



CK Reporter of the Week
Eloise Vaughn, Denver

Best of CK: Evacuated!

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, including this account of the Waldo Canyon Fire that first ran in Colorado Kids July 3, 2012.

The Waldo Canyon Fire was only 2600 acres, five percent contained and with no structures burned when my mom and I went to Denver for the day.

By the time we headed home to Colorado Springs, the highway was clogged with evacuees headed to safety and the sky was dark with smoke, the obscured sun red.

The smoke was so thick across the sky it gave the illusion of night.

When we returned to our house above Mountain Shadows, burned bark and ash dotted our yard.

We had barely been home 15 minutes when we got a reverse 911, a call telling us we were under mandatory evacuation.

It was hard to decide what to bring.

My parents had a lifetime of photo albums, and we had a house full of stuff we didn't want to lose, but we couldn't bring everything.

We packed up everything we couldn't live without -- like our pets -- and left our neighborhood, with a plume of smoke and a cloud of uncertainty following us.

My family stayed the next couple nights at a friend's and at my dad's work, with our pets.

We had lots of offers of a place to stay. Before this disaster I had no idea that so many people would be so willing to help us out.

For those days we ate mainly sugared cereal and fruit. It was like camping in some else's house.

The days passed in a blur of newscasts and damage



reports that we anxiously watched, waiting for news.

Our evacuation order was lifted Thursday evening and we were overjoyed to return home.

My bedroom was covered in a layer of fine ash, but we were grateful to have a house to return to.

One of my close friends lived in a neighborhood ravaged by the fire.

Though her house was left standing, the house next to hers and other houses on her street had burned to the ground.

No one ever expected that her neighborhood would burn, a reminder of the eminent powers of nature, and

a tragedy for all of us.



Photo and Story by
Rebecca Bloomfield,
13, a CK Reporter
from Colorado Springs

Becky Bloomfield is currently a junior at Smith College with a double major in Government and Biology. She was studying abroad in Ukraine this semester until the pandemic required she come home for quarantining.

Enjoy Olympic-level excitement in Tokyo

"The Kudo Kids and the Mystery of the Masked Medalist" is a novel for middle-grade readers by Maia and Alex Shibutani, and Michelle Schusterman.

The Shibutanis, aka the "Shib Sibs" are Olympic figure-skating bronze medalists.

The first book in the Kudo Kids series follows the adventure of Mika and Andy Kudo visiting Japan for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

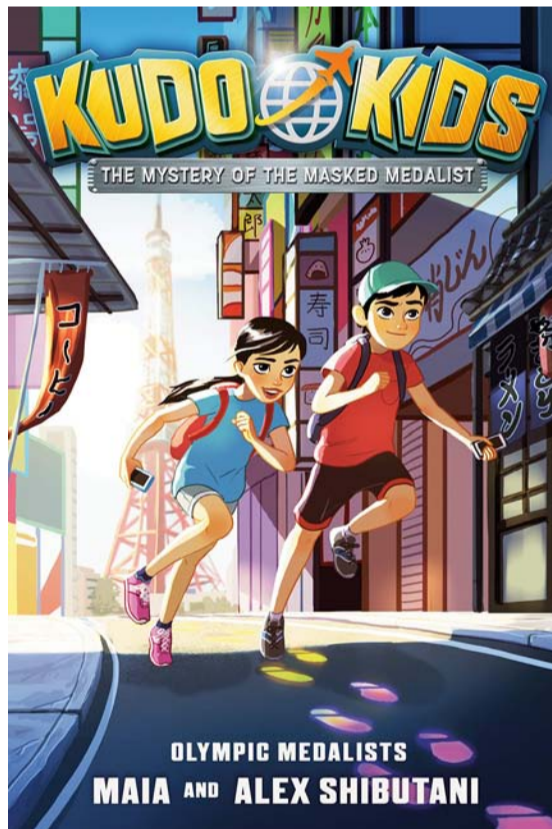
There is a masked medalist who is holding a competition called OlympiFan. The game features clues to virtual medals all around the city of Tokyo and clues to the medalist's identity.

OlympiFan throws out interesting twists and turns in a fun way, though totally appropriate for beginner-intermediate readers.

The writing was very fluid, and each chapter alternated between the siblings.

It was all very clear and the authors did a very good job of describing the characters' endeavors.

