

CK Reporter of the Week
Thandi Glick, Denver

'Coco' melds humor with depth

When I went to Disney/Pixar's "Coco," I was definitely expecting something more like their 2014 movie "The Book of Life," where a misunderstood guy who wants to be a musician is forced into another occupation that's been passed down the generations in his family, and the passion of music takes them to an alternate dimension.

But "Coco" is different and more complex than the simple plot "The Book of Life" followed.

The main character, Miguel (voiced by Anthony Gonzales), lives for his hero, Ernesto de la Cruz (Benjamin Bratt), in playing guitar.

When a talent show comes to town and Miguel loses his guitar, he steals Ernesto's in order to participate in the same talent show that started Ernesto's musical career.

Miguel travels to the Land of the Dead with a single strum of Ernesto's guitar, and he needs to get home before sunrise or he will become a skeleton permanently, alongside the other citizens of the Land of the Dead.

I would recommend this movie to people of all ages.

Although Disney/Pixar is known for making films that are kid-friendly, a good serving of comedy for adults found its way into "Coco."

This is not to say kids won't understand the jokes, it's just that the humor will be appreciated by adults as well.

Some of the funny parts include when Miguel's dog Dante randomly



spurts his head out of the trash can and, when after Miguel tells his life story (*more on that later*) and the musician, who at the time is getting a shoeshine, says "I asked for a shoeshine, not your life story."

His accent makes it even more funny.

Although "Coco" made me literally laugh out loud, it was also a pretty dramatic movie and I will admit, it even made me cry.

But, take that with a grain of salt because I cry pretty easily.

Some of the most dramatic parts include when Miguel gives his life story because of how depressing it is, and when -- and this is a huge difference between "The Book of Life" and "Coco" -- no music is allowed in a 50-mile-radius of his home, while in his heart Miguel feels like a musician.

It just really reminded me about how kids have barely any control over their own lives.

Another dramatic scene is when Miguel breaks a promise that could've been his easy escape from the Land of the Dead because of his love of music.

This is a Disney movie, so of course there's a moral at the end of the story.

In this case the moral is the old saying don't judge a book by its cover, but with a twist that will really make you think.

Sometimes people may be better or worse than expected at first glance.



By Marcus Turner,
11, a CK Reporter
from Aurora

Riordan scores again with new Magnus tale

Magnus Chase, son of Frey, the Norse god of summer and health, is gone.

When he died, he became an einheri, one of the warriors who perished in battle. The einherjar's spirits reside in Valhalla.

Ever since he passed away, Magnus has been put in more dangerous situations than anybody could imagine.

At the outset of the story, Loki, the trickster god, is preparing to set sail on his ship with a crew of zombie vikings to start the apocalypse (*Ragnarok*).

Magnus must stop Loki or all of the nine worlds will come to an end!

"The Ship of the Dead," by Rick Riordan, is the third book in the series "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard."

This book can stand alone, though it is better as a whole if you have read the first two.

The story follows Magnus Chase on his journey to stop Loki, sailing on a boat gifted to him by his father,

with his friends Mallory Keen, Halfborn Gunderson, Thomas Jefferson Jr., and Alex Fierro.

In a rash, unpredictable move, Magnus promises to challenge Loki to a flying, or insult contest.

The problem is that if he loses, he gets reduced to a weak, tiny version of himself; and Magnus isn't that great with words.

To make things worse, Loki is a silver-tongued insult master.

Will Magnus find a way to defeat Loki? Or will all the worlds be condemned to death?

Rick Riordan, as always, is a master with words, and his wit, sarcasm, and hilarious

Like all Riordan's other characters, Magnus Chase is a complex individual whose thoughts and internal struggles are unbelievably realistic.

Riordan's characters will captivate you from the very start, from Magnus' thoughts on Alex Fierro, the gender-fluid child of Loki, to his loyalty and friendship with his fellow einherjar.

The mythology seems very thoroughly researched, with the characters from the aesir (gods) to the jotuns (giants) appearing in the original Norse mythology.

From the beginning to the very end, "The Ship of the Dead" will intrigue you, with plot twists that seemingly come out of nowhere.

I would recommend this book to ages 10+ for a minimal amount of mature content and language.

An extremely good read, this book is one worth purchasing!



By Maria Ciobanu,
13, a CK Reporter
from Denver





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'Christmas Carol' origins in Dickens bio

"The Man Who Invented Christmas" is about how Charles Dickens (*Dan Stevens*) created the book, "A Christmas Carol."

