



Don't miss the start of our new serial, "The Crown and the Colliers," Page 4

Captain Marvel a hero we needed

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has been a powerhouse in the movie industry since 2008's Iron Man, but recently it has been gaining even more widespread traction.

Just last year, "Avengers: Infinity War" broke box office records by bringing in a whopping \$640 million during its opening weekend. Now, the MCU's "Captain Marvel" is blasting its way to theaters, and bringing a powerful message with it.

The year is 1995. It's been six years since F-15 Air Force pilot Carol Danvers (Brie Larson) went missing, presumed dead in a freak accident.

Now, she believes she is Vers, a Kree Starforce member, and she has been having mysterious nightmares about an old woman she does not remember.

Following a reconnaissance mission gone wrong, Vers is captured by the Skrulls, a shape-shifting species at war with the Kree.

After escaping, she crashlands on Earth (or, as she calls it, C-53) and joins forces with Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson).

They attempt to prevent the Skrulls from taking over Earth and discover the secrets of her past, but they have to be careful: Their enemies are not always who they seem.

Marvel has set the bar high in recent years. Just this year, "Black Panther" won three Oscars and "Captain Marvel" certainly lives up to the standard we have come to expect from Marvel.

The graphics, for one thing, are nothing short of awe-inspiring.

The amount of time and effort it must have taken to transform Samuel L. Jackson and Clark Gregg (Agent Phil Coulson) to the way they looked in the '90s is staggering to even imagine.

On top of that, Captain Marvel's photon blasts are incredibly realistic (at least as realistic as you can get for shooting laser beams out of your hands).

Another aspect of this film that is truly impressive is the acting. There could not have been a better choice to play the title role than Oscar winner Brie Larson.

She perfectly captures every aspect of Captain Marvel, from the cool detached Kree soldier to the more emotional part of trying to reclaim her distant past.

The thing about this movie that makes it truly important to watch is the message. This is the only Marvel movie out of 21 starring a female lead without a male lead right next to her.

As much as we love Captain America and Iron Man, it's high time that little girls get a strong, powerful role model out of this cinematic universe.

It's also important to mention the lack of skin tight costumes in this movie.

Previous Marvel women (think Gamora and Black Widow) have been dressed in clingy outfits that serve literally no purpose as armor.

Captain Marvel, however, is decked out in full body armor and fully prepared to fight.

Captain Marvel is unapologetic, fierce, and the superhero we definitely needed.

At first she can come off cold and aloof, but as the film progresses she really is a relatable, down-to-C-53 kind of gal.

Everybody can in some way connect to the struggles that Captain Marvel goes through in this film.

All in all, this movie is a must see.

It cannot be stressed enough how important it is that a female superhero finally has her own Marvel film, but, even without considering that, it really is a great film.

From the realistic aviation (courtesy of the Air Force Thunderbirds) to the phenomenal acting and graphics, it isn't hard to imagine that "Captain Marvel" will steal everybody's hearts!

This movie is rated PG-13 for brief suggestive language, action, and sci-fi violence, but there is nothing that makes it so the entire family can't enjoy it.



By Maria Ciobanu, 14, a CK Reporter from Denver

Parkland survivors tell their touching stories

You've heard about the Parkland shootings that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last March.

But, if you haven't read "Parkland Speaks" edited by Sarah Lerner, a teacher at that school, you're not getting the full picture.

"Parkland Speaks" is made up of poetry, photos, speeches, letters, drawings, and journal entries from students and teachers of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The book is certainly not a page turner.

In fact, I often found myself dreading the next page because reading the student's stories makes you feel like you are witnessing the event.

It's heart-wrenching. As the back cover says, "It is real. It is raw. It happened to them."

Reading this truly makes you understand.

You get to see the story from the student's perspective.

It was a very sad read, but necessary to understand more. "Parkland Speaks" is going to spark change.

