



CK Reporter of the Week
Sophia Levy, Denver

Last 'Star Wars' thrills and satisfies

"Star Wars: the Rise of Skywalker" had me in its grip from beginning to end. If you haven't seen the first eight movies, they take place a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, and have a classic good vs. evil plot, except with lightsabers.

The latest episode, of course, starts out with the yellow text and starry background, and, as usual, the Resistance is fighting the Empire.

All of the huge spaceships and pretty scenery were impressive on the big screen and the sound is tremendous in theaters.

They keep the story fresh, even though the plot is reused throughout the series.

With the return of a villain, and an unexpected bond, there were a lot of surprising twists.

Our favorite characters reappear, along with some great new ones. Rey (*Daisy Ridley*), Finn (*John Boyega*), and Poe (*Oscar Isaac*) share many tender moments.

I have enjoyed watching them grow closer throughout the last three movies. They provide humor and make the story more relatable.

We don't all live in space and fight Storm Troopers, but we all have friends.

The amount of violence is typical for a Star Wars movie, but it's not too gory, and, when the story grew dark, there was still comic relief.

The audience cried one minute and laughed the next.

For the last film in the series, one might raise their expectations, but I had no expectations for the movie.

It was just as good as all of the others and I even liked it more.

The first Star Wars movie came out in 1977.



My parents and many others grew up watching the films, so if you go see it, take your parents!

Many of the original actors appeared in this movie, as well.

BB8 was also in the movie alongside a new droid. Many mysteries were solved and the way the movies are tied together is fascinating.

This is a good movie to see in a theater.

All of the huge spaceships and pretty scenery were impressive on the big screen and the sound is tremendous in theaters.

Your parents will enjoy it and kids ages 9 and up,

though it depends on how they handle violence.

If you're going to see it, I recommend that you watch the previous films first, otherwise you will be confused since the story picks up where "The Last Jedi" left off.

I loved the movie. It was 42 years in the making, and this is the last Star Wars movie, ever.

Or is it?

We don't know, but the series went out with a bang.



By Maya Fahy,
14, a CK Reporter
from Longmont

Good Jumbies series loses focus at the end

"The Jumbie God's Revenge" is the third in Tracey Baptiste's "The Jumbies" series, which follows the life of Corinne, who, being half-human and half-Jumbie, must go to great lengths to protect both the Jumbies and humans on her island from one another.

Corinne La Mer had finally banished her aunt Severine, the villainous queen of the land Jumbies on her island, to the ocean with no way of returning and no memories of where she came from.

Corinne assumed that, being half-Jumbie herself, her town would go back to normal and she would be treated just like everyone else again.

However, in protecting her people, she awakens a new threat that's nothing like what she's faced off against before.

Unlike the first two books in the series, which both focus on Corinne having to choose one side of her family over another to avoid causing as much additional damage to the island as she can, in this book she has to protect both races against an even larger threat.

It turns out that Huracan, a storm god who rules over all the Jumbies on Corinne's island, had destroyed the island long before any humans were there to restore peace.

He ordered that all Jumbies must stay in their designated areas — either in the sky, sea, or land — but with Severine gone, the island's harmony began to fall apart, and Huracan is already beginning to tear the island apart.

Corinne ventures back to the ocean to find her missing aunt, hoping that she

won't try to wipe out all the humans on the island like before, and that Corinne's own memories won't slip away on the journey.

But even after Severine's return, Huracan isn't pleased.

The series as a whole has a great plot made even better with the originality of the idea.