The only "mature-esque" thing that came up was Mika and her Instagram account, and how an anonymous profile appeared to be following and direct-messaging her.



It presents the dangers of social media in a soft way.

The characters weren't very dynamic, though considering that it's a book focused more on the adventure and plot than in-depth characterization, it was still very enjoyable.

"The Mystery of the Masked Medalist" is about 260 pages and was the ideal length for a riveting but seemingly quick read.

Since this book is for middle-grade readers, it would be a perfect fit for lovers of Rob Buyeau, Lynda Mullaly Hunt, and Lisa Graff.

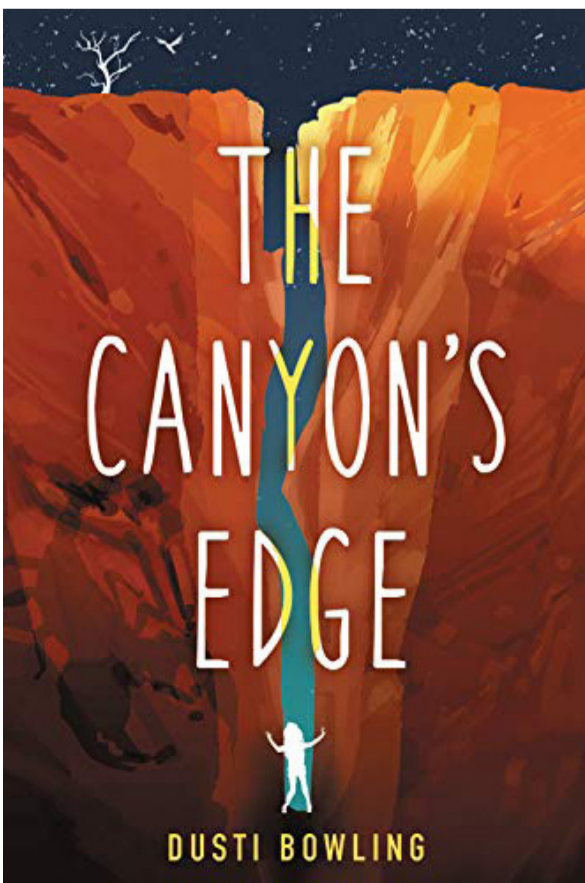
This novel is great for 4th to 7th graders because of the enthralling plot.

The story is complex, though easy to follow. So why not?

The Mystery of the Masked Medalist by Maia Shibutani, Alex Shibutani and Michelle Schusterman, is an exciting read for all ages.



By Talia Schanman,
12, a CK Reporter
from Cherry Hills Village



Survival, adventure and trust

"The Canyon's Edge," by Dusti Bowling, is a novel for 10- to 12-year-olds about survival, adventure, and trust.

It's about a tween named Nora who gets trapped in a canyon with "The Beast", while her father goes missing in the canyon.

It starts with the pair going to explore a newly discovered canyon, but when Nora and her father are checking it out, a flash flood occurs.

Nora's father is swept away by the current, leaving Nora to survive with no food or water, and to deal with snakes, scorpions, and the Beast in unknown territory.

How will she get out and will she ever find her dad?

If so, will he be alive?

Will she?

The book is written in first person but it does have an entire section written in poems.

In the poems, Nora has lots of flashbacks, like how her mom died while also giving clues to what the "Beast" is.

I can see why the author chose to do this, as it is

Nora's thoughts while alone in the canyon, but I am not personally wild about poetry in general.

But seeing as it is tastefully done, the poetry doesn't take away from the book, still making it an interesting book.

The reason I picked this book is because the summary was like no other book I had read before.

I also like how they were doing rock climbing, just like people do in Colorado, which made the book seem more realistic.