The book talks about the recovery process, the shooting itself, what was done in memorial for the victims, what people are doing to make sure this never happens again, and stories from friends of the victims.

It's rather dark, so I'd say readers should be over the age of 10, at least.

It's a pretty quick read. There are mentions of death, blood, violence, and guns. What's devastating is just how real "Parkland Speaks" is.

This isn't fiction, it actually happened, and if something doesn't change it could continue to happen.

That's why this book is so important: It's raising awareness and helping us all put ourselves in the student's shoes.

One of my favorite parts of the book was the poem "Never Again" by Lyliah Skinner.

It was so beautifully raw and truthful that it allowed me to really see just how bad the outcome of the shooting is, and after reading it I was inspired to do something about it.

"Can't you hear?" by Alyson Sheehy was very good as well.

I absolutely love "Parkland Speaks."

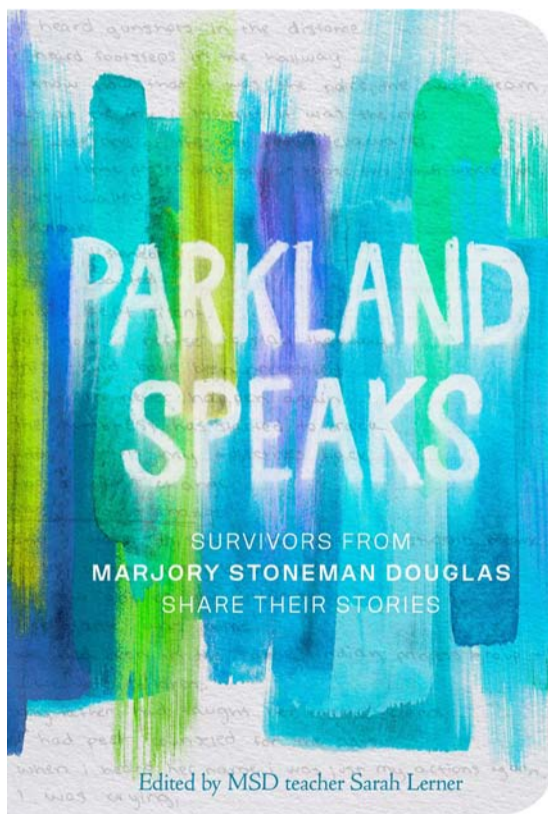
It's very sad that it had to be written in the first place, but it is one of the reasons why a book like this might not need to be written again.

All of the writing in the book was exquisite, and the photos added a nice touch.

After reading I now know the full story and am inspired to help make change.

It's definitely worth the read.

"Parkland Speaks" is a masterpiece.



By Maya Fahy, 13, a CK Reporter from Longmont



Writing Is Fun!

How Would You Like To Be A Real Reporter?

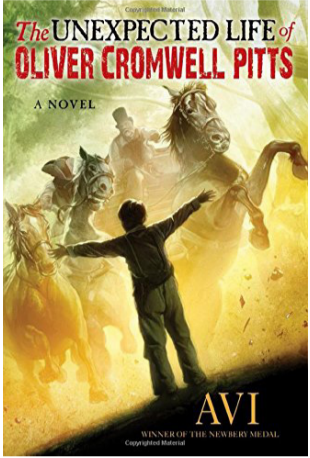
Find out about all the cool benefits when you apply to be a Colorado Kids reporter at ColoradoNIE.com or by emailing dplewka@denverpost.com.

Local author Avi explains how he works

A famous author agreed to meet with me just a few blocks away from his house in Denver.

Okay, well, really Avi, the author most recently of "The End of the World and Beyond" was giving a talk at the Tattered Cover bookstore on Colfax Ave. (which is really close to his house) and I met him there for an interview.

Avi said that he started writing when he was around fifteen years old and that his favorite part of being an author is learning.



