



Aquaman mixes action, emotions

"Aquaman" is a touching new action movie. It's not all about fight scenes and trident-swinging, though those moments are awesome and well-choreographed.

The emotional weight of the movie is what makes it extra powerful: A combination of justice, identity, forgiveness, and self-worth themes nearly bring tears at many moments, and are very inspiring.

Arthur (*Jason Momoa*) is half landsman, half ocean dweller, his mom an Atlantean queen and his dad a lighthouse keeper.

I really love how the movie is written, with a mix of fast-paced action sequences and heart-wrenching themes to draw the viewer in emotionally.

He knows about where he comes from, but doesn't usually bother to pay attention to the politics of the sea. He's too busy tracking down ocean pirates and saving submarine crews.

Arthur doesn't want to be a hero, and certainly not a king.

But when his half brother King Orm (*Patrick Wilson*) wants to wage war against the surface, Arthur teams up with the rebel Princess Mera (*Amber Heard*) to save the world he knows, and to take his rightful place as king of the sea.

To do this, he must obtain Atlan's trident, a mystic artifact that has been lost for centuries.

If he has the trident and beats Orm, the people will accept him as king and stop the war Orm so badly wants.

I really love how the movie is written, with a mix of fast-paced action sequences and heart-wrenching themes to draw the viewer in emotionally. The coloring is beautiful, and I love the new imagining of



Atlantis that doesn't completely match other common myths but adds a lot to the story.

I would really suggest seeing this on the big screen, because a home television can't do justice to the wonderful views in the movie.

The characters have very humorous relationships with one another, always cracking a joke or messing around.

My only qualm with the plot is that it matches "How to Train Your Dragon 2" almost eerily. There are so many similarities that when you think about it, it's very hard to imagine that this is a coincidence.

Even with this detraction, I still think "Aquaman" is worth seeing for anyone ages ten and up who likes DC

or Marvel.

DC has shown a darker face since the broody version of Batman was imagined, and it's not as dark as those, though it does have some vulgar language. By contrast, it's very refreshing to see a DC movie with humor and jokes in it.

And this tip: If you go to see it, you really need to stay until the end, because DC pulled a Marvel and tacked on an end-credits scene.



By Sylvia Goodman, 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial

Avi sequel a little long, but worth the effort

"The End of the World and Beyond," by Avi, is a sequel to "The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts," which tells the story of a younger Oliver.

In that story, the reader learns that Oliver's mother died giving birth to him, that his home in England was destroyed by a storm, and that his father, who was not ready for parenting, abandoned newborn Oliver and his older sister, Charity.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in history and willing to take time to understand the old English.

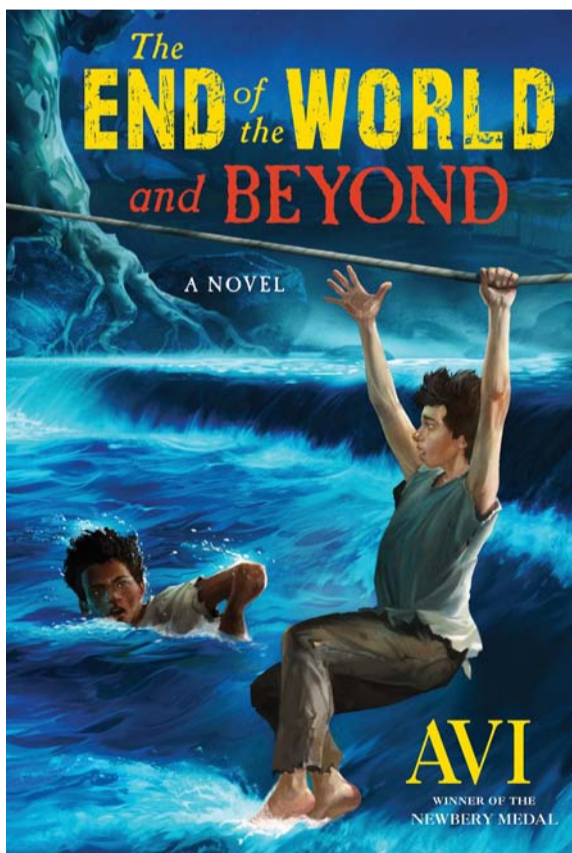
"The End of the World and Beyond" picks up the story of Oliver who has been enlisted involuntarily as a pickpocket by Mr. Sandys, an adult criminal.