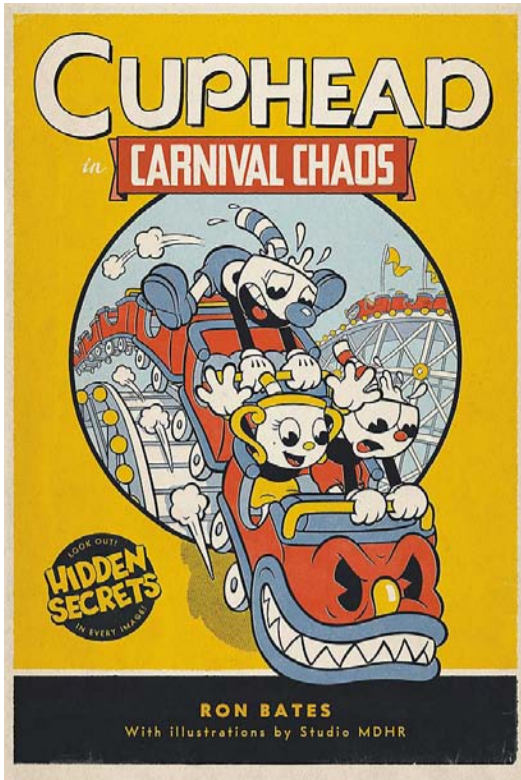
The book is easy to follow, but sometimes the poems made it slightly harder.

"The Canyon's Edge" is a fast, interesting read that I would recommend especially to fellow adrenaline seekers.



By Ema Perak,
10, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Cartoon video game presented in novel form



“Cuphead: Carnival Chaos,” by Ron Bates, is based on the cartoon video game Cuphead.

The book is about Cuphead, his brother Mugman, and their friend Ms. Chalice.

They need to buy Cuphead’s guardian, Elder Kettle, a birthday present for his surprise birthday party, so when they set their eyes upon a gold pocket watch, they decide to buy that.

But on the way out of school, they see the carnival in the distance, and they are drawn toward it.

Elder Kettle warned them about the carnival, saying that it was full of tricksters, liars, and thieves.

Will they stay on task and prepare for the party?

Or will they disobey his orders and go to the carnival?

This is basically a funny, long kids’ book.

There are a lot of funny words in it too, like “bamboozled,” and there is a lot of play on words.

When the beginning of the first scene begins, you can immediately identify what kind of person Cuphead is.

The setting of the story is obviously cartoonish when you read the first chapter, making the story easy and fun to read.

The words aren’t hard at all, so the novel is good for beginning or young audiences.

There are enjoyable pictures at the beginning of each chapter, with hidden references to the game in them.

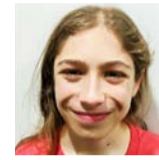
The Cuphead universe is enjoyable, and it is the kind of book you might read more than one time.

“Cuphead: Carnival Chaos” is a light read for everyone to enjoy, and there is a little bit of every genre in it as well: The book has adventure, fighting, suspense, and a little bit of mischief.

The build up to the climax is smooth, but is still broken up to keep you reading, and the book will still make sense even if you don’t know anything about the game.

The characters are carefully developed in their own way, expressing their own unique personalities.

“Cuphead: Carnival Chaos, is recommended for anyone who wants a good laugh.



By Ulrich Pierce, 12, a CK Reporter from Longmont

Economic ills, physical ills drive historic story

“Echo Mountain,” by Lauren Wolk, follows a young girl by the name of Ellie.

She and her family are forced to move to the mountains of Maine after the Great Depression hits.

While she and her father love life on the mountain, her mother and elder sister can’t wait to move off.

Their old lifestyle is important to them and it was difficult for them to let go. Her younger brother, Samuel, is indifferent.

They make quick friends with their neighbors and begin to have a normal routine in the mountains, until her father falls into a coma after saving his child from being struck by a tree that he had cut down.

And Ellie has taken the blame.

The author provides a well thought-out and interesting plot while creating a lifelike experience by using language and common ideas from the time period.

She explains how the Great Depression affected everyone differently, from having to trade personal possessions to losing almost everything.

The author subtly and thoughtfully adds hints and clues to the end of the book and added plot twists, and each chapter leaves the reader thinking about what Ellie’s next move will be.

Each character has a different and unique personality which



creates disagreements between them and thickens the plot.

A figure that lurks in the woods carves small animals and people and hides them on Ellie and her family’s property for her to find.

He is later identified as Larkin and holds important pieces of information that will lead Ellie to a solution to awaken her father once and for all.

As Ellie makes her way creating a brew to awaken her father while also trying to find Larkin, she is able to discover her place on the mountain.

She discovers new people who are critical to her finding a solution to helping her father.

Each basic element of this novel is well thought-out and developed, and the storyline is a good fit for those who enjoy adventure and bits of historical fiction.

It is a great read, perfect for middle school students.



By Avery MacKenzie, 14, a CK Reporter from Fort Collins

A twist on Peter Pan you Never Never expected

“Straight On Till Morning: A Twisted Tale” was written by Liz Braswell who has written many other novels such as “Stuffed” and “Rx.”

