



CK Reporter of the Week
Ariana Bates-Ehrlich, Denver

The Best of CK: 'Hunger Games'

Editor's Note: With current CK Reporters quarantined and most museums, theaters and other story sources closed, we're presenting feature stories from past issues, beginning with a review of "Hunger Games" that first ran in Colorado Kids March 27, 2012.

As every fan of the bestselling novel, "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins knows, the book has now been made into a movie.

Starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss, Josh Hutcherson as Peeta, and Liam Hemsworth as Gale, this is a film you won't want to miss!

"The Hunger Games" is a great story, and you don't need to have read the book to enjoy the movie. It is very clear, and easily understandable.

This is a haunting story that you will never forget, whether you read it, watch it, or both. The film really added a new angle to the book and helps show you how terrible Katniss's society really is.

The movie follows the book very closely, almost everything is the same except for a few minor scenes and details. For example, there is no Madge in the movie, and, while this seems like a major change, it really does not affect the plotline all that much.

The movie is 2 hours and 22 minutes long, however, and these scenes and details simply had to be omitted to fit that time length.

This movie is rated PG-13 for a reason.

It is not gratuitously violent or bloody, but, since it follows the book so closely in this aspect, there is still a large amount of gore.

The cameras flip through the violent scenes very fast, however, without lingering on bloodiness.



I would recommend definitely twelve and up for this movie, but, whatever your age, if you can't handle blood, this movie is not for you.

There were also very brief, minor language issues. Even having read the books, I was still on the edge of my seat, muscles tensed, throughout the whole movie.

Just like the book, it's very dramatic and emotional, maybe more so, because you are seeing it.

If you cried while reading the book, expect to cry during the movie, even though you know what's going to happen.

This is a wonderful movie, with great actors/

actresses, a great plotline, romance, and lots of action.

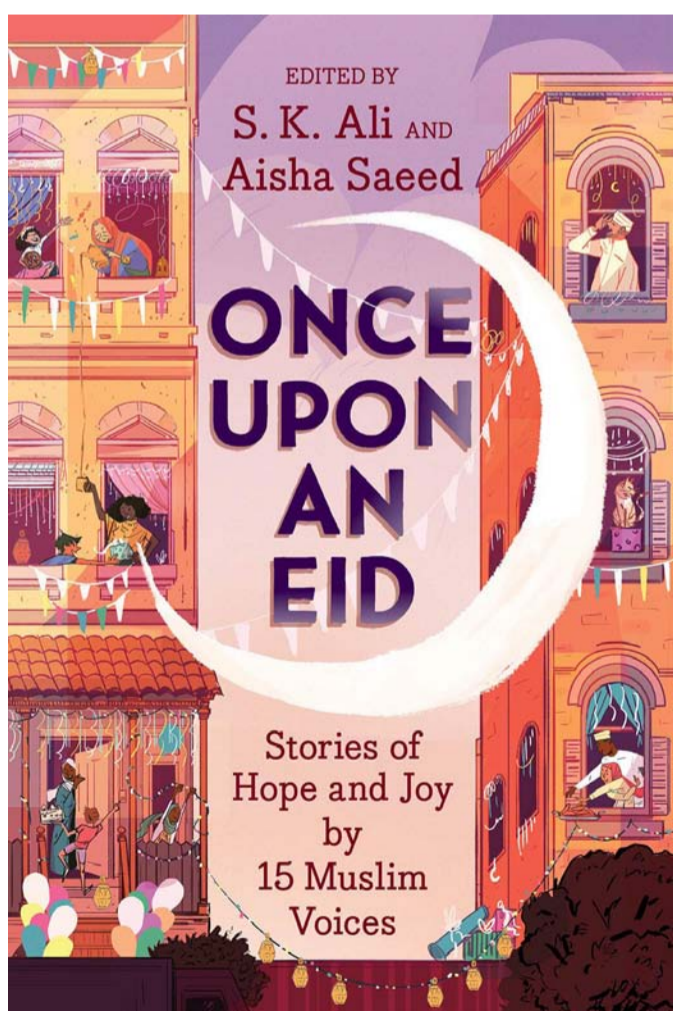
If you've read the book, definitely go see it, and if you haven't, the movie will make you want to read it. It's still worth reading, because the book is in first-person, and that's hard to capture in a film.



