flowers, surrounded by cameras for documentation.

This was set for the Sangeet, a collection of dances performed for the couple, integrated with comedic, witty remarks about them.

Bollywood’s influence on India shines clearly within this, as all family and friends present classic moves to popular songs.

The following morning began with an amusing ceremony, intended to beautify the bride.

Her family members would individually take two grass-like plants, dip them



Her sisters, brothers, and cousins smothered her with an herbal paste.

in various rejuvenating substances, and apply them all over her .

Afterward, her sisters, brothers, and cousins smothered her with an herbal paste.

Similarly to the previous day, this continued with socialization and various minor ceremonies leading up to the final event, which began with a grand procession.

The thumping sound of two drums playing traditional Indian beats filled the air as an enormous crowd of people danced exuberantly through the streets.

As the incredible amount of attendees from the groom’s side of the



The bride arrived in an elegant stroll, as she glided, along with her sisters, under a delicate tarp of fragrant jasmine, which was supported by her brothers.

wedding gleefully hopped to the live music, they accepted token gifts from the bride’s guests.

This Barat, as it’s named, signifies the arrival of the groom, accompanied by his relatives.

Contrary to the above, the bride arrived in an elegant stroll, as she glided, along with her sisters, under a delicate tarp of fragrant jasmine, which was supported by her brothers.

Ornately decorated, she wore a rich red lehenga and heavy golden jewelry that included bangles, earrings, an oversized nose ring, a necklace, and anklets.

Once guided to the groom, they began the ceremony by exchanging garlands of roses and were ushered to the canopy under which rituals would continue.

Two chairs rested under the golden canopy bordered with fresh pink and yellow flowers, draped with shimmering strings.

The wedding ceremony included the priest, couple, and parents sitting around a fire.

As the priest chants, numerous rites are carried out, most notably the couple



They began the ceremony by exchanging garlands of roses and were ushered to the canopy under which rituals would continue.

shock, though a normal event for locals. A foreigner could only contemplate its extravagance!



The bride spent over seven hours having intricate henna put on her hands, lower arms, feet, and lower legs.

taking seven sacred vows while circling the fire.

However, although there were approximately 1,100 people attending the wedding, only a handful had any interest in viewing this ceremony. Most everyone wandered around, eating and chatting.

Hours later, with touching goodbyes to the bride, the wonderful madness concluded.

These three days were an astounding culture



By Sanya Bhartiya 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial
Photos by wedding party



HEY COLORADO KIDS!

Visit YourHub.com/nextgen for more stories, movie reviews, school news, blogs and polls. Join the conversation today.

nextGen
YourHub.com/NextGen

Family is family despite an unusual setting

Blue River. The Blue River prison. Sounds like a pretty scary place to live. Well, Perry T. Cook has a different opinion.

The residents of the Blue River prison embrace Perry and his “criminal” mother, Jessica, with open arms.

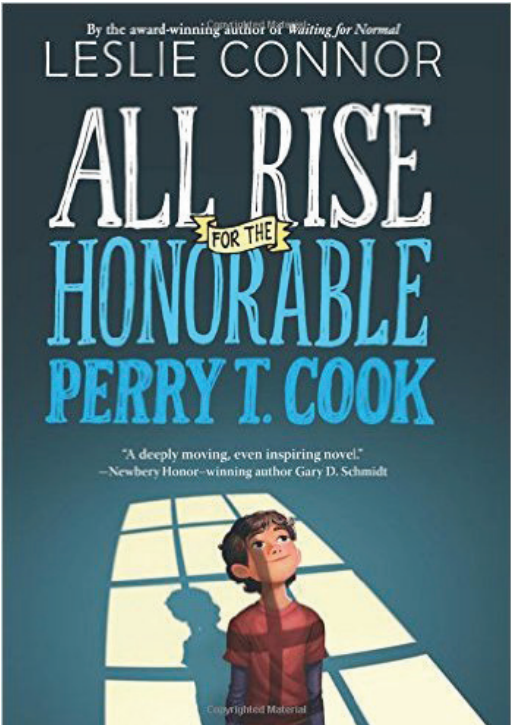
They don’t seem like big name criminals to Perry though. As author Leslie Connor states in the book “All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook,” they seem like friends and family.