Oliver is soon convicted of thievery and sentenced to be a servant in the American colonies, and the novel describes Oliver's harrowing journey to the colonies, and his life as a convict servant in Annapolis, Maryland.

This may sound like a depressing story, but there is humor along the way.

Oliver notes the name of his convict ship, "The Goodwill," and remarks, "a

name I assure you I did not invent."



There is also a heartwarming friendship between Oliver and Bara, a slave on the plantation where Oliver ends up in Maryland.

You will also learn intriguing facts about the old Americas, like the maroon colonies which were colonies of escaped servants or slaves.

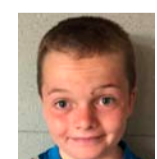
A difficult feature in the book is old English, but once ye get the hang of it you can understand it better.

At 325 pages "The End of The World and Beyond" is a bit lengthy and feels like it could have been fifty pages shorter.

The length does not ruin the book, but it does make it a better choice for patient readers.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in history and willing to take time to understand the old English.

You do not have to read the first book to understand this one but you might find that you will want to – I am looking forward to reading it!



By Aidan Muldoon, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

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RBG film a story of women's progress

Even though Ruth Bader Ginsburg is thought of by many as one of the greatest Supreme Court justices ever, she had a life before that, too.

She was a wife, a mother to two children, and a woman trying to get through law school.

This new take on RBG's life is one that will be remembered for a long, long time, and "On The Basis Of Sex" is a great take on her life story that brought up many important topics: women's rights, equal pay, LGBTQ rights, and much more.

The movie follows Ruth (Felicity Jones) over the course of law school and then transitions to her as a college professor taking up a discrimination case.

Ginsburg starts out at Harvard Law School, one of only seven women there, and is top of her class.

She then has to transfer to Columbia Law School and there she is also the top of her class.

However, after she graduates, 13 law firms turn her down because they don't want a woman working there.

Now, for the meaty part of the movie.

This piece is set in the 1970s as Ginsburg is working as a college professor and her husband Marty Ginsburg (Armie Hammer) shows her a tax case that involves gender-based discrimination against a man.

Upon seeing this case, Ginsburg is determined to be the lawyer and to win it.

She spends months preparing, and then finally her big moment is ready.

The two over-arching themes in the movie are equality and parenting.

In the movie, they show very well how difficult it was in the 60 and 70s for a woman to have done various things.

Several laws that I wasn't even aware of that limited women in the 60s and 70s are brought up in the film.

Throughout the movie, they also mention Ruth's daughter, Jane (Cailee Spaeny) quite a lot. They have scenes portraying fights between the two, but also of Jane witnessing the great things her mother does and we watch as Ruth becomes Jane's idol.

Several laws that I wasn't even aware of that limited women in the 60s and 70s are brought up in the film.

Although the movie does a great job of portraying who Ruth Bader Ginsburg was as a young woman, and what she believed in, it felt like there was a lot crammed into two hours.

By the end, I almost felt as though I would need to go and rewatch the movie multiple times to get its full meaning.

Also, there was some mature content that justifies its PG-13 rating, so it's definitely not something for younger kids.



By Ariana Bates-Ehrlich, 12, a CK Reporter from Arvada

Sandy Hook kids are remembered in Denver

To many, December 14 was an average Friday.

But it was also the 6th anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shooting, where a 20-year-old shooter in Sandy Hook, Connecticut took the lives of 20 students and 6 staff members in Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"Moms Demand Action" has been looking to make sensible gun laws that don't interfere with the Second Amendment

On that anniversary, the local chapter of "Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America" held a vigil in memory of the 26 who lost their lives 6 years ago.

"Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America," or simply, "Moms Demand Action," started six years ago as a conversation on Facebook by Shannon Watts, only one day after the tragedy of Sandy Hook.