By Hannah Costa, 13, a CK Reporter from Brighton

(Hannah is currently a junior at the University of Denver with an interest in neuroscience.)

Multi-author book tells stories of Eid



"Once Upon An Eid," edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed, is a book that really gives you a taste of one of the biggest Muslim holidays, Eid (pronounced 'eed').

I'm not Muslim, and so learning about this holiday was new information to me. In the beginning of the book, it gives a little background information on Eid.

There are two Eids, one is Eid-ul-Fitr, and the other is Eid-ul-Adha.

The stories in this book, each by different authors, are set on Eid-ul-Fitr, which is the Eid celebration that ends Ramadan, a month of fasting.

All the stories have great voices; my personal favorite was "Perfect," by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow.

"Perfect" is about two girls: Hawa, who's visiting, and Fanta, who is trying to be a kind host, who didn't have the perfect time together a few Eids ago.

It involves jealousy and insults, so neither of the girls are happy to see each other, but Fanta is trying to be kind.

I liked the humor of the story and the unexpected ending. It is full of voice.

Some other stories included Aya, who is the only Muslim in her class, and likes it, but de-

cides that maybe it's not all she thought it was; Deyana, who is on a road trip to Sydney for Eid, and stuck with her annoying siblings; and Yusuf, who is responsible for keeping the family Eid tradition alive: the brownies!

All the stories in this book illustrate different Muslim voices sharing what's going on for them during this festive time.

Most of the stories end in an uplifting way, and they illustrate what this holiday is like for the Muslim children, from the taste of food after fasting, to bringing old traditions to life.

This book accomplishes its goal, to allow all children, Muslim or not, to get a taste of the Muslim community's biggest holiday.

I felt like I was right there with them, experiencing an Eid, which is quite something, considering I never knew what Eid was before reading this book.

They did a fabulous job to make all the stories feel real.



By Izzie Intriago, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora



Writing Is Fun!

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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.

Second in the series still a thrilling read

Exciting, passionate, and well-written, "The Iron Will of Genie Lo," by F.C. Yee, will surely be a favorite of its readers.

This book is the sequel to "The Epic Crush of Genie Lo," and a Rick Riordan-style book about Chinese mythology, focusing on Genie Lo and combining Chinese mythology with the modern-day.

More specifically, it is about how Genie is the reincarnation of the Ruyi Jingu Bang, the legendary weapon of the monkey-warrior-king, Sun Wukong.

They, along with a mini-pantheon of other gods must face world-ending crises on a semi-regular basis, in one of the best ways I've ever read, including the extremely hard challenge of explaining why the gods aren't helping in our modern-day lives as they once used to.

This book is a lot of fun, featuring great comedy and characters, and a very engaging storyline.

Unfortunately, not everyone should probably partake in the fun, because it has a lot of sexual themes and other not-kid-friendly themes, but if the reader is fine with something like the Avengers – or any other movie with Iron Man – they should be fine.

The worst that really happens is a lot of barely not saying the "f-word", kissing a lot, and hinting at some sexual things happening off-page.

Besides that, it is pretty tame in every other age-restriction front: There isn't any grotesque action, descriptions, or anything else of the sort, which might've been an issue, with the prominent enemies of Genie being demons.

It is a very good book, but that being said, there are several things that are very similar to the first, like Genie and Sun Wukong, or Quentin, disliking and mistrusting each other at the beginning and making up at the end.

But, they still demonstrated character development, while most of the other characters were very linear, which made it much harder to grow attached to any of them.

For instance, one character was in the book for over a hundred pages, and when they died, my thought was pretty much just "Oh, that happened."

There were also several plot holes, including one that could have fixed the entire main issue from happening, which was annoying.

Also, I feel that the overall quality of the book went down from the first to the second.

The first, I read for pretty much an entire day straight, and could hardly put down.