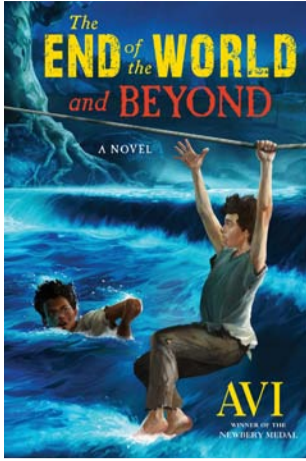
He enjoys researching his books, he explained, and thinks the most important quality for a good author is a good memory.

Avi researches his books first, and then spends about a year writing them.

When he gets writer's block (which he says he gets about twenty times a day), he deals with it by taking a walk, cooking dinner, or talking to a cat.

It is important, he recommends, to do something else to get your thinking going again.

"The End of the World and Beyond" and its prequel, "The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts," are



historical fiction. This is true of many of Avi's books and so he does a lot of research.

He enjoys researching, and gets his ideas for books from research.

He often gets suggestions for book topics from other people, but he can only remember one time when he took anyone else's advice.

Avi's reason for pursuing his own ideas, he said, is that someone else's idea will not result in the same emotional connection to the topic that he would have by coming up with it himself, and then the reader would not be as engaged either.

Avi has written more than 70 books over his long career, and is still writing.

He is working on several books currently, including one about the American Revolution, and another addition to his series on Poppy the mouse.

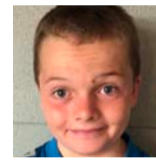
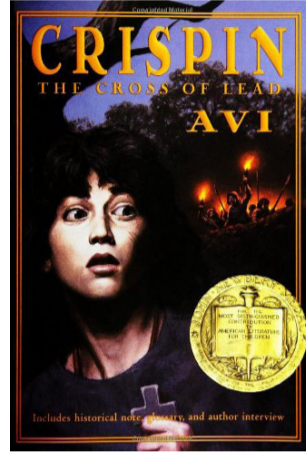
I have read three of Avi's books, "The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts," "The End of the World and Beyond," and the one that won him the Newbery Medal, "Crispin and the Cross Of Lead."



photo/Katherine Warde

I recommend all three of these books, and am looking forward to reading the more than 70 other books he has published!

Oh, and if you are really curious about why a famous author decides not to use his real name, he told me that "Avi" is a nickname from his childhood, when his sister could not pronounce his real name.



By Aidan Muldoon, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

'Wonder Park' is a wonderful family movie



I have never seen a movie like "Wonder Park." It combined sadness, happiness and problem-solving with fun adventures.

It all starts when June and Bucky, her best friend, build an actual roller coaster that is a wild ride that goes out of control and destroys the neighborhood.

So June's mom tells her, "I never want you to stop using your imagination but, without wrecking the neighborhood."

June and her mom continue building Wonder Park inside her house until it takes over the entire house.

Wonder Park is a park created from magic by June and her mom. They use their imaginations to create a whole new world of rides and characters that live in the park.

The characters are unusual and include a warthog named Greta, a porcupine named Steve, beavers named Gus and Cooper, Boomer the bear, and last, but not least, Peanut, the little monkey who does the building, with a little bit of help from June and her Mom.

The rides aren't normal rides but unique mixed-up rides that are very detailed.

For example, when they design a merry-go-round, they tell Peanut by whispering it in the stuffed monkey's ear to make it out of flying fish, and that, when you tap the fin, your fish and you fly free to fun places.

This is called the Fantastic Fish Carousel!

There is also the Sky Flinger which is a huge machine that you are in a ball and it flings you to

the other side and back across the park over and over again.

But then suddenly the darkness arrives and so do the chimpanzombies.

Chimpanzombies are tiny versions of Peanut that turn evil with purple magical dust.

June and her friends have to figure out where the darkness came from and how to stop the darkness from destroying Wonder Park.

This is when June faces her fear and her friends try to help June through tough times.

"Wonder Park" is a very inspiring movie because it tells you that you should never give up on your imagination even when things get hard.