You also learn about some of his life since that leads to where he got some of his ideas for the story.

You see his wife, his children, and his father throughout the movie and some of these parts are really emotional.

While we learn about his life, this movie focuses primarily on the process of writing the book, so the parts of life we learn about are those that influenced the story.

He got his ideas from his environment, London. This can be a bit confusing at times as some of the words used there are different than ours. For example, instead of saying "cookie," they say "biscuit."

Dickens has a neat way of looking at life: When on the streets, instead of seeing vendors taking money, he sees people making a living.

When he sees dancers in the street to earn money, he is impressed and the dancing makes him happy.

He also tries to donate to almost every single person who is homeless on the streets.

Charles Dickens lived in the 1800's.

This is an interesting setting as the norms include horse drawn carriages, girls who always wear dresses, and a marketplace.

Instead of big grocery stores people go to booths to buy things.

This is also before child labor became illegal. Dickens was very poor in his past and had



been forced into the workhouse for children. That wasn't very good.

Also, Christmas then was pretty much just a normal day of the year, but one on which people didn't have to go to work. It was, however, not a big deal as it is today.

Charles Dickens only has six weeks to make the book.

The movie shows how he figures out each chapter and how he works with one other person in the process.

It was difficult, because it takes two weeks to print and illustrate the book. Basically this means he only has four weeks to actually write the story.

Dickens also has to do all of the selling and marketing himself.

The actors (*including Christopher Plummer as Ebenezer Scrooge and Jonathan Pryce as Dickens' father*) were good at their jobs though I had a little trouble understanding their British accents. They make everything seem realistic, and sometimes they are really funny..

I recommend the movie for kids 13 and over as it is a bit hard to follow and understand at times.



By Ben Vanourek, 12, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Troubling, eye-opening book for older readers

"Dear Martin" By Nic Stone is an eye-opening book about segregation in our community today.

It is told through the eyes of Justice McAllister, a black high schooler.

Justice McAllister grows up in a rough neighborhood.

Lots of gangs, drug dealers and a ton of illegal things happening.

None of that matters to him though. He is seventeen and graduating high school this year.

He is top of his class at Braselton Prep, captain of the debate team, and set on going to an Ivy League school next year.

His one problem is that none of these things matter to police officers.

Never.

He was put in handcuffs for trying to drive his girlfriend home while she was drunk.

The cops saw it the wrong way and put him in handcuffs.

Really tight handcuffs.

He is eventually let go with nothing but a couple bruises on his wrists, and no charges.

After this event, Justice is self-conscious about everything he does. He doesn't want to end up in that situation again.

To stay out of trouble Justice looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He starts writing letters to him, in a notebook for him to keep.

He asks himself what would Martin do in this situation?

And that helps all up until a day he is hanging out with Manny, his best friend.

They have the music up, way up in the car, driving just to be driving.

bad things to happen. And they do.

Shots are fired.

"Dear Martin" is an incredible book.

This novel does a great job looking into the life of a black teenager growing up in what is supposed to be an equal country.

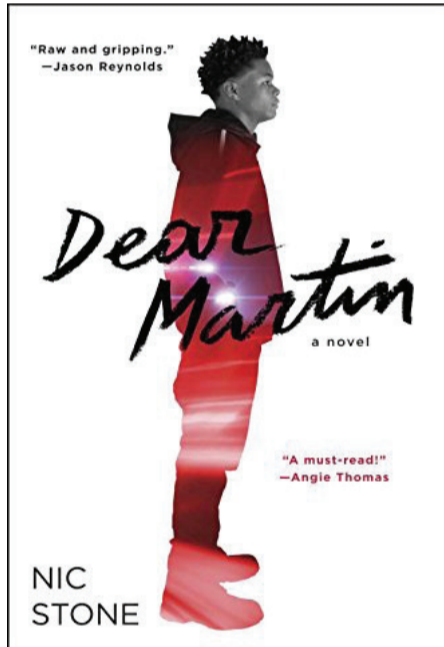
It shows the daily struggles that are still happening today to black women, men and children.

It's a stunning book, with a powerful message.

That said, "Dear Martin" should not be read by young children.

There is a lot of cursing, drinking, violent police scene descriptions and other things that make this book inappropriate for young children.