Since then, the group has grown to a nationwide movement for gun law reform in America, having at least one chapter in every state in the nation and over 5 million members.

I interviewed Shannon Watts about the tremendous success that is "Moms Demand Action," something she told me she did not anticipate.

She said she only expected "Moms Demand Action" to be an online conversation.

I asked her why she thinks the group has grown so big, to which she replied "We have so many school shootings in this country."

Along with Shanon Watts, Tom Sullivan, who was recently elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, Reverend Amanda Henderson, and newly elected U.S. Congressman Jason Crow were at the vigil.

I'm related to one of the leaders of the Aurora chapter of "Moms Demand Action," Jessica Price, who joined the cause shortly following the Parkland school

shooting.

She told me that she got into it after seeing the Parkland shooting survivors getting so involved, and that she and her sister, Andrea Herbert, the other leader of the Aurora chapter of "Moms Demand Action," thought that, if those kids can do it, there was no excuse for them not to.

I also interviewed Tom Sullivan, a newly elected member of the Colorado House of Representatives, who lost his son in the Aurora movie theater shooting five months before Sandy Hook.

When asked what affect Sandy Hook had on him as a parent of a victim of a mass shooting, he said it gave him and his wife, Terry, pause to know that something that happened to them had happened to someone else.

"It gave us pause knowing what was going on somewhere else that we had already experienced," he said.

Rep. Jason Crow



"Moms Demand Action" has been looking to make sensible gun laws that don't interfere with the Second Amendment, but work to protect millions of innocent people from shootings.

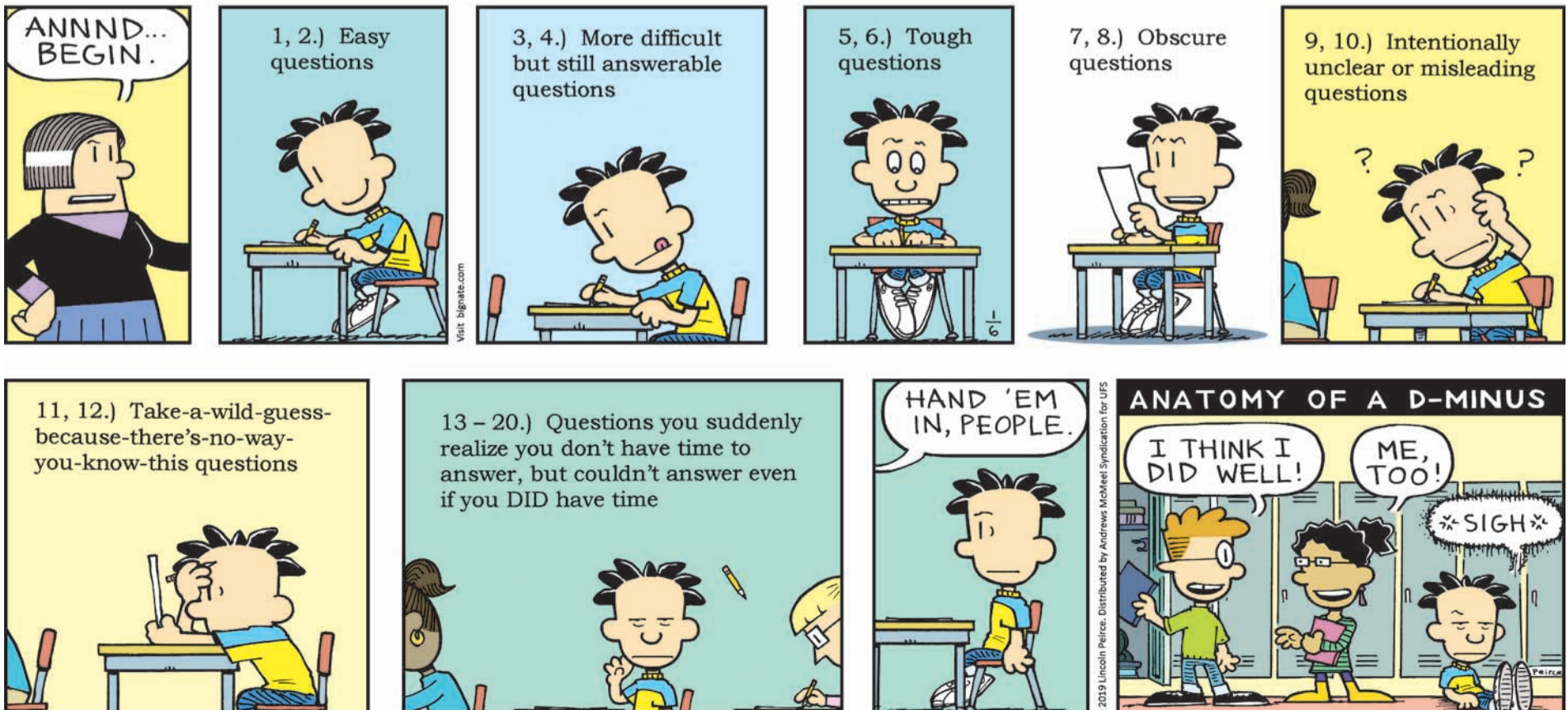
"Moms Demand Action" works as well to stopping gun lobbyists and pro-gun groups from getting their way.