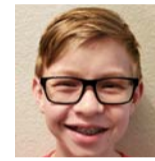
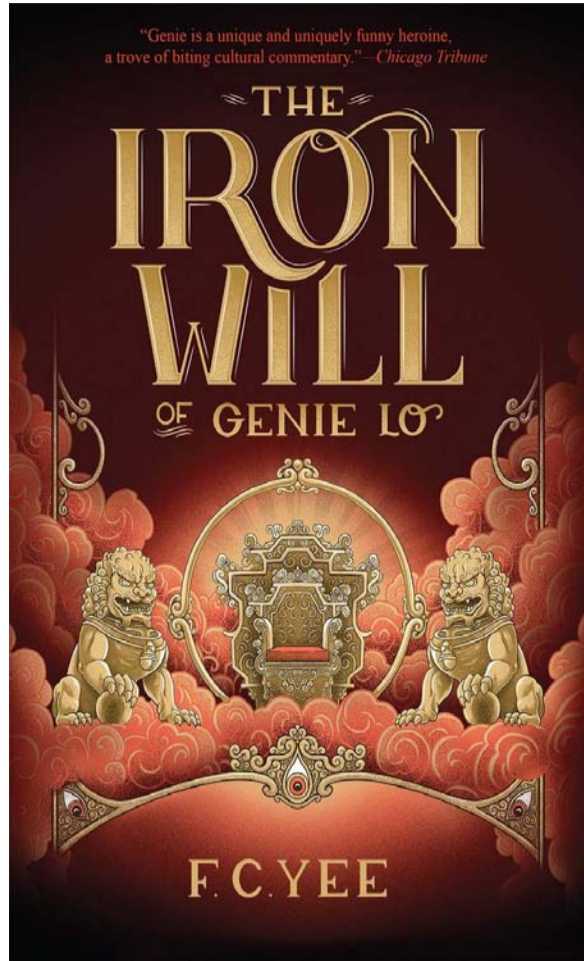
The second was good, but it took over twice as long for me to read.

Granted, this could have been due to a number of things but I think at least part of it was due to the simple fact that it was less exciting.

Despite my nitpicking, however, this is a good book, and I do recommend it.

It has a great air of action and adventure that really makes me want to read more, and though it seems like this might be the last in the series, I would not be too upset to see another one.

"The Iron Will of Genie Lo" is an action-packed and heartfelt story of Chinese mythology that is a lot of fun!



By Thatcher Mulholland, 14, a CK Reporter from Broomfield

Throwing overhand in an underhanded system



"Get a Grip, Vivvy Cohen" by Sarah Kapit is about a girl playing baseball.

Vivvy is done playing catch at home with her brother. She wants to play for a real hardball team. But her Mom doesn't agree.

She thinks Vivvy should play softball or not play at all.

One day she goes to social skills and her teacher tells her to write a letter to someone.

Vivvy knows exactly who to choose, her hero V.J. Capelo, a knuckleball pitcher in the Major Leagues.

Not too long after, V.J. starts writing her back. Vivvy is excited!

The next day, she goes with her brother to go practice pitching and a coach notices her and asks her to be on his team.

With a lot of convincing, her mom finally says yes!

Vivvy is worried about being the only autistic kid and the only girl on the team.

At the first practice, everyone is unsure about having a girl on the team, except Alex, who turns out to be her catcher and new best friend.

Another kid on the team, Kyle, is a bully to her. He makes fun of her and injures her, but luckily her friend Alex is there to get back at him.

He gives Vivvy great advice about how to pitch and also how to deal with Kyle.

Vivvy is not doing well with her first few starts winning only a few games. The same goes for V.J. who isn't doing well either.

Some stuff has been going on at home with Vivvy's brother but she can't seem to figure it out.

Suddenly a big injury happens which puts her back on the bench.

Will she heal before the season is over?

I enjoyed this book for a few reasons.

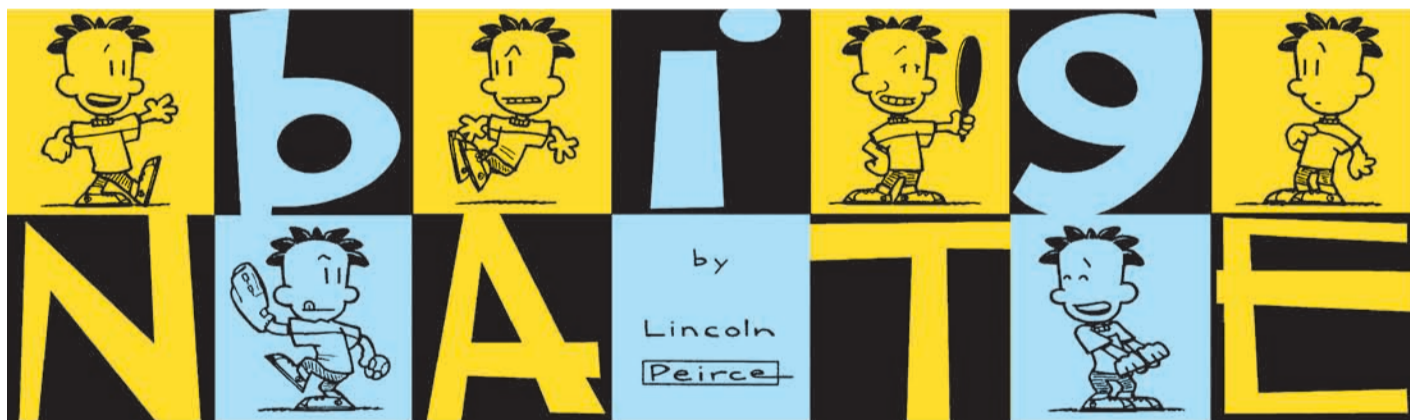
I love sports and am a softball player myself, so could relate to her playing baseball.