Now, Jessica thinks that Perry will always be with her. There to comfort her. There to be excited for her. But something happens that feels like a punch in the stomach. Thomas Vanleer happens, the best Butler County District Attorney.

Apparently raising a child in a prison is illegal and Vanleer swoops in to take Perry away to where he can have a “normal childhood.”

Perry thinks his world is crumbling, but part of his world sticks together. It turns out that Thomas Vanleer is the awful stepdad of Perry’s best friend Zoey.

Perry begins to live with the Samuels and stepdad Tom with constant homesickness for Blue River.



He misses his mother. He misses his family, the warden, Mr. Hasley, Miss Maya, Big Ed.

Visiting days at Blue River are on Saturdays, so Perry only gets to see his mother once a week.

Thomas Vanleer is not helping Jessica’s parole date either. He moves it and they put it on hold.

Perry does not see the same brightness in his mother.

This book is probably for ages 8-9 and up. It would be confusing for younger readers because of all the government talk, and there were a few parts where I had to ask questions to understand it.

However, the book has amazing cliffhangers and twists and turns that kept me reading eagerly.

“All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook” is truly breathtaking.



By Haley Deison, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada

Whatever happened in Louisiana last week?

While many televisions were focused on the Olympics, anyone watching the news saw a more impressive display, as hundreds of heroic rescues took place in flooded Louisiana.

Some boats were operated by first responders, but others were simply those of citizens who helped bring stranded people to safety and shelter.

By week’s end, 40,000 homes were flooded and 86,000 people had applied for help from the federal government.

With six rivers in the area near Baton Rouge, you might think rainfall would drain quickly towards the Mississippi Delta at New Orleans, but all six rivers flooded as two feet of water fell in many places.

Some rivers set new flood records as much as four to six feet above their previous high marks.

The villain was a very moist, slow-moving storm that not only dropped rain at a high rate, but stayed in place for a very long time.

Over the past year, we’ve spoken several times of the El Niño that is stronger this year than in most, and the flooding in Louisiana appears to be a result

of that “super” El Niño.

El Niño is a term for a warm Pacific Ocean condition that includes bad weather.

In certain years, a “super El Niño” comes along that makes the results worse; a super El Niño in 1983 also brought harsh weather across Mexico, with massive flooding in Louisiana.

Climate change may mean more super El Niños in the future, and worse flooding when they happen.

Both government and private charity groups went into Louisiana to try to assist victims.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency brought in 650,000 liters of water, over 800,000 meals, over 20,000 cots, and 42,000 blankets, as well as people to help victims fill out paperwork to get help rebuilding their homes.