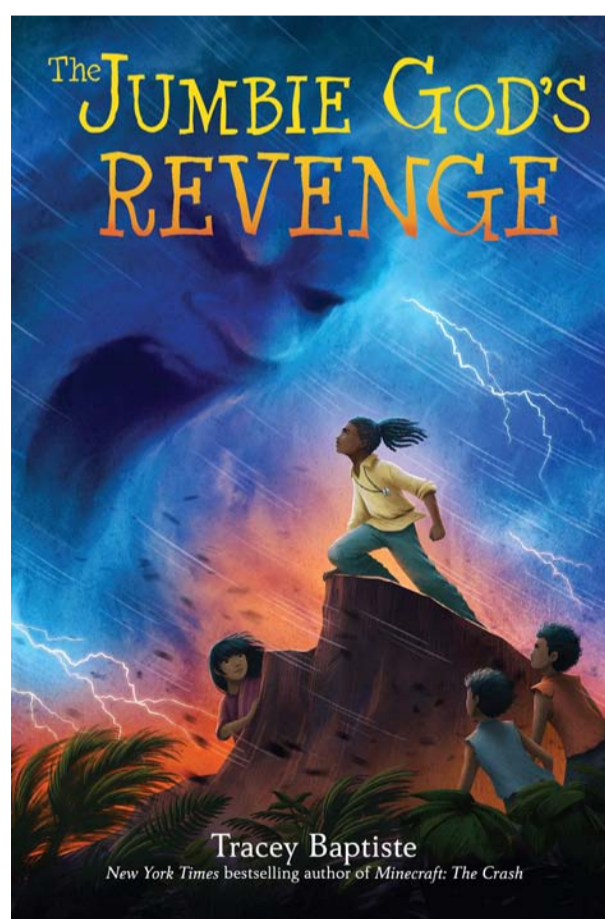
This book itself has a great storyline and makes a pretty decent finale for the series, but the plot is all over the place at times.

The first two books have pretty much the same antagonist, Severine, but in this case she suddenly switches to helping Corinne.

This change does make sense in a way, based on the events in the previous books, but this, in addition to other factors like how quickly Corinne goes from fighting a monster to a god, and the inexplicable powers she gains seemingly from nowhere, threw me off.

It might be difficult for younger readers to follow this plot, and might not be very interesting for anyone above 13.

The book does fill in some plot holes on what happened previously, but I wouldn't recommend reading it without having read the first two books.



Tracey Baptiste
New York Times bestselling author of *Minecraft: The Crash*



By Nandi Strieker,
13, a CK Reporter
from Antonito



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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.

Jumanji sequel offers more laughs and thrills

Thrilling, Fast-paced, and magical, “Jumanji: The Next Level” is one of the best movies of the year.

It features the five characters from “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” along with two brand-new characters: Grandpa Eddie (*Danny DeVito*) and Milo Walker (*Danny Glover*).

They go back into Jumanji after Spencer (*Alex Wolff*) disappears and that is the only place he could have gone.

The plot is well-done and fits well together, each part seamlessly going from one to the next.

It is entertaining and doesn't feel like the full two hours and three minutes; at one point, I even forgot where I was and had to remind myself because I was too invested in the movie.

I only had two main problems with the plot, one of which was the ending, which seemed too easy and anticlimactic. They had been building up the ending since pretty much the very beginning, but then it was just relatively simple.

The other issue was that several concepts were copied from the first movie with very little variation if any, and that caused these parts to get old, plus some concepts that were repeated in this movie felt boring and unexciting after a bit.

Also, it seemed as though this one had a bit less heart or something, and wasn't quite as fresh.

But that is part of almost any sequel; they are rarely quite as good as the original.

That being said, I feel as though the comedy this time around might have been even better than the first movie, though some of it was a little raunchy and perhaps



inappropriate for younger audiences.

Furthermore, I wish they included more detail for certain characters and avatars.

They added two new avatars but they were both just lightly brushed over before being shoved aside again.

Also, as is well known, the characters always have three lives, but it seemed like characters lost lives for unimportant or stupid reasons.

The worst part of that is how one of the characters goes from three lives to one for no explained reason, and it was quite irritating and annoying, just wondering how someone magically died twice.

Still, the acting in “The Next Level” was quite good, especially from Danny DeVito, who added a good comedic aspect and worked very well within it.

This movie, despite my ranting, is very well done and I feel will almost be as much of a classic as the first.