In the words of Reverend Amanda Henderson, "How can we let a little line in the Constitution to allow weapons of mass destruction?"



Story and photo by Marcus Turner, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Big Nate



Great graphics marred by a so-so script

Next generation visual effects and ear-popping sound effects will immerse you in the world of “Mortal Engines,” a movie about a future that requires a key from the past. An hour of apocalyptic conflict, called the Sixty Minute War, turned our society from the Screen Era, or our current state in time, to the setting of “Mortal Engines,” where Hester Shaw (*Hera Hilmarsdóttir*) lives. Hester lives in a mining town which, like some other towns and cities, is on wheels.

Nothing about the story hit me with a surprise, and none of the characters were anything outside of their defining characteristics.

That is, until the city of London destroys the small town, forcing its population into living in London. Meanwhile, London citizen Tom Natsworthy (*Robert Sheehan*) needs to collect our everyday items, such as toasters, phones, even maps, in order to sustain his job at the London Museum. The two cross paths and find out they are more similar than they think, and they go on the adventure of a lifetime to stop Thaddeus Valentine (*Hugo Weaving*) and his evil plans for London. The film overall was average, but it was the outstanding special effects that made the movie better. In both the beginning and ending scenes, they used



outstanding graphics that made you feel inside of the world of Mortal Engines. But even with these spectacular special effects, the movie wasn't one of my favorites. The story line was a bit confusing at times. For example, in the earlier scenes it is hard to follow the story and hard to connect with the characters, a task that other movies usually do just fine with. When it wasn't confusing there also wasn't anything too interesting in the story. Nothing about the story hit me with a surprise, and none of the characters were anything outside of their defining characteristics. The main character, Hester, isn't at all dynamic until maybe the very end. This is true of the other characters as well. This made it difficult to truly connect with the characters. The movie definitely pushes its PG-13 rating. It had profanity throughout and had a lot of scenes with intense violence. I give Mortal Engines a 3 out of 5 stars. It was good, but there was definitely room for improvement. Still, props to Christian Rivers, who made his debut as a director with this film, for making this film absolutely gorgeous.



By Marcus Turner, 12, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Scientists drill for water in a land of ice

The holidays are a time for searching for water. At least, that seemed to be the message in these holidays, as China landed a probe on the dark side of the Moon in hope of finding water there, while a team of scientists from various American universities were drilling for water beneath the ice of Antarctica. It may be some time before China has enough data back from its probe to claim success, but the drillers at the south end of this planet broke through to an under-glacier lake just after Christmas. Using a specially designed hot-water drill, the Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access team was able to reach the waters of Mercer Subglacial Lake sooner than they thought: Their drill went down 1,084 meters (*about two-thirds of a mile*) in just four days. However, their camp on the glacier has been there for several years, and the actual drilling came only after a lot of exploration and planning. The lake is filled with water from two ice rivers that meet and form an ice shelf that goes out onto the ocean from the mainland.