This movie would be appropriate for all ages even adults, because it is fun and crazy and sometimes even sad.

If I were to compare it to another movie it is kind of like "Inside Out," because the characters go through a variety of emotions: Happy, sad, anger, and depression.

Kids' movies don't often talk about depression but this one does.

So, should you go see "Wonder Park?"

Yes, absolutely grab your friends, get your popcorn and go see "Wonder Park!"



By Kylee Burks, 10, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

Big Nate



Touching film puts love, life and fibrosis in focus

CF, as Cystic Fibrosis is casually known, is a disease that affects the lungs with phlegmy mucus. It clogs up and stifles the immune system, which makes it hard to breathe.

"Five Feet Apart," directed by Justin Baldoni, is about two teenagers with CF (*Haley Lu Richardson as Stella and Cole Sprouse as Will*), who are struggling to stay alive while fighting to keep their love alive, too, which is difficult because of the rules saying they can't be within five feet of each other.

The screenplay was adapted from the book written by Rachael Lippincott, Tobias Iaconis, and Mikki Daughtry.

You may remember Cole Sprouse from "Riverdale," but this time he completely switched gears into the kind of character he plays, and the transformation was magical.

Haley Lu lets out her comedic side when gossiping with her friends and in many ways seems like your typical teenager.

On the other hand, she convinces the audience that she is actually a sick girl with cystic fibrosis. Rated PG-13, this touching film has a little suggestive, but not sexual, content.

Along with this, comes a fair amount of strong language.

But before anything else, expect tears.

Stella and Will are faced with problems, which all come with intense moments and scenes of sadness.

There are many mature themes, like what comes after death and accepting loss of life.



Like "Everything, Everything" and "The Fault in Our Stars," this movie was based on a book and is about a girl with a life-threatening illness, who is in love with somebody just out of their reach.

Though CBS Films did not formally partner with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF), the accuracy of the CF content was fantastic.

The film included an AffloVest, used to "vibrate" the mucus out of faulty lungs.

The truthful amount of meds that come along with CF were portrayed correctly too, including penicillin and other antibiotics.

As for the film's two hour length, every minute was necessary for Stella and Will's relationship growth.

It truly feels like you are in every moment, walking every step of the emotional roller-coaster with two star-crossed lovers.

Everybody with a soft-spot for romances should see this movie, and, though it seems inappropriate for those under the age of 13, that is really up to the parents.

"Five Feet Apart" is a beautiful film that reminds us that life is too short to waste time.

Take advantage of what you have and don't be afraid to take risks.



By Talia Schanman, 11, a CK Reporter from Cherry Hills Village

One is an accident, two is a sign of trouble



(AP Photo/Preston Fiedler -- Opposite, FAA Twitter account)

When an aircraft from Indonesia's Lion Air airline crashed into the Java Sea last October, it was a great tragedy. There were 189 people on board and none of them survived.

The pilot and copilot were very experienced, and it was simply seen as a tragic accident. The examination suggested there had been a technical problem with the plane, one of Boeing's new Max 8 aircraft.

Was it a problem with that particular airplane, or with all the Max 8's?

It wasn't clear, but Boeing updated some software

on the planes to help prevent another accident.

However, when another Max 8, this one belonging to Ethiopian Airlines, crashed last week in much the same way, killing everyone aboard, it stopped looking like a problem with that one airplane and began looking like a problem with all Max 8's.

Both airplanes had crashed just after taking off, and, in both cases, the pilots had time to radio for permission to return to the airport. Neither was able to do so.

Airplane experts were quick to point out that, even though Ethiopia is not a rich nation, Ethiopian Airlines is Africa's largest airline and has a truly excellent record for taking care of its aircraft and overall safety.

The plane that crashed on that flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi was nearly brand new; This photo shows it at the Boeing factory in Seattle in November.

China was first to ground all Max 8 aircraft, but other nations soon followed.