She has written other “Twisted Tales,” and they all have a main question. This novel’s is “What if Wendy first traveled to Never Land with Captain Hook?” and it provides an answer that will leave you very contented.

In this thrilling tale, 16-year-old Wendy Darling has been holding onto hope that a passage to Never Land will open up for her.

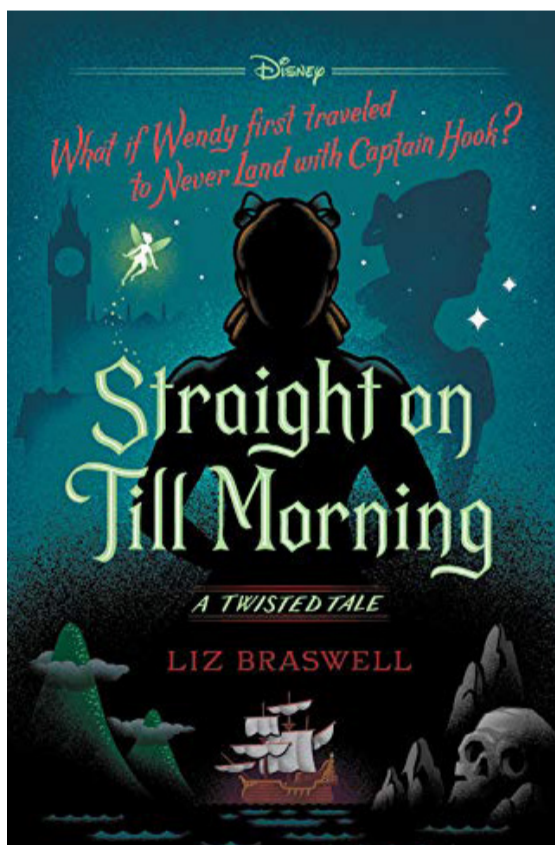
After her parents reveal they are sending her off to Ireland to care for five boys, the opportunity presents itself, and it’s all Wendy has ever wanted: She cannot say no to this, and boards Captain Hook’s ship, The Jolly Roger.

After Captain Hook reveals his true plans for her, Wendy makes a daring escape and makes her way to Never Land alone.

The novel paints a variety of pictures in your head, from a gray, smoggy London to The Lost Boy’s hideout to a forest full of thysolits!

You can feel what Wendy Darling is feeling, and you can feel for her family back in London while she’s gone.

This novel will take you on an emotional roller coaster, full of loops that make your stomach flip over and twists



and turning points.

Braswell does a great job of describing scenery and characters, from bright-colored mermaids to Wendy’s tattered dress.

The book captures terrifying moments and sweet moments alike, using a great variety of descriptive words that never grow dull.

In fact, due to her use of complex words, this book would be best for middle school students, as elementary students might not understand some of the words used and get the full experience of the novel.

This is a long read, you’ll come to find, with 488 action-packed pages that will keep you engaged to the end. It’s a great break-away from reality, as you read through the many fantasies of “Straight On Till Morning: A Twisted Tale.”

So sit back, relax, and get ready for nostalgia and adventure in this twisted tale!



By Adriana Armstrong, 11, a CK Reporter from Centennial

Ancient tales of fearless, heroic young women



“Folk tales for fearless girls,” by Myriam Sayalero is about heroes who save people, except all the people who are heroes are what people sometimes call “heroines.” Girls!

The illustrator of this book, Dani Torrent, has provided terrific illustrations. They are full of detail and make sure everything mentioned in the text is there in the drawing.

I also enjoyed how the tales are from different countries like Spain, India, Russia, England, China, Egypt, South Africa, Scotland, France, Germany, and Armenia.

I believe that kids who read this book would find it astoundingly interesting, and, for girls who want to follow their dream and become heroines to the people around them, I really recommend it.

They could become the sorts of girls who change the world, because when they read this book their imagination could spark, and when imaginations spark, that can lead to all sorts of excitement.

Who knows, maybe one of those imaginations will lead

its owner to become a great world leader!

Another reason I recommend this book is because this story is about princesses saving kings, queens, sisters, and bravery of all the girls sometimes means risking things in life that are very important, like jewels, gold, crowns, and sometimes even family.

It will take you on an adventure you never dreamed of before.