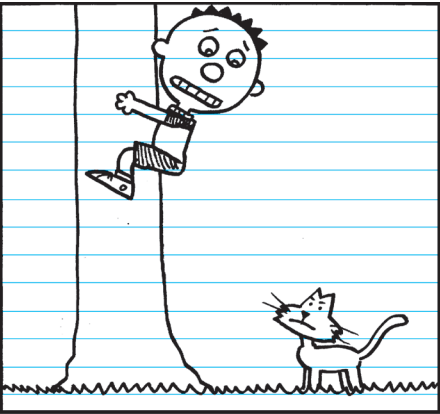
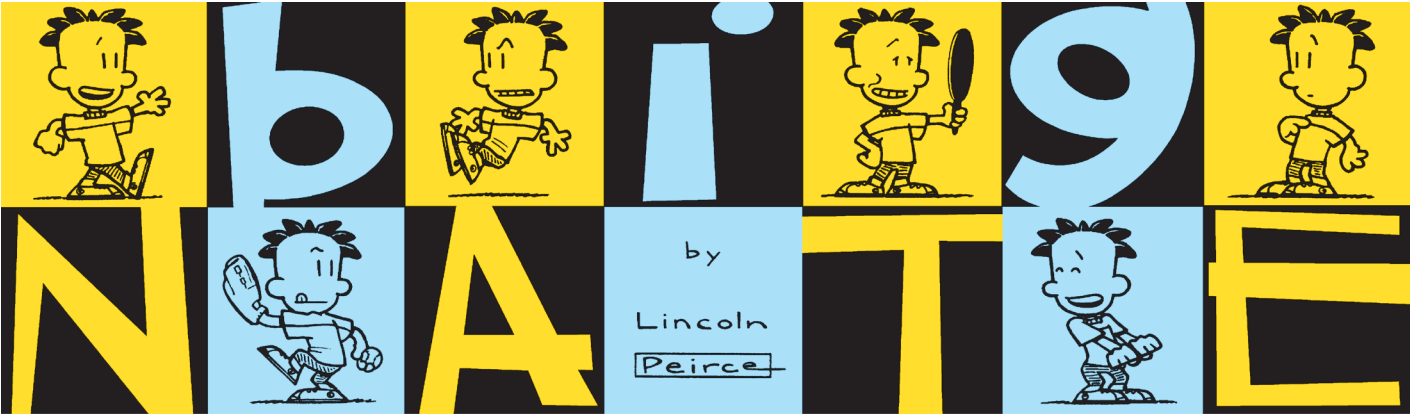
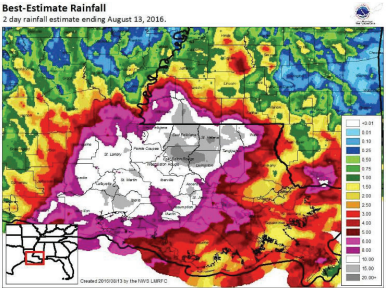
In addition, a number of groups around the country began collecting clothing and other supplies, though it is often most helpful to collect money so that local agencies can purchase what they need.

Taylor Swift may have known that: She donated a million dollars to relief efforts.



Above, the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge after the rains. At right, the white shows areas of more than 10 inches of rain, the gray shows 20 inches.

(AP Photo/Patrick Dennis. Map by NOAA)



Dogs prefer friendship to treats

There are two main ways that people train dogs: One is with food, the other is with praise.

Most dogs do, indeed, like the idea of getting a doggy cookie after doing a task like sitting, staying or fetching a toy.

But a research project says owners are right who say most dogs would rather have a hug and praise than a treat.

The project involved finding dogs who would lie quietly in an

MRI machine so their brains could be scanned.

Then they were shown various things.

Sometimes, they got a treat after seeing a particular object.

After other objects, they got praise and affection.

The vast majority of dogs were much more interested in seeing the objects that would be followed by praise than they were in seeing objects that would be

followed by food.

Then the dogs were put in a Y-shaped maze.

At the end of one leg, they could get a treat. At the end of the other, hugs and praise.

Nearly all ran to the hugs.

And here’s an advantage to training your dog with praise instead of with food:

You might run out of doggie cookies, but you can always find a hug if you look hard enough!

Douglass Elementary about to be reborn



Dazzling classrooms, heart-shaped cafes, outdoor learning, and a projected cost of \$24,719,865 is sure to catch your eye, but what really makes this school special?

Well, it all started last Fall, when the Douglass community started imagining what the new Douglass Elementary School could look like – modern and different. The existing building had some problems and some of them could not be fixed. So this is a new school design for the Boulder Valley School District. In May, Adolph and Peterson (A&P) Construction Company began clearing the back fields of the school grounds and putting up construction fences. Both playgrounds and the shade structure were taken down.

The new school will be built in this area and is expected to be ready for the start of the 2017 school year.

Students from fifth grade were randomly chosen to give ideas for the new school.

Some of the suggestions included a space for gatherings and performances, an outdoor space as a good connection to the beautiful nature in Colorado that will consist of a garden for students to explore and would provide fresh food for lunch, shaded outdoor reading areas, water features for students to be near on hot days, nature trails for students to walk and connect with nature, and fields for students to play sports.

The inside of the school will have classrooms and “specials” rooms which include Music, Art, Library, and Gym.

The building will also have a cafeteria in addition to the heart café for the kids. What is really cool is that some bricks from the old building will be used in the walls and floors of the new building.

I think that students and teachers will enjoy this new building and I hope they like and treasure and keep alive the Douglass school spirit that began in 1952.