The decision is to keep the Max 8's on the ground until there has been a full examination of the two accidents and Boeing has taken steps to correct any problems with the aircraft that may be discovered.

This was particularly hard for airlines and passengers on the day the decisions were made, because



airplanes are carefully scheduled.

If you are flying from Denver to Chicago at 2:55, you'll probably be on an airplane that arrived at DIA a little under an hour earlier. And the plane you are on will be needed for new passengers in Chicago, once you have arrived and gotten off.

After a few days, airlines should be back on schedule, and most U.S. airlines don't have enough of the new Max 8's yet for it to be a big problem.

And most of the criticism is asking why some countries waited longer than others to ground the planes.

"Better safe than sorry" is a phrase that makes sense.

Sudoku

5					
	6	1	2		
	5				6
			4		3
1				3	
		4		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

Congress agreed on a system of time zones across the USA on this date in 1918, so our answers this week will begin with "M" for "MST."

1. Vegetable matter like straw or even cocoa bean hulls that is placed around plants to hold in moisture and help prevent weeds.
2. This New England state contains the easternmost part of the United States.
3. A fingerless baseball glove worn by catchers and first basemen
4. Author of "The Paper Bag Princess" and "Love You Forever."
5. A popular Cantonese dish of chicken, mushrooms, snow peas and other vegetables
6. If you went straight south from Spain, or straight west from Algeria, you'd find yourself in this African nation.
7. The Roman messenger god. In Athens, his name would be "Hermes."
8. The only metal, also called "quicksilver," which is a liquid at room temperature.
9. The process in which, for instance, a caterpillar turns into a butterfly
10. First Lady famous for rescuing artwork from the White House when it was burned by the British during the War of 1812

(answers on Page Four)

New York judge refuses to let unvaccinated kids back into school



A judge in New York State turned down a group of parents who wanted their children to attend school despite not being vaccinated against measles.

The parents went to court after the Rockland County Health Department ruled that unvaccinated children could not go to schools unless at least 95 percent of students there were vaccinated.

Only about a third of the kids at the Waldorf School in the lawsuit had been vaccinated.

In 2000, measles were thought to be gone from the United States, but a fad of refusing to give children normal vaccinations has brought measles back.

Rockland County has had 145 cases of measles this year, nearly all among people under 18.

The "anti-vax" movement began several years ago when a doctor published a report on vaccines in which he had made up his facts. Although the report was withdrawn and the doctor lost his medical license for publishing a fraud, the belief took hold.

As a result, several states, including Colorado, have laws allowing parents to decide against vaccinations. Rockland's ruling goes against state law, but the judge said the outbreak was an emergency that allows it.

Medical experts explain that vaccines are not 100% effective, so that even if you have had a vaccination, you might still get measles from a classmate.

The judge agreed with the health department on banning kids who could spread the disease. photo/CDC

Beyond These Pages!

Hot Links to Cool Sites!

NASA's Space Place

<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report

<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

Headline Geography

<http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography>

Pulse of the Planet

<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

How to become a CK Reporter!

tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter



To read the sources for these stories

Airline Safety

Measles Prevention

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

The Crown and the Colliers

Chapter One -- Young Man in the Middle

In the 16th Century, Germany was a collection of kingdoms, duchies and principalities, united under an emperor. The Emperor, who chosen by a group of the most powerful kings, princes and archbishops, was expected to maintain peace and justice. But he could not be everywhere, and so in some places there was very little of either.

"Are you a tall Short, or a short Tall?" the gruff voice boomed.

It was not a friendly voice, and Gabriel didn't turn around. The small, bearded man behind the counter looked over nervously as he continued to assemble the basket of cheese, cold meat and bread for the young man who had come with the soldiers.

Gabe looked out the open doorway of the inn, away from the voice. The fresh team was being backed into place in front of the wagon, and he could see some of the soldiers watering their horses at the trough in front of the inn.

