



At the Botanic Gardens, Poppies Grow



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead, short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

The poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, a battlefield surgeon in the First World War, inspired the Denver Botanic Gardens and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to make an exhibit of the poppies in Flanders Fields.

There are a total of one hundred glass flowers in the water.

This is a very special thing because there have only been three to four big sculptures in the water, this being the first time there were multiple in one place.

A hundred poppies represent the one hundred year anniversary of the end of World War I which also happens to be Veterans Day.

This is the first time that there has been an exhibit at the Botanic Gardens to remember the veterans, but they have always had a discount on the fee for active or former veterans and they get free admission on November 11, Veterans Day.

Each poppy was handmade by a team of four veterans. Since they were handmade you can see the differences between each one, but they are all one, which is really impressive.

VFW has also made one thousand three hundred columbines in memory of the one thousand three hundred Colorado soldiers who died in WWI, but these are not displayed.

Each columbine has the name of one of the soldiers that gave their lives in WWI.

Both the poppies and the columbines are for sale after the exhibit is closed.

If you decide to buy the two flowers the poppies are for three hundred fifty dollars and the columbines are for two hundred thirty-five dollars.

All the money that comes from the sales of the flowers goes to Capital Campaign project for the VFW post.

The last day you can see the exhibit is Veterans Day.

I would highly recommend going to see this breathtaking piece of art in the Denver Botanic Gardens.

There are a lot of other flowers and sculptures in the whole twenty four-acre property so it would be easy to spend a day there.

The Denver Botanic Gardens have a lot to offer and the poppies exhibit is something worth seeing.



Story and photo by
Suhani Agarwal,
13, a CK Reporter
from Centennial

Sushi game offers funny, fast-paced competition

The Flying Sushi Kitchen is a fun and engaging toy that people of ages 6 and over can enjoy.

It has several entertaining features that make the game challenging and amusing.

The goal of the game is to be the first player to earn \$25 from sushi orders and tips by using chopsticks to grab styrofoam sushi parts out of the air within the allotted time without dropping any components.

When you first open the box, you find the base, sushi order cards, chopsticks, styrofoam sushi balls, money tokens, plates, ginger and wasabi, imitation bamboo tubes, and chopstick "trainers."

To power the base unit, four C batteries are required, but not included in the box. After installing the batteries, you assemble the rest of the toy by installing the bamboo tubes into the base unit.

Once you have set up the base, you can start unwrapping and organizing the rest of the parts.

When you are ready to play, you simply take an order card from the stack, place the needed sushi balls on the bamboo tubes, press the correct timer button, and start to seize the balls out of the air with your chopsticks so you can complete the order in time.

In addition to the sushi balls, some orders require you to add ginger and wasabi pieces.

Although this is a high-quality toy, there are still a couple of minor things that could use some improvement.



First of all, the styrofoam balls start off as being fairly aerodynamic, yet after falling on the floor or table frequently, the balls end up getting slightly deformed, thus making them harder to float in the air consistently.

My other suggestion for the game would be to add a countdown timer to the base.

This would make it easier to know exactly how much time you have left to finish the order.

I wasn't sure what to expect from a game with chopsticks and styrofoam balls, but my friends and I had a lot of fun playing with it and were impressed by its quality.

This toy sells for \$45 on Amazon.com but is available for \$25 dollars at Walmart, which I think is a more reasonable price for the quality of this toy.

The Flying Sushi Kitchen is a unique game that I would recommend to people over the age of 6.



By Margaux Dempsey,
12, a CK Reporter
from Arvada



Writing Is Fun!

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 Colorado NIE.com or by emailing dplewka@denverpost.com.

New 'Nutcracker' honors the original

"The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" is a new twist on the original Nutcracker ballet.

In it, Clara Stahlbaum (Mackenzie Foy) has just lost her mother (Anna Madeley).

She left Clara a small metal egg, but it was locked and she couldn't open it. Still, her father (Matthew Macfadyen) wants her to keep up appearances and be a happy family for Christmas.

At her godfather Drosselmeyer's (Morgan Freeman) party, children are led to their gifts with pieces of string with their name on them.

As Clara follows her string, she finds a whole new world.

I think that this film is a great reimagining of the Nutcracker world.

I have to admit, at first I thought that this would be an attempt to recreate the original Nutcracker story, but instead the plot is entirely different.

Clara, instead of letting everything happen to her as in the original, is a very active and bright girl who is good with machines.

I enjoyed how the film intertwined the old and the new, both brought to life with creative imagery, color, and dance.