I like how much detail Sayalero added, and the words that she uses to describe things are really crisp, like a piece of bacon just off the pan.

I really adored this book and, if Myriam Sayalero wrote more books in the series, I would read them.



By Eloise Vaughn, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

Green chili chicken: Fast, easy, delicious!

Green Chile Chicken is one of my favorite homemade dinners. It's easy to make, satisfying and has a mild southwestern flavor.

If you are looking to do more cooking while stuck at home, you might want to try making this for dinner tonight.

"The recipe evolved in our kitchen over time," my mom explains. It doesn't come from a specific cookbook, but it's a simple dinner that can be made in half an hour or less.

I look forward to it, especially on colder days when warm, steamy chicken tastes fabulous.

This recipe might be particularly appealing to Mexican food lovers, since it has similar characteristics.

In order to make Green Chile Chicken, you'll need:

- 1 can of Hatch Green Chile Enchilada Sauce
- 2 to 3 precooked chicken breasts
- 1 cup precooked rice (preferably brown)
- ½ cup diced tomatoes (cut into half-inch chunks)
- 1 cup grated cheese (cheddar or Monterey Jack).

Optional: 1 can black beans and salted tortilla chips

Tip: King Soopers often has pulled chicken at the Deli counter.

The recipe makes a little over 4 servings, so there might be leftovers.

Here's how to make Green Chile Chicken:



Tear the chicken into bite-sized bits. You can easily make the bites smaller or bigger, depending on your preference.

Heat the chicken in a pot with the green chile sauce on medium-low heat 10-15 minutes, or until it's at a good temperature to eat.

(Make sure to ask an adult to supervise while opening the can, turning on the stove, and checking the temperature.)

Add the rice and sliced tomatoes to the mixture while it's cooking.

You can also add 1 can of black beans for extra protein along with the rice.

Turn off the stove and serve.

Add cheese on top at the end. I would recommend lots of cheese, but you can add as little or as much as you like.

At this point you can also add tortilla chips to add to the flavor.

Dish up and enjoy!



By E.B. Waples, 11, a CK Reporter from Golden

Big Nate



Sudoku

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

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

Today, of course, is the anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, in which Mexican troops defeated French invaders, so our answers will begin with "M" for Mexico.

1. Puebla claims this sauce as its invention: It's a dark combination of peppers, spices and chocolate used in Mexican cooking.
2. This king of Greek folk tales wished that everything he touched would turn to gold.
3. A loan taken out to buy a home and repaid in parts every month for several years
4. Hermes, in Roman mythology
5. 39.3701 inches
6. Once the Professor of Transfiguration, she became Headmistress at Hogwarts.
7. This county in the very southwestern corner of Colorado is named in honor of the last great leader of the Aztecs.
8. She was the original author of the "Babysitter's Club" series of books.
9. The world's largest monkey, it looks and moves like a baboon but is a separate primate, with the males noted for their bright blue and red faces.
10. Body of water that separates Spain from Morocco and Italy from Libya

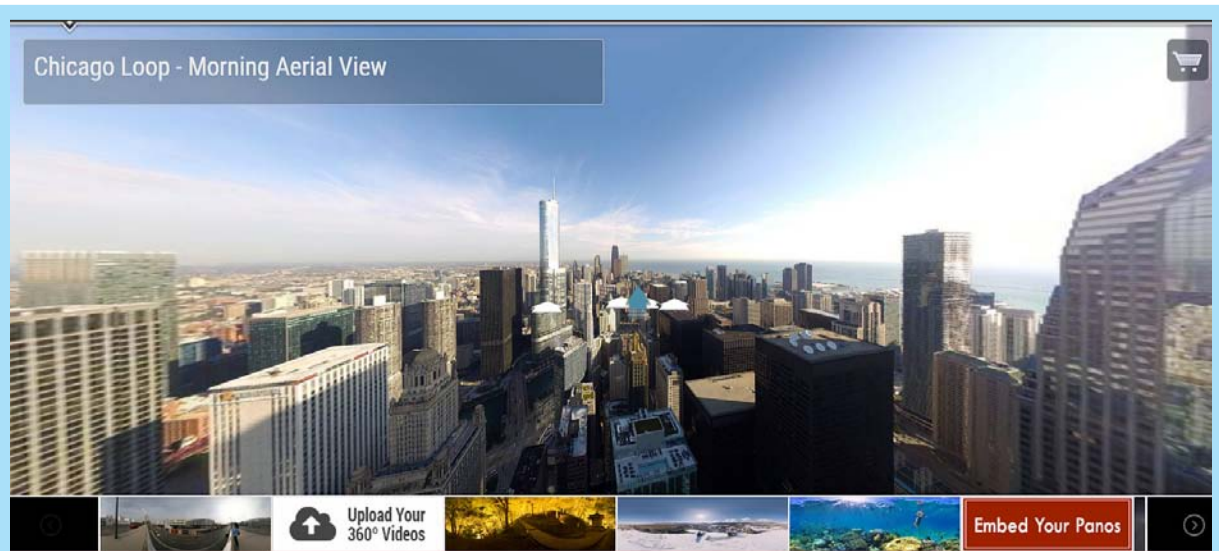
(answers on Page Four)