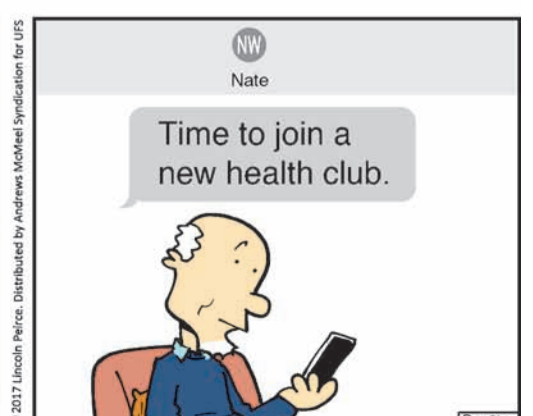
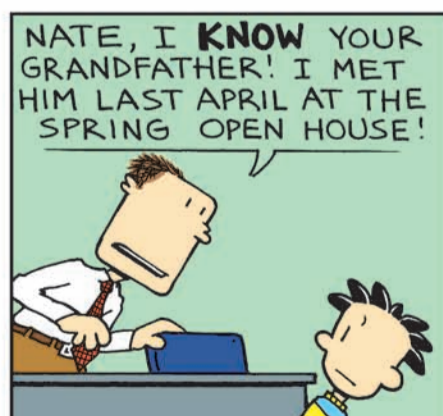
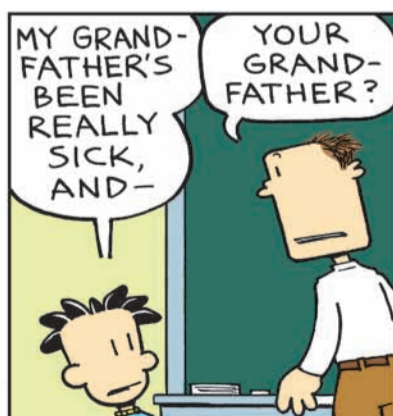
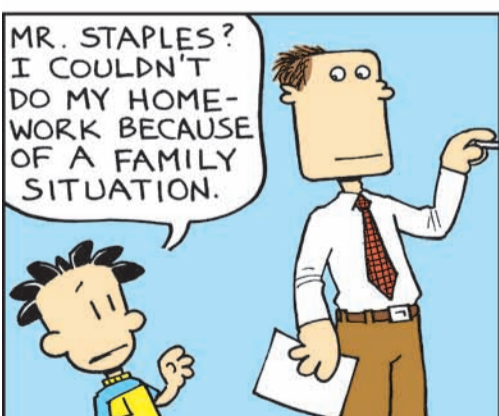
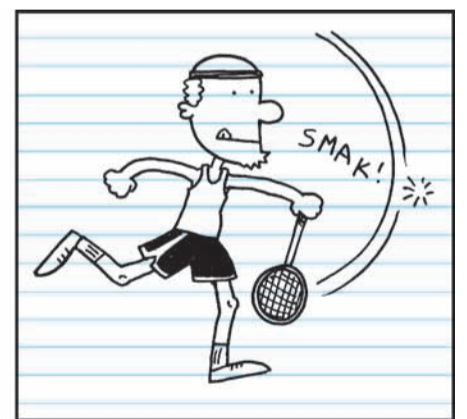
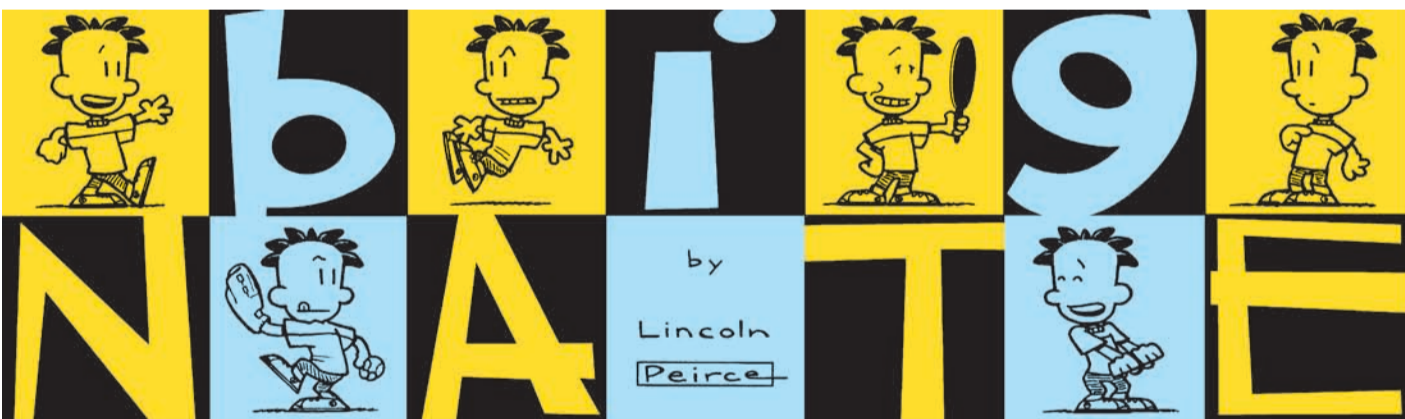
For young adults, and adults of any age, however, it is a must read.