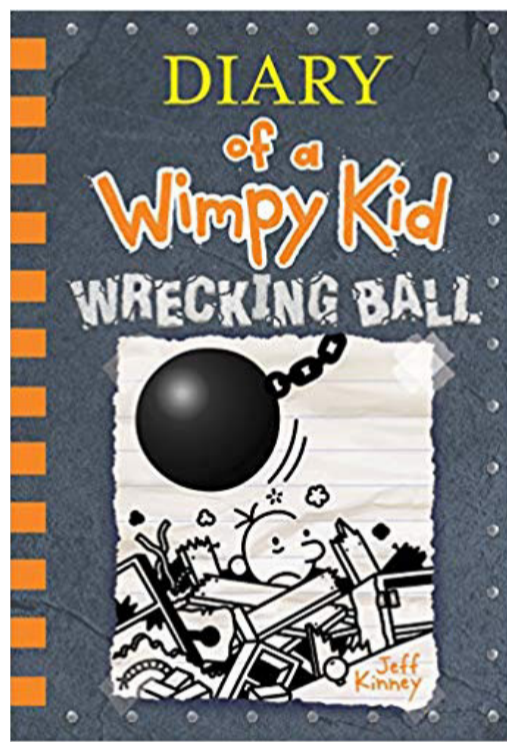
“Jumanji: The Next Level” is a terrific movie and I would recommend it to anyone.

Truly amazing and spectacular, this movie will level up to the top.



By Thatcher Mulholland, 14, a CK Reporter from Broomfield

Wimpy Kid strikes again with ‘Wrecking Ball’



In “Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball,” by Jeff Kinney, when Greg Heffley finds out his family gets a big inheritance, they all start dreaming about how to spend it.

The problem is they can't agree on what to do with all this money.

Rodrick, Greg's brother, wants a new tour bus for his band, Greg's dad wants some really expensive figurines for his Civil War diorama and Manny, Greg's little brother, wants to fill up his bedroom with chocolate pudding!

His mom wants to do home improvements, but everyone thinks that is boring except Greg, who has lots of blueprints of his dream house.

He has some interesting ideas like a toilet in his couch, an ice skating rink, and lots of other crazy ideas.

His mom says no and decides to do her idea of home improvements.

But when the workers come to start the construction, the problems start: They accidentally put out their furniture on a trash day!

Will the problems ever stop? Will Greg's mom's idea work

out or not?

“Diary of a Wimpy Kid Wrecking Ball,” Number 14 in the series, is another journey into Greg's life, but this time about home improvements that end up affecting his whole family as well as Greg's friends.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has a good sense of humor.

Jeff Kinney did a really good job on this book and adds lots of details about what could happen in real life but hopefully doesn't.

The illustrations are hilarious, detailed and realistic, while the main character, Greg Heffley, adds to the story because of his dumb actions.

If you liked the other “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” books, I'd recommend you read this one too.

I enjoyed it just as much as all the other ones I've read.



By Elise Hoover, 9, a CK Reporter from Denver

Big Nate



illustration/ Tom Björklund

Chewing gum reveals ancient kid

Thanks to a young girl in Denmark who didn't dispose of her chewing gum properly 5,700 years ago, we now know what she looked like, what she ate and the state of her health.

“Lola,” as researchers have named her, may have been chewing birch gum because it helps with a tooth ache: Part of the DNA they recovered from the gum shows gum disease.

Or she may have just been chewing birch gum because she liked it. People in this country chew the gum of spruce trees for that reason.

But this was a wonderful find, because, as you can imagine, used chewing gum contains a lot of saliva and so a lot of DNA.

It also picks up bits of what you ate last, so we know that Lola had a meal of mallard and hazel nuts.

She was lactose intolerant, so she didn't drink milk. (*But maybe nobody in her tribe did.*)

Lola was not Scandinavian in the modern sense; her people probably came from the mainland south of Lolland, a Danish island.

And, as the illustration show, we know that she had blue eyes, dark hair and dark skin.

And she tossed her gum in the mud when she was done with it.

'Little Women' remains true to Alcott

Classics, whether books or movies, turned into new live-action films too often add unnecessary plot lines or unwanted new stories to a beloved favorite.

However, when it comes to the new movie "Little Women," based on the 1868 novel by Louisa May Alcott, this is not the case.

Whether you are a fan of the book or not, however, you will love this movie.

In this new adaptation, Jo March (*Saoirse Ronan*) captures every moment of her and her three sisters' lives in the novel that she is writing.