Her struggles are realistic and having siblings myself, I liked the element of sibling bonding.

Overall, this is a heartfelt story about following your dreams, and if you like sports and baseball, I think you'll enjoy it.



By Sydney Hoover, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver



Average people in a very difficult time

“Which Way Is Home?” is a thrilling novel by Maria Kiely.

The book is set in post-World War II Czechoslovakia, a country that was then under the control of the Soviet Union, and is based on Maria’s family history and what she heard from her mother and grandmother about their lives.

The main character in “Which Way is Home?” is Anna, a fictionalized version of Kiely’s mother.

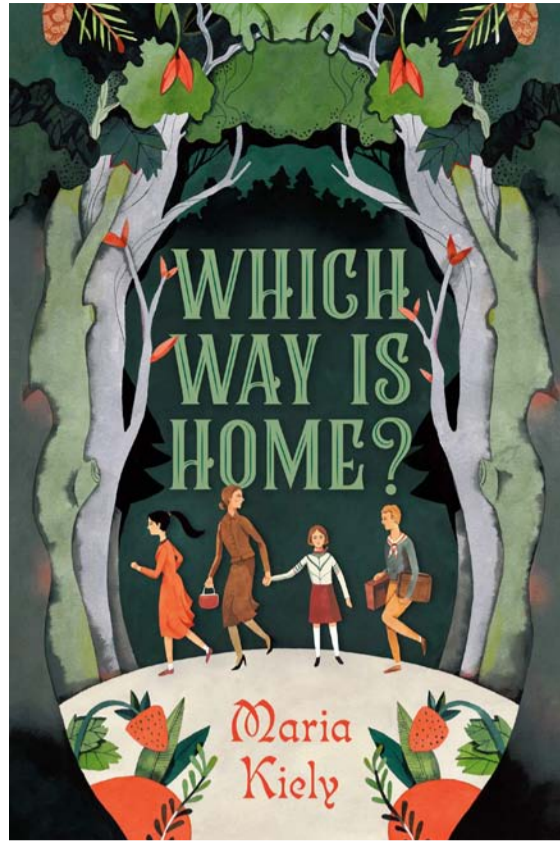
She lives on her family’s farm in Czechoslovakia, but as the reader quickly learns, Anna’s father was a British spy during WWII and did not want to work for the Communists, so he has already fled the country.

Anna, her mother and sister will soon try to join him, after an employee on their farm threatens to get the Communist government to take the farm from the family.

“Which Way is Home?” is a fast-paced book to begin with, with an exciting and daring escape plot, but the second half of the book slows down dramatically and has far fewer thrilling moments.

Despite the change in pace, “Which Way is Home?” is enjoyable from start to finish.

Kiely is especially good at showing and not telling what the characters are going through, like when a girl adjusts her posture around a boy, and the reader knows that the



girl likes the boy.

It is also refreshing to read a book about WWII and the Cold War period that has a girl as the main character; Most books about war and about the past in Europe have boys or men in the lead role because they were the soldiers and leaders of the time.

It was very interesting and surprising to read about how disorganized and challenging life was for years after the war.

“Which Way is Home?” begins in 1948, three years after the end of the war in Europe, and yet it is still difficult to send a telegram and know for sure that it will get through, or purchase basic food like sugar or butter.

In school we mostly learn about WWII and then the Cold War in America and this instead covers the period in between, in Europe and from the perspective of average people.

“Which Way is Home?” is exciting, informative and interesting.