It only takes one aggravated, white, off-duty cop for



By Ashley Gaccetta, 13, a CK Reporter from Longmont



Lemoncello series continues to puzzle, delight

Welcome back (or for the first time) to the fabulous world of Luigi Lemoncello and his no-board games.

"Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race" is the third in the series of novels by Chris Grabenstein, but even if you have not read the series before, you will understand this one.

This book shows the characters, and maybe even you, that teamwork and staying loyal are what counts.

In Alexandria, Ohio, Kyle Keely is told about this new game by Mr. Lemoncello.

Mr. Lemoncello explains that the game will take him far from home and that it will be a fact-finding frenzy.

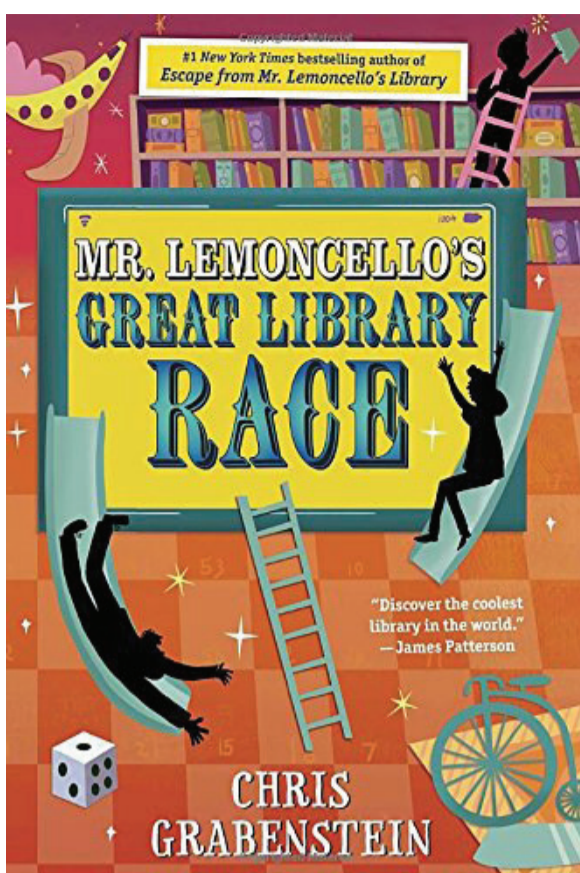
There's only one catch: He will have to work with a partner through this whole game.

His partner is Abia Sulayman from Boston. She is serious and careful, while Kyle is a risk taker and very adventurous.

During this process the two partners will become friends, learn how to work together and how to stay true to what you say.

Both are eager to win, until their research turns up information that could destroy the Lemoncello reputation, and they would be to blame, threatening his game-building empire and their beloved library in Alexandria.

Luckily, all four of the finalists in the fun and wacky



research game team up to dig deeper and find out what is true and what not, although they all are eager to win and get the prize in store at the end of the competition.

They are not sure what to do because they might destroy the Lemoncello empire for good.

They have to find out whether or not it is fake news before it is too late.

As the game comes to an end, they must find the answer. What will become of Mr. Lemoncello's future and that of their beloved library?

This is yet another really good book from Chris Grabenstein.

However, "Mr. Lemoncello's Library Race" felt like yet another of the other books, although one good thing about that is that, even if you haven't read the rest in the series, you can still understand and enjoy this one.

So come and enter the great world of Mr. Lemoncello and all who play his wonderful games.



By Ariana Bates-Erich, 11, a CK Reporter from Arvada

Zimbabwe says goodbye to long-time leader

The news sounded terrible to the rest of the world: Armored cars were rushing through the streets of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, and it was plain they meant to overthrow the president and take control of the government.