This film kept the importance of ballet in the movie, which I felt brought a sense of authenticity to the film that otherwise would have been missing.

Misty Copeland performs in the mini-ballet within the movie.

Anyone over seven will enjoy "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms."

The new storyline plays around with who is good and who is evil, but emphasizes that no matter what side, everyone is human and deserves love.

This was a great theme for a Christmas movie. There definitely was a sense of Narnia magic to this film, both having fantasy worlds that are stumbled upon accidentally and both having the main characters return almost the moment they left.

This enchanted atmosphere worked with the Nutcracker world perfectly.

Clara, instead of letting everything happen to her as in the original, is a very active and bright girl who is good with machines.

To understand the original Nutcracker story better, I brought along my friend Claire, who dances the Nutcracker ballet every year.

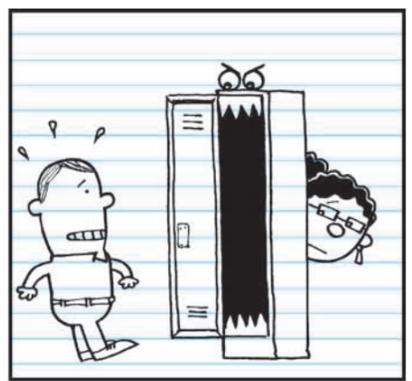
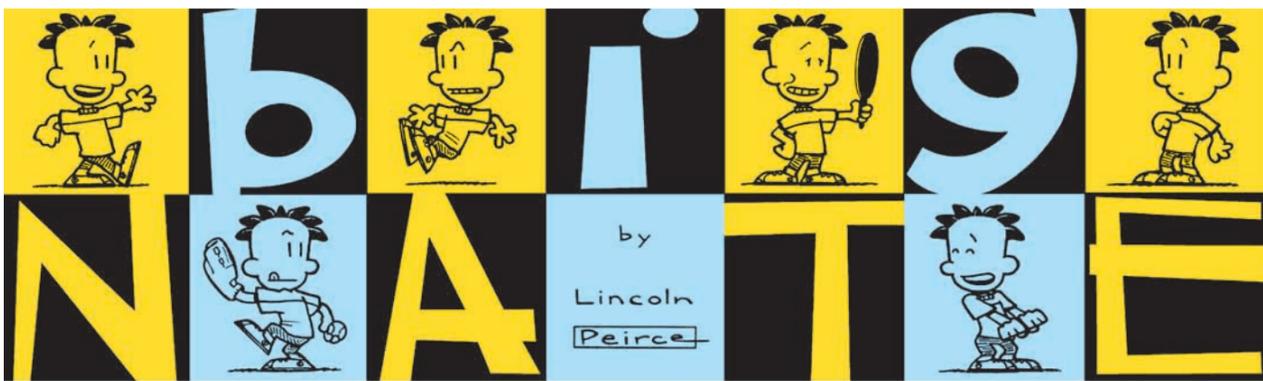
"I loved the dancing...and how they mixed traditional Nutcracker pieces with new ones," she said. "Sometimes they would put a traditional piece in a place where it wasn't in the original ballet, but it still worked with the moment."

She also added that the plot did not at all follow the original story, but said that was a good thing.

People who love Tchaikovsky's original music for the Nutcracker ballet will enjoy how the music is woven throughout.



By Sylvia Goodman, 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial



So long, Kepler and thanks for all the exoplanets



When astronomers began planning the mission of the Kepler Space Telescope 35 years ago, they knew of no planets outside our own solar system.

Today, nearly 10 years after the launch of the Kepler, we know of 3,800 exoplanets. Kepler discovered approximately 2,660 of those other worlds.

Kepler discovered planets by "staring" at a particular point in space, which allowed it to notice when there was a brightening or darkening somewhere else.

That could be caused by a planet passing in front of its sun, and Kepler could then record data about the exoplanet.

That information allowed scientists to figure out

the size of the planet and its structure.

Kepler discovered many planets that seem to be built like the Earth, though it would take more work to find out details about temperature, possible atmosphere and so forth.

But it discovered many more that are nothing at all like the Earth, including some that are nothing at all like any planets in our solar system.

However, last week, Kepler ran out of fuel and could no longer aim itself in space.

NASA turned it off, but the mission continues, since Kepler sent a huge amount of data back home which has not yet been analyzed.

image/NASA JPL

Novel combines action with a love of weather

"Chasing Helicity" by Ginger Zee is about a teenage girl who is obsessed with weather.