I definitely recommend it.



By Aidan Muldoon, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

Novel goes below the surface of a tough life

“Mary Underwater” by Shannon Doleski is an incredibly well-written book.

This book was a joy to read, as it has a range of diverse emotions such as sadness, humor, love and the spirit of growth and overcoming hardships.

The main character, Mary Murphy, has a rough life.

Her abusive father is back home from prison and her mother doesn’t seem to have much interest in where Mary goes and what she does.

Because of this lack of attention for Mary from her parents, over time, Mary develops a close friendship with the class clown, Kip.

Mary develops more feeling towards Kip and turns into more than a best friend.

During Mary’s childhood, she had an estranged relationship with her Aunt Betty. As fate would have it, Mary receives an unexpected phone call from her aunt.

They plan to meet so they can get to know each other better and they soon build a strong relationship that carries throughout the story.

Because of a school assignment, Mary becomes determined to build a real life submarine, to get away from her abusive and neglectful situation at home.

She faces more constant battles at home with her parents, she learns how to work with Kip, and to look inward at herself to better her life and be her own hero.

Mary overcomes the abuse of her father and the carelessness of her mother and

“Mary Underwater” delivers, with heart wrenching details of what Mary has to endure.

To say I enjoyed reading this book would be an understatement.

It was a pleasure to read this and I felt I really connected with Mary.

I think other young readers would enjoy reading this book because of the life Mary lives.

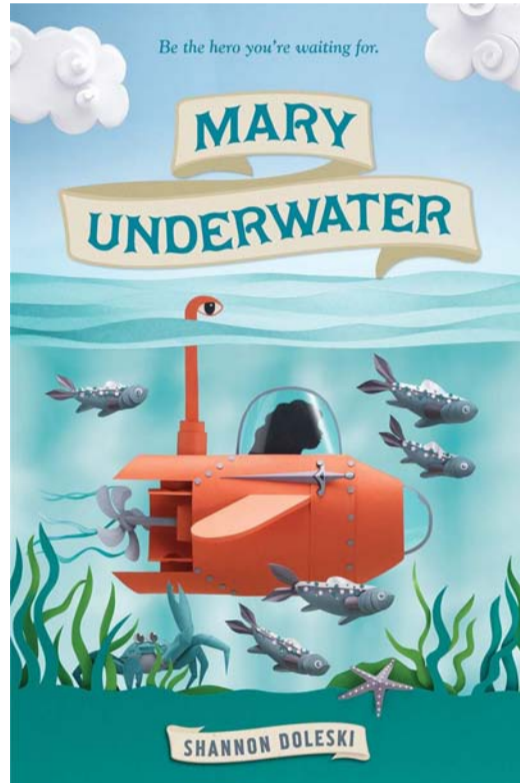
Every chapter leaves you with a cliffhanger and then you just have to read the next chapter to see what happens.

I know from experience, because I didn’t end up going to bed until 12:00 in the morning, I was so hooked on finding out what was going to happen next!

First-time author Shannon Doleski, wrote a wonderful book.

I wonder if this is a story that was inspired by her own life or someone close to her, as the details and story line were so real.

I would highly recommend you to try her first book and I look forward to more from her.



By Addy Vandell, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Sudoku

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

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

The musical “Annie” opened on Broadway on this date in 1977 and went on to become one of the most successful and popular musicals, so our answers this week will begin with the letter “A.”

1. This South African anteater is the first word in a lot of dictionaries.
2. Not a god but a Titan, a mountain range in North Africa is one of many things, including a type of reference book, named for this mighty immortal.
3. Petrified tree sap, or its bright, light yellow-brown color
4. Her most famous novel was made into a 2019 movie with Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson and Timothée Chalamet
5. Thanks to Florida, this Gulf Coast state has the shortest shoreline on the Gulf of Mexico
6. Building material associated with the Southwest, it’s mostly mud and straw
7. Named because it seems like a combination of cinnamon, nutmeg, and clove, this is actually a separate spice from the pepper family.
8. Lobsters, spiders and ants are all part of this phylum because of their jointed legs.
9. The capital of Ethiopia
10. 50 years ago last week, this American lunar mission nearly ended in a disaster.

(answers on Page Four)

Do Let the Pigeon Drive Out Boredom

That’s not actually the pigeon. It’s his creator, Mo Willems.

Willems has hosted a series of short Lunch Doodle programs in which he guides young artists through the process by which he works.