And when the leader of this military movement went on television to say that it was not a coup and they were not seizing power, many around the world sighed.

Every time the military overthrows the elected government of a country, it goes on television and tells everyone not to worry, that it's not a coup, that they aren't seizing power.

But Zimbabweans and those in neighboring countries watched things with a different and more hopeful attitude.

Zimbabwe was once a British colony, but, in 1965, the descendants of white settlers declared independence under the name "Rhodesia," because Britain would have forced them to allow all citizens, black and white, to vote.

However, black citizens rose in revolution, until, after 15 years of fighting, the nation of Zimbabwe was born in 1980.

One of the leaders of the revolution, Robert

Mugabe, became president, but his rule was only made solid after several more years of fighting within the nation.

And that rule has not been not democratic.

And yet Mugabe kept getting re-elected.

It may have been because the people were so loyal to the heroes of the revolution that they kept voting for him, even when the economy was very bad and despite there being almost no human rights in the country.

But it may have been that the ballots were not being counted honestly. And yet things went on.

In recent years, however, Robert Mugabe, who is now nearly 94 years old, was no longer able to govern effectively.

Others did it for him, and most people expected one day he would quit or die and Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa would replace him.

However, three weeks ago, Mugabe fired Mnangagwa and people feared that he planned to make his wife, Grace, the next president.

That was when the military stepped in, to the delight of the people, forcing Mugabe to resign and bringing Mnangagwa back to take his rightful place as president of the nation.



Young Zimbabweans celebrate in the streets of Harare after the military was able to persuade President Robert Mugabe to resign after 37 years as head of the nation.

(AP Photo/Svangirayi Mukwazhi)



Sudoku

			5		4
		6			
	1				
				3	6
1			4	5	
	5			1	

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only.

The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.



Brainteaser

On this date in 1582, William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway (not the one who's still alive) got their wedding license, so our answers this week will begin with "A" for anniversary.

1. This county includes Littleton and Aurora
2. There were actually several species of this prehistoric, feathered reptile, whose name means "ancient feather."
3. Our sixth president, he was the first whose father had also been US President.
4. People often have to have this tube, located in the intestines, removed by surgery.
5. This mountain range runs north and south down the spine of South America
6. A book that is a collection of stories, poems or articles, often by different writers
7. A young person who is an assistant to a skilled craftsman while learning the trade
8. Type of lizard similar to a gecko, sometimes called an "American chameleon"
9. Soft green fruit used in salads and especially in making guacamole
10. Often called the longest word in English, it means being against changing the law to make the Anglican Church no longer the official church in Britain.

(answers on Page Four)

Could testing saliva provide information about concussion harm?

Concussions have become a big issue for athletes and sports fans.

Football fans have become used to the idea that a player who hits his head hard will be evaluated on the sideline and may go into "the concussion protocol," which can mean missing a week or more of playing time.

Meanwhile, reports of brain damage for athletes have made rec and varsity coaches, athletes and parents concerned not just about football but about all sports.

It's not hard to tell when someone has had a bad concussion. But knowing how long the player should sit out (or consider giving up the sport entirely) has been difficult.

For the most part, doctors and trainers have had to rely

on observing symptoms, and that is not a very precise way to get good information.

But a small test at Penn State offers hope that testing a set of molecules in saliva can show not only how serious a concussion was, but how long it will take to recover and even if a person is likely to be prone to serious concussions.

Researchers were quick to warn against anyone getting too excited: They only tested 52 people, and there were many different types of patients and many different types of concussions in that small study.

But they plan more complete testing, and the results could be important for athletes and fans, as well as victims of other types of accidents.

photo/Nevit Dilmen



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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

Zimbabwe
Concussions

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

Ariadne and the Magic Thread

Chapter Eleven: The Island of Naxos

Our story so far: Ariadne and the Greeks must escape before the Minoans discover that the Minotaur is dead and the prisoners have escaped.

Ever since Ariadne had come for the sword, the Greek sailors had been waiting for the fight.

When they saw Tydeus coming down the beach, they knew the rest of the hostages were closing in. As Theseus and his men raced across the last few yards of beach, the sailors rose up and the Minoan guards were quickly overpowered.

Laodamus looked up towards the rocks and waved for the women to come down.