One night when she is mad at her school for placing her in the lower class for math, she rides her horse up a hill to where she often watches the weather.

This is Helicity's favorite way to escape reality. Her dad is very strict, and her brother is overly successful.

(T)he story includes flash floods, a relative's fight for life, and friendships that are ruined and formed through Helicity's love for the weather.

This creates stress and pressure on Helicity.

Going up and watching the weather relaxes Helicity because it is something that she enjoys researching and watching.

However, on this day, she did not tell anyone where she was going.

That night, a large tornado developed. It rushed towards her and her house at a high speed.

Her only option was to abandon her horse and hide somewhere on the hill.

Helicity is the forgetful type and often forgets to charge her phone.

She starts to film the tornado when she receives a text from her brother. "Where are you?"

But before she could finish responding, her phone dies. She takes shelter and

survives the tornado.

Helicity is picked up by a police officer when she returns to the bottom of the hill.

She is taken to the nearest high school where all survivors are being rounded up.

Here she finds that her mother and father are there, but her brother is nowhere to be found.

The rest of the story includes flash floods, a relative's fight for life, and friendships that are ruined and formed through Helicity's love for the weather.

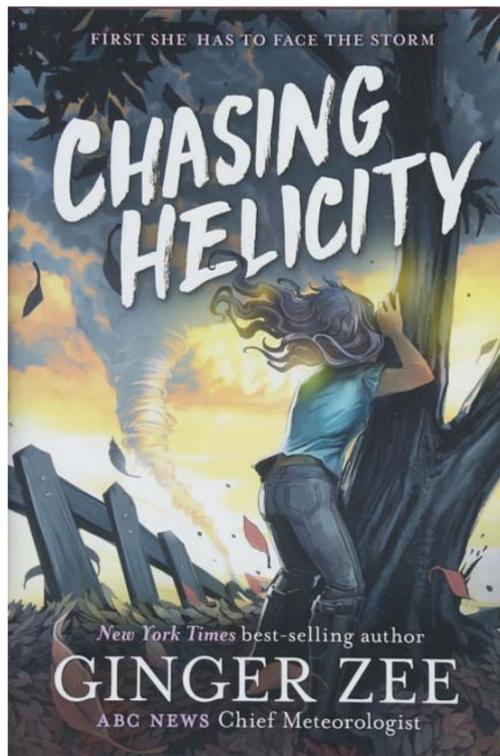
This is an approximately 200 page book so it is a quick read that will still entice most readers.

This is an adventure involving multiple extreme weather scenes.

This book is unique compared to most of the books that I have read because it tells less about emotion and more about the actual storyline itself.

You don't get to know the characters really deeply so much as you get absorbed into what they are actually doing.

I recommend this book for preteens because it describes the survivor story of a natural disaster, which is very, very interesting.



By Jack Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Election Day has been a story of inclusion

In November of 1869, political cartoonist Thomas Nast drew this picture of "Uncle Sam's Thanksgiving Dinner," where, as it says in one corner, the invitation was "Come One, Come All," and the promise in the other corner was "Free and Equal."

America was a place where all were invited in those days.

There were very few laws about immigration, and the 14th Amendment, which was already more than a year old, guaranteed that anyone born in the United States was a citizen.

The Civil War had ended nearly five years earlier, and nearly a million people had died in the fight over whether states could allow slavery.

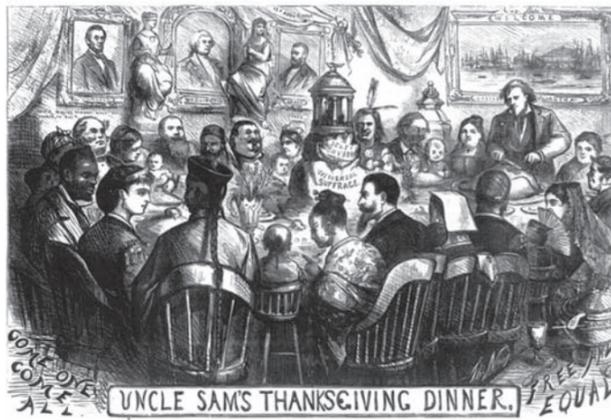
But, while the African American family at the left was now welcome at the table, it would be another year before the 15th Amendment guaranteed the father to right to vote.

Meanwhile, the women at the table would have to wait another 51 years before they would get to vote in a Presidential election, and the Chinese family could not even become citizens until 1943, unless they were born here.