If you are interested in more details about the Douglass Elementary school project, you can go to the project website at:
<http://bond.bvdsd.org/projects/Douglass/Pages/default.aspx>



By Katherine Gagner ,
11, a CK Reporter
from Boulder

Action, adventure and animals in Cloud Kingdom

“Teddycats,” by Mike Storey, is an action book with tragic and heroic scenes and a story that highlights leadership.

Teddycats are mammals that are basically wild cats with really sharp, long claws that live high up in very top of the trees.

They are only found in a place called Cloud Kingdom, a secure fortress that acts as a place for the teddycats to hide from danger.

It is a beautiful place. There is a sparkling river with lush grass, valleys, and perfect dens for cats with walls that reach high into the sky.

There is even a tree that is so high that from the top of it one can watch all that is going on in the kingdom. However there are very strict rules that must be obeyed.

The strictest rule is that teddycats are not allowed to bring people or animals from outside of Cloud Kingdom into cloud system.

These strict rules are in place because no one knows about Cloud Kingdom and the elders, the rulers of Cloud Kingdom, want to stay hidden and refuse to face the fact that some day the jungle will eventually find them.

Teddycats themselves are not unknown though, in fact they used to be friends with olingos (*a genuine animal that lives in South America*).

In the novel, olingos are dull furred, clawless, teddy-



cats.

However they are no longer friends because when humans attacked their previous home, the teddycats ran and found Cloud Kingdom and left the olingos behind to fend for themselves.

One of the main characters in this novel is a teddycat named Bill who thinks the rules of the Cloud Kingdom are unfair.

I won’t tell you what happens, but let’s just say that this story involves humans attacking Cloud Kingdom, teddycats fighting for their home, and interactions between the teddycats and the olingos.

This book has 231 pages and no pictures. Don’t worry though, the story has lots of details about the characters so it is easy to make pictures in your mind of what you think everything looks like!

The length of the story was about right, but I do wish there was a bit more. In my opinion, there is enough to work with to have made the story much longer.

Perhaps Mike Storey will write a sequel! I definitely enjoyed this one!



By Ben Vanourek ,
11, a CK Reporter
from Littleton

Sudoku

4					3
		3			5
2	1				
			4	1	
3	5		2		
			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

- On this day in 1970, Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers began the “Salad Bowl Strike” to protest unfair treatment of farm workers, so our answers this week will begin with “L” for lettuce.**
1. The tallest peak in Boulder County and Rocky Mountain National Park, you may be able to see it from your home if you live on the Front Range north of Pueblo.
 2. Primate found only on the island of Madagascar
 3. Term for a nation like Switzerland or Paraguay that has no border on an ocean or sea
 4. Author of “A Wrinkle in Time” and “A Swiftly Tilting Planet.”
 5. Norse god of mischief
 6. Contract between a landlord and tenant setting the rules for renting a home
 7. The largest city on the River Thames
 8. Though a Ravenclaw, she became friends with Ginny Weasley and Harry Potter
 9. First grown in South America, this vegetable shares part of its name with Peru’s capital
 10. The lines on the map that show distance from the Equator, north or south
- (answers on Page Four)**

The secret ingredient for rebuilding reefs may be fish pee

Overfishing appears to not only threaten the fish themselves, but the coral reefs in our oceans.

That’s the finding of a research project that looked at coral reefs throughout the Caribbean.

Some were in areas that are heavily fished by commercial fishing boats.

Some were in areas where fishing is prohibited.

And some were in areas with limited fishing.

What researchers found was that the coral itself is healthier in areas with the most large fish; the areas where fishing was prohibited.

These larger fish, mostly predators who feed on smaller fish, add to the biomass, or total amount of living material, in the reef area.

And that means they add to the amount of fish pee in the area, too.

“Fish hold a large proportion, if not most of the nutrients in a coral reef in their tissue, and they’re also in charge of recycling them,” explained Jacob Allgeier of the University of Washington’s School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, who led the study.

“If you take the big fish out, you’re removing all of those nutrients from the ecosystem.”

There is phosphorous in fish urine, and their gills release nitrogen into the water.