Want to go outside and look around?

If you're getting cabin fever, here's a virtual cure: 360 Cities is a website that can take you just about anywhere in the world and let you get a good look around. And we really mean "around."

It's not just panoramic views, though you can use your mouse or touchpad to swing the camera around and see behind you. But you can also look straight up at the sky (or ceiling, if you're inside) or straight down at the floor (which might make you queasy on this shot from high atop a skyscraper in Chicago.)

Go take a look around at <https://www.360cities.net/>



Here's a new twist on the old Cinderella story

"So This is Love," by Elizabeth Lim, starts out with a classic part of Cinderella: The ball. Cinderella attends the ball and everything goes as planned until the next day.

Then, instead of having the glass slipper fit Cinderella perfectly, she doesn't even make it to the part with the Duke; her stepmother traps her in the closet then sells her into slavery the next day.

Even though this book is quite different from the original, it still includes the main characters and similar personalities.

Cinderella somehow escapes and meets a kind worker at the palace named Louisa who helps her find a job and refuge in the palace.

During her time at the palace serving the king's shunned sister, Guinevere, she learns the truth about many people in the palace, and that the Duke is taking control of more things than he should, going to extreme measures to maintain his level of power.

Cinderella must find the truth and save herself before it's too late.

"So This is Love" is a fast-moving, intriguing book full of hidden secrets and unknown stories.

Elizabeth Lim spins the tale perfectly off of the original version, giving more details on Cinderella's past and her family.

Cinderella's character is strong, yet gentle in heart and she doesn't have the faith to stand up for herself, but in the end, she turns out to be the heroine of the story.

Cinderella is put in situations that are very unconventional, introducing this spin-off to new and improved depths.

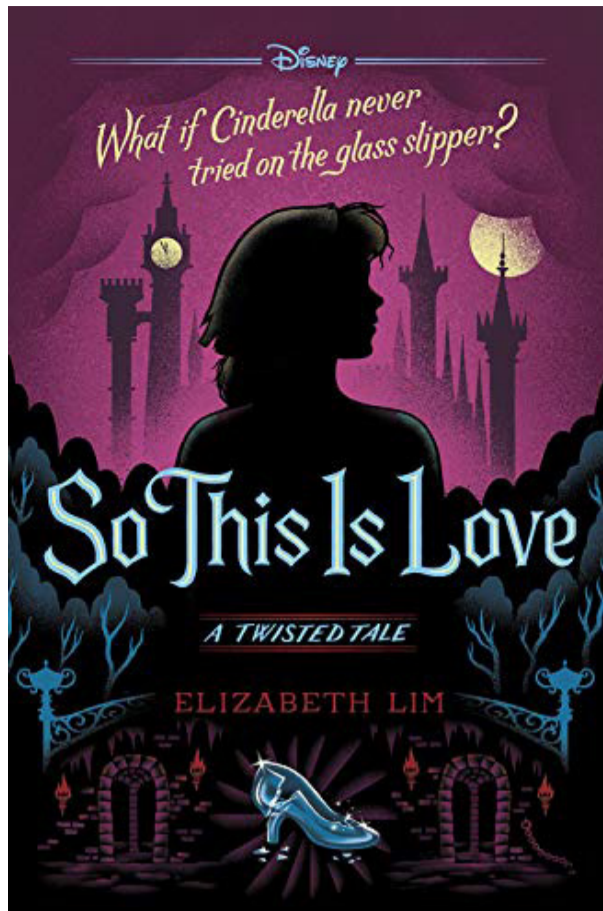
This book also includes a political view from the secrets in the palace, creating controversy between the king and his subjects, when, really, the duke is behind everything.