The movie is filled with stories of the friendship, hardships, and love of the March sisters.

The movie begins during the aftermath of the Civil War, with the March sisters' father away in the army and their mother struggling to make ends meet.

Jo, Meg (*Emma Watson*), Amy (*Florence Pugh*), and Beth (*Eliza Scanlen*) March live in the city of Concord, Massachusetts, and vary in age and looks, though all four are as close as can be and truly show what an ideal sisterhood is, including the normal arguing.

During the movie, the audience is brought back and forth between the sisters' childhood and where they are as adults.

As children, they write and star in their own plays, go to school, help out around the house, and enjoy time with their wealthy neighbor Theodore "Laurie" Lawrence (*Timothée Chalamet*).

As adults, they have each gone in separate ways until tragedy befalls the family and they once again unite.

Another great aspect of the movie, other than its plot, is its historical accuracy.

The movie includes astonishing costumes, from Meg's cotillion dress, to Amy's dresses during her time in Paris, and even some of the day-to-day outfits that



the characters wear.

The movie also speaks to what it might have been like to grow up with a father gone fighting in a war.

There are several scenes in which the sisters speak about missing their father, or the sacrifice they are making by having him gone.

Although there are many truly wonderful pieces of this movie, there are several downsides.

With a runtime of 2 hours and 14 minutes, I became antsy and when the end of the movie came I was definitely ready for it.

Another issue with the movie was the continuous switching between time periods. The many characters, who had very brief introductions, made it difficult to follow.

The other issue with the movie was that a timeline and places were never clarified throughout, which was another thing that made the movie difficult to follow.

Whether you are a fan of the book or not, however, you will love this movie.

Even with the few downsides, it was still done well considering it had to be adapted from a 759-page book.

Between a great storyline, incredible costumes and historical accuracy, it is a very well done remake and definitely worth going to see.

The movie brings the audience through an emotional rollercoaster with twists and turns that could never be expected.



By Ariana Bates-Erlich, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Macau contrasts with protesting Hong Kong

Macau, a territory just across the mouth of the Zhuizhang River from Hong Kong, has been a mashup of China and Portugal for about 400 years.

Both Macau and Hong Kong were built up from small collections of villages hundreds of years ago by traders from the West.

But Macau is much older, dating back to the early days of Portuguese explorers in the 1500s, while Hong Kong was established by British traders in the late 1700s.

The two territories were handed back to China 20 years ago, with the understanding that they would become part of China but would be able to keep some portions of their European-style governmental and economic systems.

This meant that the people there, who are mostly ethnic Chinese but include some people of European ancestry, enjoy more freedoms than the average Chinese citizen enjoys, and work in an economy that is more Western-style and less communist than in the rest of China.

This policy of "one government, two systems" has allowed both territories to become very

wealthy, with Hong Kong specializing in importing and exporting goods and in trading stocks, while Macau has become the world's largest gambling resort, with many Western companies building huge casinos similar to those they own in Las Vegas.

They also have some of the best health and longest lives in the world.

However, while "one country, two systems" has worked well for their economies, it has not been nearly as successful in allowing people in the two territories to keep their Western-style freedoms.

Here, the similarities between the two end.

Hong Kong has recently been rocked with demonstrations demanding more freedom, and has become a serious problem as China tries to control its people without looking like a tyrant or bully in the eyes of the rest of the world.

By contrast, the people of Macau are much less likely to protest and are easier to govern.

This is likely why Chinese President Xi Jinping made such a fuss over the 20th Anniversary of their return to Chinese rule: To show Hong Kong that good behavior earns rewards.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, arrive at Macau Airport to participate in celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the return of Macau from Portuguese rule to China.

(AP Photo)



Sudoku

	4			1	
2					5
5		6			
				6	1
	5		4		
		2	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 date in 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 became the first humans to orbit the Moon, sending back the famous "Big Blue Marble" photograph of the Earth, so our answers will begin with "A" for Apollo.