The nice thing now is that the live shows are over, so you don’t have to watch the clock, because you can go see them any time you’d like, and you also don’t have to wait for the next one: There are 15 episodes and you can binge to your heart’s content.

The link is <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/> and you’ll find he is as funny and interesting as his books.

But wait, there’s more!

LiveScience has put together a long list of places you can go take a virtual field trip during the lockdown, and, of course, “science” includes all sorts of fascinating stuff from butterfly cams to NASA activities to aquariums and museums.

Take a look and try a few clicks at <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-kids-activities.html>

Finally, here’s a site we found that is put together by a retired school librarian that is simply a list of links to all sorts of cool stuff you might enjoy in a huge list of categories: <https://www.sldirectory.com/studf/cool.html>

Screen Grab/Kennedy Center



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/CKidsReporter>



The Dancing Children

An Onondaga Folk Tale



A band of Onondaga once set out to do their fall hunting. They traveled to the shores of a large lake full of fish that was surrounded by rich forests and green meadows where the deer and bears were plentiful.

As they walked through the forest, the sound of ripe nuts falling among the leaves sounded like a hailstorm.

When they arrived at the lake, they paused to give thanks for their safe journey and to ask for a successful stay along the beautiful lakeshore.

Then they made a large camp in a grassy clearing a little way from the lake and began to collect and prepare food for the winter.

There was so much good food in the forest, and the hunting and fishing were so good, that the adults soon settled down to preparing everything for the winter.

The older children had to help with all this work, but the smaller ones no longer had to gather nuts and were free to play.

One day, eight of them thought of a new game.

They went down to the shores of the lake and started to dance. It was so much fun that they did it again the next day, and the day after that.

Finally, when they were dancing one day, they saw an old man coming up to them.

He looked very old, with silver white hair, though he did not walk slowly, and he was dressed all in white feathers.

The children were a little frightened because he was a stranger and did not dress like anyone they had ever seen before. But when he spoke, they could understand him.

His words, however, were not kind.

"You must stop this dancing!" he said. "Bad things will happen to you if you keep doing this!"

Then he walked back into the forest again. The children looked at each other for a moment, and then one of them began to dance again.

Soon they were laughing and dancing again, just as they had been before the old man had come to stop their fun.

A little while later, the old man came back out of the woods.

"I have told you to stop dancing!" he said gruffly. "I'm warning you!"

When he went away, one of the girls said, "Who is he? Why does he keep telling us to stop dancing?"

One of the other boys replied. "He is not my father and he is not my uncle. I don't know who he is," and he began to dance again.

Soon all the children were dancing, and they danced until it was time to go home for dinner. All the dancing had made them very hungry, and while they were walking home, one of the boys had an idea.

"Tomorrow, we can bring food with us," he said. "We'll eat and dance, just as if it were a real feast!"

"The hunting has been good," another child said. "We'll ask our parents. They have lots of food. They won't mind!"

But the children were wrong. When they asked for food to take to the lake the next day, their parents did not like the idea.

"It is wrong to waste food," one of the mothers said. "If you are hungry, come back to camp and eat with us. You can always have as much as you like. But you can't take food down to the lake just to play with it."

The children were disappointed, but the next morning they went back to the lake and began to dance again.

After awhile, though, they began to get hungry, and all the dancing made them feel dizzy.

Or maybe it was something else. But whatever made it happen, the eight dancing children began to rise up into the air.

"Something is happening!" one of the girls said.

"Don't look back!" another said. "Just keep dancing!"

One of the mothers was coming down with a basket to get water when she saw the children dancing in the air and going higher and higher. She screamed, and then ran back up the hill to the camp.

Then all of the parents ran down to the shore, holding food up and calling to their children to come back. But the children kept dancing and rising up into the sky.

Only one little boy looked back to hear what the adults were saying. He fell back to earth, leaving a bright trail across the sky, for he was the first falling star.

The other seven children rose high into the sky, and every night you can look up and see them still dancing together, a little circle that the white men call the Pleiades but that the Onondaga know are their own dancing children.

Text c. 2002, Mike Peterson; Art c. 2002, Marina Tay

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. aardvark 2. Atlas 3. amber 4. (Louisa May) Alcott 5. Alabama
 6. adobe 7. allspice 8. arthropods 9. Addis Ababa 10. Apollo XIII

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