Both are very important to the coral and the big fish are the ones that are capable of releasing enough to make a difference.

photo/Holobionics



Beyond These Four 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

Louisiana flooding

Training dogs with praise

Large fish and coral reefs

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

Old Man Stories

Why Kingfisher Wears A War Bonnet

These stories were collected from Blackfeet, Chippewa and Cree storytellers in Montana in the early 20th century by Frank Linderman.

You have often seen Kingfisher at his fishing along the rivers, I know, and you have heard him laugh in his odd way, for he laughs a good deal when he flies.

That same laugh nearly cost him his life once, as you will see.

I am sure none could see the Kingfisher without noticing his great head-dress, but not many know how he came by it because it happened so long ago that most men have forgotten.

It was one day in the winter-time when Old Man and the Wolf were hunting.

The snow covered the land and ice was on all of the rivers. It was so cold that Old Man wrapped his robe close about himself and his breath showed white in the air.

Of course the Wolf was not cold; wolves never get cold as men do.

Both Old Man and the Wolf were hungry for they had travelled far and had killed no meat.

Old Man was complaining and grumbling, for his heart is not very good.

It is never well to grumble when we are doing our best, because it will do no good and makes us weak in our hearts. When our hearts are weak our heads sicken and our strength goes away.

When the sun was getting low Old Man and the Wolf came to a great river.

On the ice that covered the water, they saw four fat Otters playing.

"There is meat," said the Wolf; "Wait here and I will try to catch one of those fellows."

"No! No!" cried Old Man. "Do not run after the Otter on the ice, because there are air-holes in all ice that covers rivers, and you may fall in the water and die."

Old Man didn't care much if the Wolf did drown.

He was afraid to be left alone and hungry in the snow, that was all.

"Ho!" said the Wolf, "I am swift of foot and my teeth are white and sharp. What chance has an Otter against me? Yes, I will go," and he did.

Away ran the Otters with the Wolf after them, while Old Man stood on the bank and shivered with fright and cold.

Of course the Wolf was faster than the Otter, but he was running on the ice, remember, and slipping a good deal.

Nearer and nearer ran the Wolf. In fact he was just about to seize an Otter, when SPLASH! -- into an air-hole all the Otters went.

Ho! the Wolf was going so fast he couldn't stop, and SWOW! into the airhole he went like a badger after mice, and the current carried him under the ice.

The Otters knew that hole was there.

That was their country and they were running to reach that same hole all the time, but the Wolf didn't know that.

Old Man saw it all and began to cry and wail.

Ho! but he made a great fuss.

He ran along the bank of the river, stumbling in the snowdrifts, and crying; but it was because he didn't want to be left in that country alone that he cried -- not because he loved his brother, the Wolf.

On and on he ran until he came to a place where the water was too swift to freeze, and there he waited and watched for the Wolf to come out from under the ice, crying and wailing and making an awful noise for a grown man.

Well, right there is where the thing happened.

You see, Kingfisher can't fish through the ice and he knows it, too; so he always finds places like the one Old Man found.

He was there that day, sitting on the limb of a birch tree, watching for fishes, and when Old Man came near to Kingfisher's tree, crying like a frightened baby, it tickled the Fisher so much that he laughed that odd, chattering laugh of his.

Old Man heard him and -- Ho! but he was angry.

He looked to see who was laughing at him and that made Kingfisher laugh again, longer and louder than before.

This time Old Man saw him and SWOW! he threw his war-club at Kingfisher; tried to kill the bird for laughing.

Kingfisher ducked so quickly that Old Man's club just grazed the feathers on his head, making them stand up straight.

"There," said Old Man, "I'll teach you to laugh at me when I'm sad. Your feathers are standing up on the top of your head now and they will stay that way, too. As long as you live you must wear a head-dress to pay for your laughing, and all your children must do the same."

This was long, long ago, but the Kingfishers have not forgotten, and they all wear war-bonnets, and always will as long as there are Kingfishers.

adaptation c. 2005, Mike Peterson - illustrations c. 2005, Christopher Baldwin

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Longs Peak 2. lemur 3. landlocked 4. (Madeleine) L'Engle 5. Loki
6. lease 7. London 8. Luna Lovegood 9. lima bean 10. latitude

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.

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

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

Stories without bylines were written by the editor.



ColoradoNIE.com