1. This South African insectivore's name is the first word in many dictionaries.
2. America's first father-and-son presidents shared this last name.
3. The name of this phylum in the animal kingdom means "jointed legs" and includes insects, shrimp and spiders.
4. This county in southern Colorado is home to the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness as well as Adams State College. Its county seat shares its name.
5. In music, this word tells you to play (or dance) very quickly, brightly, happily.
6. One-word name of the author of "Crispin: The Cross of Lead" and "The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle."
7. In Greece, the capital city; in this country, it's home to the University of Georgia.
8. Though called a "wrench," it's an L-shaped hexagonal rod used to tighten bolts and is often included with furniture that you assemble yourself.
9. Spotted breed of horse bred and developed by the Nez Perce
10. The Greek heroes who followed Jason in search of the Golden Fleece.

(answers on Page Four)

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 CK Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Birch Gum Girl

Macau

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

Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



Classical Critters

Recently, an unusual sound snapped the early morning calm at Denver Zoo—a string quartet from the Colorado Symphony playing Mozart Divertimento No. 3 in G major in front of the giraffe habitat.

The flawless sounds of two violins, one viola and a cello radiated across the yard, immediately catching the attention of the entire herd. Dobby, the Zoo's famous two-year-old giraffe, with his ears perked up and neck craned in curiosity, quickly ventured over to investigate the sounds and musicians.

"We didn't know what to expect. So, we weren't sure if they would be nervous, excited, or bouncy, which is a sign of excitement," said Denver Zoo Giraffe Keeper Amanda Faliano. "Dobby showed a lot of cool behaviors. Sometimes he would kick, and sometimes he was just watching on high alert, both of which are signs of excitement and interest."

Colorado Symphony Violinist Larisa Fesmire added, "I never thought our classical career would be at the Zoo. I'm glad they seemed to like the music more than my dogs do at home when I'm practicing!"

Musicians from the Colorado Symphony went on to play impromptu concerts for other animals around the Zoo, including Tensing, 11, the pregnant greater one-horned rhino, and the Zoo's Sumatran orangutan family made up of Berani, 26, Nias, 31, Hesty, 9, and Cerah, 1.

All the animals involved—humans and nonhumans, alike—expressed amazement and enjoyment in what turned out to be an experiment to prove that music is, indeed, a universal language.

Best part? You can see it all on video!

Just go to <https://vimeo.com/379857046/ea47ef959e>

CK Calendar

Wednesday, December 25

"Little Women" opens in theaters. See the review on Page Two of this issue!

Now until Sunday January 5

School break fun at the Denver Art Museum. During Winter Break, the Paint Studio and Create-n-Takes are open daily. See performances of the family-friendly play, Art Emergency: Monet Edition. Check <https://denverartmuseum.org/calendar/art-emergency-monet-winter-break-2019> for performance dates and times. All Winter Break activities are included in general admission, free for kids 18 and younger. Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature requires a separate ticket; advance purchase is highly recommended.

Thursday, January 9

Orchid Showcase, Denver Botanic Gardens, through February 16. This annual exhibit presents hundreds of colorful orchid blooms in the Orangery and Marnie's Pavilion. Common and rare species are featured, some even so special they must remain behind the greenhouse glass.

Sunday, January 19

Enjoy some low-sensory time in the famous diorama halls at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, from 6 to 8 p.m., with reduced sound, increased lighting, and a supportive environment for families with sensory integration issues. Free, but registration is required. For more information, visit <https://secure1.dmns.org/family-programs>

Sunday, January 28

Middle School Teen Lounge: Sci-Fi Odyssey, 7 to 9 pm. Sixth to eight graders take over the Museum at this totally free event. Blast off during a sci-fi, space-themed evening as you explore the stories of a place that continues to capture imaginations and spend some time in Space Odyssey before it closes for its transformation. Includes free snacks, entertainment, and activities.

Sunday, February 2

Last day to see the Monet exhibit at the Denver Art Museum, featuring more than 120 paintings spanning Monet's entire career and focusing on the celebrated French Impressionist artist's enduring relationship with nature. A special dated and timed exhibition ticket is required and you should definitely buy yours in advance. For more information, go to <https://denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/claude-monet>

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. aardvark 2. Adams 3. arthropod 4. Alamosa 5. allegro 6. Avi
7. Athens 8. Allen wrench 9. Appaloosa 10. Argonauts

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