America needed workers, and immigrants were encouraged to come here to work in our factories and farm our land.

But being allowed to eat at the table -- to come to America -- was not the same thing as being allowed to vote.

At the time of the Revolution, there were very few countries in which people



were allowed to vote at all.

Our Founding Fathers acted like "fathers" the way most fathers acted in those days: They were in charge of all important decisions.

At the beginning, the only people allowed to vote in most states were not just men, and not just white men, but white men who owned land.

We were used to being ruled by a king, and it seemed natural to let men who had proven that they could be successful be the ones to make laws.

But there were always people, right from the very beginning, who did not think that was fair.

Over the years, the United States allowed more and more citizens to vote, but it has often been a struggle.

A year after this cartoon was drawn, the 15th Amendment guaranteed that all male citizens could

vote, but many state and local governments in the South invented rules to keep African-Americans from voting. It was not until the 1960s that nationwide laws were passed to stop these unfair rules.

Women were finally given the right to vote in 1920, with the passage of the 19th Amendment, after nearly a century of struggle.

Today, if you follow the news, you will still find people arguing over the right to vote, with some insisting on that right and others trying to keep them from voting.

Being at the table is a start, but the history of our country is a neverending story of people wanting to have a voice in deciding what is served at that banquet.

Sudoku

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

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 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States, so our answers this week will begin with "L."

1. Melted rock coming out of the Earth, usually from a volcano
2. Types of this leafy vegetable include romaine, Bibb and iceberg.
3. Author of "Number the Stars" and "The Giver"
4. Beirut is the capital of this nation
5. The vicuña, guanaco and alpaca are all types of this South American relative of the camel
6. One of the smallest countries in Europe, it's in between Belgium, France and Germany.
7. The measure of how far a point is from the Equator. Denver's is 39.7392° N.
8. Medium-sized wildcat noted for the black tufts of hair on the tips of its ears
9. The maze in which the Minotaur was imprisoned
10. Small long-tailed, tree-dwelling primate found only in Madagascar

(answers on Page Four)

Chicken pox outbreaks close schools, scare experts

The anti-science fad of refusing to give children vaccinations has had impact around the country as outbreaks of chicken pox have caused problems for schools in a variety of places.

For instance, so many kids had chicken pox in Battle Ground, Washington, and in Holland, Michigan, that schools there were forced to close.

The refusal to vaccinate babies began several years ago, when a doctor wrote a paper saying that vaccines could cause autism.

It turned out that he had faked his

data. The magazine that published his article apologized to readers and the doctor lost his medical license.

However, many people had already heard the story, believed it, and spread it.

When parents refuse to give their children medical care, you might think that it only threatens those kids, but that's not that case.

Vaccines usually work, but sometimes they don't. If all kids have the vaccine, only a very few will still get the disease.

But if a lot of kids are not vaccinated, more of them are likely to get the

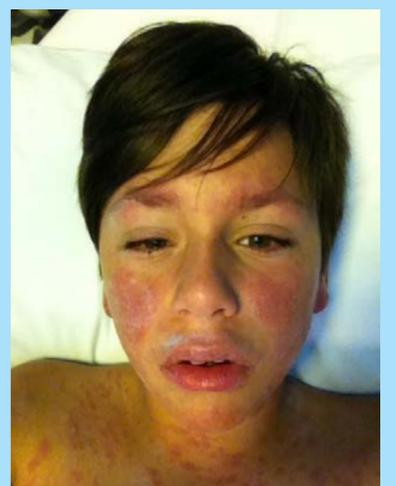
disease. That makes it more likely that even vaccinated kids might catch it.

Now parents who refuse to vaccinate their kids are using a dangerous, old-fashioned idea: "Parties" with a kid who has chicken pox so that their kids will catch it and build an immunity.

That's like having kids play in traffic so they'll learn not to be hit by cars.

Colorado's health department warns that, before the chicken pox vaccine was developed, 10,000 kids a year were hospitalized with the disease, and 100 of them died.

photo/Robyne01



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 NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

The End of Kepler

Voting and Citizenship

Chicken Pox

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

Woman of the World: The Story of Nellie Bly

based on Brooke Kroeger's "Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Feminist, Reporter"

Chapter Fourteen: Nellie Bly in War and Peace

Our story so far: Trusting the wrong people left Nellie's business in ruins. She went to Europe to find help and to get away from legal problems. But just as she left, World War I started.

Nellie hadn't planned to be in the middle of a war, but, once it happened, that was exactly where she wanted to be.