The goal is to test that ancient water, including both mineral content and also any bacteria or other forms of life that may be in it. That meant that they had to be very careful not to contaminate it with the hot water used to melt through the glacier. They purified and filtered their drill water carefully, and then were helped by the fact that the water in the lake under the glacier was under pressure and so forced its way up the hole, pushing the drill water ahead of it. The next task was to widen and smooth the hole so that instruments could be lowered down. One of the first of these was a core sampler, which was lowered down, then allowed to drop so that its long, hollow probe would go deep into the sediment at the bottom of the lake. It could then bring up a sample that will show the layers as they built up over centuries, just as if you took a glass test tube and pushed it open-end first into a layer cake. Researchers admit they don't know what they'll find, since this is only the second time anyone has drilled into one of these lakes.



Salsa may be hot, but SALSA -- Subglacial Antarctic Lake Scientific Access -- is cold, and this researcher found he had to shovel out his tent after it was buried by wind-driven snow.

(SALSA)



Sudoku

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

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only. The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.



Brainteaser

Rock star Elvis Presley was born on this date in 1935, so our answers this week will begin with "E"

1. Colorado Springs is in this county, which shares its name with a city in Texas.
2. Online shopping site that is nearly as big as Amazon but relies on people selling things to other people
3. The Queen of England
4. Colorado's tallest mountain
5. The French name for this vegetable, "aubergine," is also a name for its dark purple color (but the inside is white).
6. Fictional examples of this animal include Babar, Hathi, Horton and Dumbo
7. Corn tortilla wrapped around a filling and covered with sauce
8. Second governor of Colorado territory, he has a mountain named for him, as well as the street in front of the school he founded, the University of Denver.
9. Good manners
10. A long poem from a traditional story, like the Odyssey, Beowulf or The Ramayana

(answers on Page Four)

After bad news about kids' sugar intake, Britain seeks limits

A recent study shows that the average British child has eaten as much sugar by age 10 as they should have had by the time they were 18. That's not quite twice as much as is healthy, but it's close enough to make the nation pay more attention to the obesity problem among their young people. Britain had already put a "sugar tax" on soft drinks in an attempt to get bottlers to use less sweeteners, and to raise the prices enough that kids might think twice before buying sodas. Now the term being talked about is a "pudding tax" that would do the same for breakfast cereals, yogurt, cakes, cookies, candy, ice cream, and jams and jellies. The nation's health agency had suggested targets

for snack makers a year ago in an attempt to give kids less sweet snacks, but the average amount of sugar had only gone down slightly in most categories and had actually gone up in a few. Public Health England is also setting calorie targets for fast food and restaurant meals in hopes that those industries will make an effort to help cut down unnecessary sweeteners and fats in their foods, as well as limiting salt, another health issue. While they wait to see if the food industry will cooperate without being forced to, PHE has started the "Change4Life Sugar Swaps" public campaign, urging people to "Make a swap when you next shop" and choose healthy options.

photo/GRUBBXDN



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How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Subglacial Lake Drilling

Swap4Life Campaign

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

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

Chapter Six – Ritual on the River

(Our story so far: The brigade has settled into a routine, and Antoine is about to learn why the older voyageurs laughed when Jean Baptiste made a remark about his own name.)

They had paddled nine days up the Ottawa River from Montreal when Antoine learned what Jean Baptiste meant about his name.

By then, all but the most hopeless of the new pork-eaters were doing their work well. The sore muscles had mostly disappeared and the portages were becoming faster and easier and, while no-one had dared complain aloud before, now they had even stopped thinking about complaints, except for those ones who had been complainers all their lives and always would be.

The morning of the ninth day began with hard paddling up a narrow stretch of rapids between two towering cliffs, with a fast song and backs bent against the fast-flowing water, until they broke out into Lac des Allumettes and the lead canoe headed for a wide, sandy beach.

It would be an early breakfast, but one well-earned, Antoine thought, and the sand made it easy to unload the canoes and lift them out of the water.

On such a wide space, it would be common for each canoe's crew to gather by itself, but this time, all the voyageurs came together in one place, and, instead of staying off in a cluster to talk, the bourgeois and clerks joined the group.