The sailors began pushing the ship off the beach and into the water, as the other Greek men, hostages no longer, ordered the Minoan guards to kneel with their hands behind their backs.

Ariadne saw Theseus and Tydeus walk behind the guards with spears and shouted as she ran across the gravel beach.

"No! No more!" she cried.

Theseus lowered his spear for a moment. "We don't have any choice," he said.

"You don't have to do this" she insisted, but her voice trailed off. "Please."

"Your father's ships are much faster than ours," Theseus said. "If they tell anyone we're gone, we'll be caught and killed before we're halfway back to Athens."

Korinna came and stood next to Ariadne. "They'll know we're gone as soon as somebody shows up for the day shift at the prison."

Tydeus glanced at Theseus and shrugged. "She's right. They'll figure it out by dawn anyway. We can tie these guys up well enough to hold them that long."

"Let my men do it," the ship's captain suggested. "I guarantee they won't get loose by themselves."

Theseus looked around at the faces of the hostages and of the ship's crew. A few of the Minoan guards were even daring to glance up at him.

"Fine," he snapped. "You want to risk all our lives, go ahead. But I want them scattered down the beach. I don't want them close enough that they can crawl over and untie each other."

One of the sailors fetched a coil of rope from the ship and the crew began binding the guards tightly.

"If we meet again, you'd better remember that we spared your lives," Theseus warned them.

A guard jerked his head away from the sailor who was about to gag him with a strip of cloth. "We'll remember who among you spared our lives," he said, and spat on the ground.

"You were going to kill us all!" Theseus shouted back. "Don't talk to me of mercy! You were going to watch us die, and then next year, you were going to watch 14 more of us die!"

"Come help with the ship," Laodamus said to him quietly. "If the sailors are going to do this, we need to take over for them there."

Theseus's men pushed the ship the rest of the way into the water, then helped the women climb in over the side. At last, the sailors finished tying up the guards and ran for the ship, pushing it off from the shore as they scrambled on board, found their benches and began to strike the sea with their oars.

By the time dawn had colored the sky a rosy pink and painted the sea the color of dark wine, the island of Crete had disappeared behind the horizon and the tiny Greek ship was alone on the water.

There was no breeze and its black sail hung limply from the mast as the sailors rowed.

Theseus walked to the stern of the ship where the captain was holding the steering oar steady. "How much of a lead do we need?" he asked.

"They've started after us by now," the captain answered. "They'll catch us by noon if we keep heading for Athens."

"They'll head straight for Athens in case we go that way," Theseus said. "Then they'll start trying to find us among the islands. Do you know some place we can go where they won't think to look?"

"Naxos!" the captain suggested. "It's a big island, big enough to hide on. I know a little bay where we can put in for the night. There's fresh water and wood there and no-one ever comes by."

"Where is it?"

"There!" the captain said, pointing straight north and leaning on the oar to swing the prow of the ship in a new direction.

"Naxos, boys!" he shouted to the crew. "Naxos by nightfall!"

The wind never did come up that day, but Theseus's men took turns at the oars with the sailors, and the ship made good time, until, just as the sun was setting, the tall hills of Naxos, and then the island itself, came into sight.

They landed in a small bay at the mouth of a river, and pulled the ship up on the wide, sandy beach. The women went into the woods to see what fruits and berries could be found, while the ship's crew began to fill the water jugs from the river and Theseus's men gathered driftwood to build a fire.

Ariadne approached Theseus as he stood staring out to sea. "Thank you for sparing the guards," she said softly, and began to put her arm through his, but he spun away from her.

"Thank you for embarrassing me in front of my own people!" he shouted at her. "Thank you for questioning my decisions in front of everybody!"

Ariadne flushed scarlet. "I didn't mean ..."

"We're not in Crete now and you're not a princess anymore," Theseus thundered. "From now on, I am the only one giving orders! Do you understand that?"

She tried to speak, but his eyes were so angry that she couldn't.

Instead, she turned and ran across the white beach and into the darkening forest.

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Arapahoe
2. Archaeopteryx
3. (John Quincy) Adams
4. appendix
5. the Andes
6. anthology
7. apprentice
8. anole
9. avodaco
10. Antidisestablishmentarianism

ColoradoKids

is produced by
Denver Post Educational Services
Executive Editor: Dana Plewka
dplewka@denverpost.com
CK Editor: Mike Peterson
coloradokidseditor@gmail.com
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101 W. Colfax Ave.
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