She had missed the Spanish-American War; it happened while she was married and retired from the newspaper business. Now, she was widowed and nearly bankrupt.

For the past year, she had been talking about going back to work as a reporter.

She had even written a story about a parade in Washington, DC, in 1913, in which 10,000 women marched for the right to vote.

One of the honored guests riding in that parade was a courageous woman reporter who, a quarter century before, had infiltrated a madhouse to help poor, mentally ill women, and who had packed her things in a small handbag and gone around the world in 72 days.

The world had not forgotten Nellie Bly, and now she had a story she wanted to cover. This time, it would not be for Joseph Pulitzer's World but for The Evening Journal, owned by Pulitzer's biggest rival, William Randolph Hearst, where her favorite editor from The World, Arthur Brisbane, was now working.

"Famous writer in Austria for the Journal -- Nellie Bly on the Firing Line" blared the headline on December 4, 1914, over her first report from the front lines of World War I.

Her stories were pure Nellie Bly, from the small details of Hungarian soldiers making tea in their trenches to the horrors of men dying of cholera in the frozen mud.

And there was even a moment of adventure, starring, of course, Nellie Bly.

The United States was not taking part in the war yet, so Americans were neither friends nor enemies to the Austrian government. But during a stop on one trip, Nellie wandered away from the train station and was halted by a police officer.

Her identification was with her things on the train, and, when she spoke English to him, he thought she was a British spy.

This was serious. Spies could be shot. Nellie was brought to a building full of uniformed men and locked in a room until someone who spoke English could be found.

"I am Dr. Friedman," he announced. "You are English, they say."

"I am Nellie Bly of New York," I answered.

"My God! Nellie Bly!" he cried excitedly.

Dr. Friedman explained to the authorities that "every child seven years old in America knows Nellie Bly" and the reporter was set free to continue her work, one of the first women to ever report from an actual war zone.

Once her country entered the war, however, Nellie found herself in enemy territory. The Austrians knew her by then and were kind to her, but she could no longer work as a reporter.

After the war, Nellie returned to America and began the sad business of closing down what remained of the Iron Clad Manufacturing Company. The money was all gone and members of her own family had stopped speaking to each other, and to her. Even the souvenirs of her trip around the world had been sold.

But Nellie Bly, the "poor orphan girl" from Cochran's Mills, Pennsylvania, still knew how to earn a living. She went back to work for the Evening Journal, and, when Jack Dempsey fought Jess Willard for the heavyweight boxing crown, she even made a little more history: She became the first woman reporter to cover a title fight.

The time for stunt reporting was past, however. Nellie was more than 50 years old, and the young reporters at the Journal weren't even aware that they were working alongside a historic figure.

But they must have known they were working with a popular one. Letters poured in from readers, asking for advice, asking for help, and Nellie not only gave advice in a column on the editorial page, but helped people herself, particularly poor families that could not support their children, and poor orphan children in need of good homes.

Nellie even got legal custody of a little girl named Dorothy, whose drug-addicted mother had died. For awhile, they shared a single room in a hotel where those who needed Nellie Bly's help often waited in the lobby to meet the famous reporter as she came and went. Other children sometimes came to stay in the room with Dorothy and Nellie for a few days, until some better place could be found for them.

But one day, Dorothy was taken to stay with Nellie's niece, Beatrice until the new family Nellie had found for her could come from Ohio to get her. She was too little to understand why Nellie wasn't there, too, but, on January 28, 1922, the newspapers were full of news, not by Nellie Bly this time, but about her.

Her friend and boss at the Journal, Arthur Brisbane, wrote, "Nellie Bly, whose work and character are known to millions, died yesterday."

Brisbane wrote of the trip around the world and of her courageous trip to Blackwell's Island. He even wrote, "Nellie Bly was THE BEST REPORTER IN AMERICA, and that says a great deal."

But, he said, the work she did for the poor, and particularly for poor children, was more important to her, and to her friends. She died with little money, he said, "but her life was useful and she takes with her from this world all that she cared for, an honorable name, the respect and affection of her fellow workers, the memory of good fights well fought, and of many good deeds never to be forgotten by those who had no friend but Nellie Bly.

"Happy the man or woman that can leave as good a record."

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Next Week: A new serial story of adventure in the wilderness!



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. lava 2. lettuce 3. Lois Lowry 4. Lebanon 5. llama 6. Luxembourg
7. latitude 8. lynx 9. Labyrinth 10. lemur

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