"He looks tall to me," the voice said. "Don't he look kind of tall to you?"

"Lay off, Conrad. He's just a kid," someone else said, and this time Gabe turned to look.

There were three Shorts at a table in the corner. He could tell which one was Conrad by the scowl on his face and the hatred in his eyes. The other two didn't look very friendly, but at least they were trying to keep Conrad from starting trouble.

But Conrad stood up and walked over to the counter, pushing a chair roughly out of his way as he came. People at other tables looked around nervously, even though they, too, were short and stocky, with dark, thick hair like Conrad's, the men bearded, the women with heavy coils of braids.

The top of his head was even with Gabe's nose as he stood facing him, a little too close. "You planning to get even taller, or are you about done?" he asked, and Gabe could smell the beer on his breath.

"Is there a problem, innkeeper?" A military officer in the uniform of the Queen's Own Guards entered the inn, taking off his wide, plumed hat and ducking to get through the low doorway as his cavalry sword clanked against the frame.

"No, sir, no problem," the man behind the counter said. "I was just getting your order ready."

"Well, take your time," the officer said. He turned to face the room, leaning on the low counter. "We don't have to go anywhere for a few minutes."

Conrad had backed away when Captain Stahl came into the inn, and now he went and sat down with his friends, though he didn't take his eyes off the tall, blonde soldier and the boy with the long legs and dark hair.

Stahl buffed a spot from his hat and looked back at the doorway. "How high is that frame?" he asked.

"It was built before the law changed," the innkeeper said. "Most of the buildings in this town were built before the law changed," he added, continuing to work on the lunch order.

The innkeeper was within his rights; Only public buildings constructed in the past 10 years had to be designed with Talls in mind.

In the cities, where the Talls lived, all the buildings matched the legal measurements anyway, but out here in the western countryside, most people were Shorts and the older houses and other buildings had been made for them. Even Gabe had had to stoop to get through the inn's door. Once inside, he could stand comfortably, but Stahl's hat would have touched the ceiling if he had put it back on his head.

The innkeeper finished loading the basket with food and tucked a cloth over the top to keep the flies away, then boosted it up onto the counter. Captain Stahl scattered some coins on the counter and Gabe took the basket.

Stahl watched as the innkeeper picked up the money and tucked it into a cash box under the picture of a light-haired man with a neatly trimmed beard. "You have the King's picture," he said, "but not the Queen's."

"As I said, this place was built many years ago," the innkeeper replied.

"Still, the King has been dead a long time," Stahl said. "Why do you not display Her Majesty's picture?"

"I put that picture up when the King died," the innkeeper said. "I would be happy to place a picture of the Queen next to it."

"Watch your tongue, little man!" Stahl snapped, then turned and stooped to walk through the door and out into the mottled sunshine of the forest clearing.

"You'd better get used to people acting like that drunken fool," he said to Gabe, who handed the basket up to the wagon driver.

"It's not the first time," Gabe replied quietly, as he climbed up onto the wagon box and sat next to the driver.

"Well, the farther we go into the country, the worse it's going to get," Stahl warned.

Indeed, it was not the first time Gabe had been insulted for his heritage. There were few people like him. His father had been Short, a huntsman in the King's service who came from the mountains. His mother, who was Tall, had served the old Queen until that good woman died and the King remarried. Now she served the new Queen, the one who, by order of the Emperor, ruled the kingdom until the Crown Prince was of age.

Gabe and Crown Prince Rupert had been born the same year, the Prince a few months before the King's hunting accident, and Gabe a few months later, just before his father died in the mountains towards which he now rode with Captain Stahl and a dozen Tall soldiers.

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. mulch 2. Maine 3. mitt 4. (Robert) Munsch 5. moo goo gai pan
6. Morocco 7. Mercury 8. mercury 9. metamorphosis
10. (Dolley) Madison

ColoradoKids

is produced by
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We welcome your comments.

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