Even though this book is quite different from the original, it still includes the main characters and similar personalities. This enhances the book because it gives the reader something to base it on and to go forward from.

Also, when Elizabeth Lim introduces new characters, it creates support to the story, giving it a sense of the old story with the old characters, and adding to the new story with new perspectives and backgrounds.

I'd recommend it for ages 10 and up because it includes slight romance and political controversy.

"So This is Love" is a terrific spin-off, leading the reader to Cinderella's past, present, and future and including new points of view.



By Eva Perak, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

Voices in the street, changes in the country

There are a large number of ways people get what they want. Some people use violence, and some people prefer non-violent approaches, either doing it for a good or bad cause.

If a group of people use non-violence for a bad reason, their actions will not be beneficial for everyone.

For example, the Ku Klux Klan might have a non-violent march, but their protests may not be deemed as ethical.

However, if a group of people choose non-violent ways to speak up for a good reason, their actions will make lasting differences.

"We are Power" by Todd Hasak-Lowy shows you many examples of non-violent protests in history that made a positive change to the world.

This author writes about famous people including Václav Havel, Alice Paul, Martin Luther King Jr, and many more unforgettable voices in history.

These revolts stood the test of time to show they did something for a positive cause. What they did gave people more rights and equality.

For example, Alice Paul was a leader of the Women's Suffrage Movement, and women gained the right to vote

But, their roads to achieve their goals were far from smooth.

Even though large numbers of citizens supported peaceful complaints, they were faced with violence everywhere they went.

"Awful scene... a wonder no one was killed." Alice Paul once said. It made me think about the world we live in.

In my opinion, this book was thought-provoking, especially during quarantine, when lots of people are speaking up about their opinions.

It convinced me to stop using violence and use a more peaceful approach, and provided strong explanations to why this is a good idea.

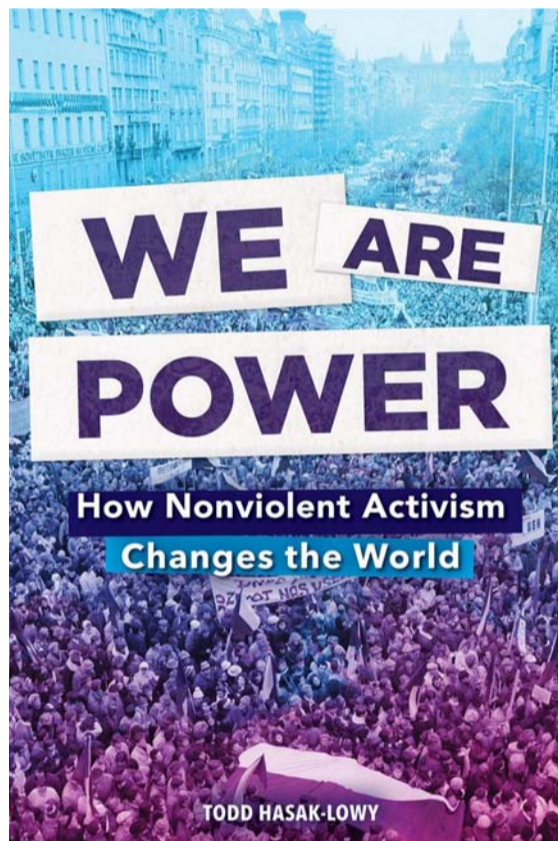
For instance, I expected the book to give me one definition of non-violence, but it gave me multiple concepts, including the ability to resist when you refuse to submit and fighting when your opponent hates you.

Also, when the book introduced me to famous people I already knew about, I thought that the story would sound very familiar.

However, "We are Power" went more in-depth into the character of the people involved, and showed me things I had never known about their lives.

For example, I never knew that Gandhi was a lawyer. "We are Power" is a well-written, very detailed book.

I would recommend this to kids who aren't familiar with positive historical protests or who want to make the world a better place, especially during the lockdown and this crisis.



By Addy Vandell, 13, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. mole
2. Midas
3. mortgage
4. Mercury
5. meter
6. (Minerva) McGonagall
7. Montezuma
8. (Ann) Martin
9. mandrill
10. Mediterranean Sea

Sudoku Solution

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

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Stories without bylines were written by the editor.