"You shall be my altar boy!" Jean Baptiste announced loudly, pointing at Antoine.

He walked towards the edge of the forest and Antoine followed along behind him, wondering what was about to happen. Jean Baptiste came to a cedar tree, examined it carefully, then reached up and broke off a branch a yard long, waving it gently in the air and examining the flat, leathery evergreen leaves closely as they flowed with the motion.

"Perfect!" he declared, then gestured for Antoine to walk ahead of him back to the group, and, gesturing again, to the edge where lake and river came together. Antoine stopped and looked back and Jean Baptiste gestured once more for him to continue, and he heard quiet laughter from the crowd.

Antoine stepped into the lake and walked until the water was midway between his knees and his hips. "Far enough!" Jean Baptiste said. "Turn towards me!"

Antoine turned to face the beach and the throng of men. Jean Baptiste dipped the tips of the cedar into the water, then drew it out and slapped Antoine across the face with it.

Antoine was as confused by the action as he was shocked by the water, and the next thing he knew, Jean Baptiste was asking him questions, demanding loudly that he swear to do this and that and then something else, and bellowing at him to answer faster, and louder, while the men on the beach roared with laughter.

The only one he could remember later was that he had to take an oath never to kiss another voyageur's wife without her permission. It made no sense to him, because he certainly wouldn't have done it anyway and there weren't any wives around, but he promised not to kiss another voyageur's wife without her permission, and received as a reward another wet slap of the cedar.

Then "I baptize thee!" Jean Baptiste roared and, as Antoine felt a moccasined foot behind his ankle, Jean Baptiste's hand pushed him in the chest and he toppled over backwards into the lake.

He flailed in the water for a moment and then, as he regained his feet, wiping the hair and water from his face, Jean Baptiste turned to the beach and demanded, "Who else comes before me?" and three voyageurs suddenly plucked another first-time pork-eater up off the sand and carried him out into the water, where he was put through the same process.

Meanwhile, Antoine stumbled out onto the beach where Marcel met him, laughing, and threw an arm around his shoulders. "You did fine, my new brother!" he declared. "He'd have held you under if you hadn't!"

Antoine was still in puzzled shock, but now he turned and watched alongside Marcel as, one by one, each new voyageur was dragged down to the lake and to the Baptiste who awaited him. And he saw that those who resisted, or attempted to be clever, or looked to complain, had a rougher time and soaked up more water than those who obediently went along with the ceremony.

Then, when each new pork-eater was standing dripping water on the sand, a roar went up and four men grabbed the clerk, McDonald, and carried him down to the water, as he shouted in English, which did no good at all. As they held him over the water, however, he remembered his French and cried "Pourboire! Pourboire!"

The men, two each holding an arm, two each with a leg, stopped and looked to Jean Baptiste, who flourished the cedar branch in the air and cried "Release him!" at which command they all let go and McDonald felt flat on his back into the lake.

The bourgeois was an old hand and stood laughing alongside one of his clerks, but the other two were also new to the river and shouted "Pourboire! Pourboire!" before the voyageurs even got to them.

"Pourboire!" Jean Baptiste echoed triumphantly, coming up from the lake. He gestured with the cedar towards a barrel of rum by one of the canoes and McDonald, still streaming water from his hair and clothes, ran to tap it while the other two clerks handed out cups all around.

With three clerks making gifts to the men, the barrel was nearly emptied, the singing was loud and the canoes were not back on the water until nearly noon.

But the brigade no longer had any new men. Every one of them, starting with Antoine Guilbault, was a full-fledged voyageur!

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

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



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. El Paso 2. Ebay 3. Elizabeth (II) 4. (Mount) Elbert 5. eggplant
6. elephant 7. enchilada 8. (John) Evans 9. etiquette 10. epic

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Denver Post Educational Services
Executive Editor: Dana Plewka
dplewka@denverpost.com
CK Editor: Mike Peterson
coloradokidseditor@gmail.com
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Denver Post Educational Services
5990 Washington St.
Denver CO 80216
(303) 954-3974
(800) 336-7678

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