



CK Reporter of the Week
Kylee Burks, Highlands Ranch

Top Girl Scout wants more STEM

Recently, the Tattered Cover at Aspen Grove was host to Sylvia Acevedo, Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of America, who spoke to a large group of Girl Scouts and other people about her life, her job as the top Girl Scout of the USA, and her new book, "Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist."

Acevedo's journey is notable because she didn't start off in a position that most people equate with success. "Women like me don't even represent half of a percent [in Silicon Valley]."

Not many poor girls from Mexican-American families decide to go to college, let alone do the things Acevedo has done.

As a kid, Acevedo didn't really have a concept of planning ahead or of a girl's worth outside the household.

She had very traditional parents who wanted her to do what girls had always done: cook and clean.

But "cooking is just like science," according to Acevedo, and she wanted to pursue science.

When she became a Scout, she changed her expectations of herself.

"Thank goodness I was a Girl Scout!" she says.

In GS, she learned how to plan, budget, and dream of a life that included college and careers.

"My inspirations," she says, "were Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale, because they were big innovators."

However, Acevedo didn't go into medical school.



photo/Sylvia Goodman

Instead, when college rolled around, she went into industrial engineering.

She loved "getting to study stuff that opened up your mind and taught you about things that are outside of your realm."

Acevedo became a rocket scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She worked on designing the Polar Solar Probe and interpreting data from the

Voyager 2 satellite.

When Acevedo realized how much of an impact Girl Scouts had on her life, she started volunteering and ended up as the CEO of the Girl Scouts of America.

She loves to talk to girls around the country, telling them, "Take away the objections" and "Don't take the first no," as well as "chart your own path to the stars."

One of Acevedo's passions is integrating STEM into Girl Scouts.

"STEM is changing the world," she insists. "I want to have more girls at the table."

She finds ways to teach "science in a way that is unplugged, but still gets the concepts."

For example, she taught girls how to code by using different colored beads to represent ones and zeroes and how to make a bracelet with their initials in binary code.

"We are the experts on how girls learn and lead," she says.

Sylvia Acevedo's story is a powerful one: she is living proof that you don't need a rich family or a cushy life to find success: you can engineer your own future with enough hard work.



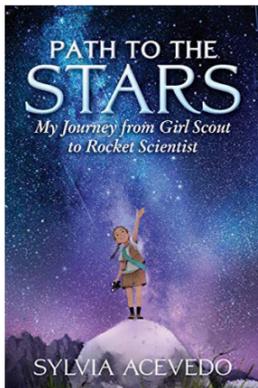
By Sylvia Goodman, 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial

... and she tells why in her inspirational life story

"Path to the Stars" is the inspiring memoir of Sylvia Acevedo, the CEO of the Girl Scouts of America.

It shows just how impactful Girl Scouts can be on the lives of girls of all different backgrounds.

This organization has been under pressure because of girls being allowed to join Boy Scouts, but in her book Acevedo demonstrates how Girl Scouts is in a league of its own.



Acevedo grew up in a poor Latino family in Las Cruces, New Mexico, with no real concept of planning ahead or of girls having worth outside of the household.

When she joined the Girl Scouts, all of that changed. Being in the Brownies taught her how to be responsible with money, to try new things, and to create a plan for the future.

When she started to learn about planning ahead, she realized that things don't have to go wrong.

The family car can run for years if the maintenance is kept up, for example.

And Sylvia learned she could create her own opportunity.

When her troop leader noticed her looking at the stars, she encouraged Acevedo to continue her curiosity about space. This led her to get a degree at Stanford University and become a rocket scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

I enjoyed this book. I felt it is meaningful for all girls, Scout or not, and all ages from about 2nd grade up, and adults also will find it meaningful. It is also available in Spanish.

If you liked "Hidden Figures," "Path to the Stars" is definitely for you, because the theme of girl empowerment in STEM fields is similar.

Girls can love things like STEM and have a career in those fields if they work hard and persevere through obstacles.

This book addresses many real-world issues such as poverty, racism, sexism, and domestic violence.

It also talks about pushing through and solving these issues.

It is a message to girls: Don't let yourself be pushed around. Take chances, and you can change the world.

-- Sylvia Goodman

T-Rex Temple kit a tough build but a fun toy

If you like building, the Playmobil Hidden Temple T Rex kit is for you!

It does have a lot of pieces, 161 in all, and I suggest that you put them in a bag.

At first, I didn't think I could do it, because I was overwhelmed with all the pieces. I am used to building kits with LEGOS, and they come with numbered bags, so you know how to find each piece fast.

The Playmobil kit does not come with numbered bags, and it took my Dad and me a long time to find each piece to build the temple.

There are two plastic tools that come with the kit, to help you build it. The building process is really hard and you might not understand it, but with a little help from my parents, and a direction book, I could do it just fine!

It took my Dad and me 40 minutes to build the whole kit.

It comes with three Playmobil characters -- two boys and a girl-- and two backpacks that go on any of the characters that you choose.

It also has a large, red T Rex that comes with it, that you do not have to build.

The kit also comes with stickers and a UV light that makes the stickers and other



things glow in the dark.

Another part is the elevator, which moves up and down. There is a gate that also moves up and down.

When you are finished building, it looks really cool. My favorite part is the elevator because it carries a mysterious box.

This kit is for children aged 4-10 years old. I am 8 years old and my brother is 5, and we both enjoy it because we imagine that we are explorers in a hidden temple and have try to escape the dinosaur.

This kit costs \$60 on Amazon.

Other than how hard it was to build (You might need a parent to help you), I think it is worth it because of the adventures you can have with this great toy!



By Hannah Hensley, 8, a CK Reporter from Centennial

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Magical house makes for a magical movie



Jonathan can for sure hear the ticking, and it is driving him crazy.

"The House With a Clock in its Walls" is a stunning, marvelous motion picture with some very famous actors.

The story, based on a novel, takes place in Michigan, in 1955.

Jonathan's nephew Lewis (*Owen Vaccaro*), whom he barely knows, is coming to live with him because his parents died in a car crash.

Jonathan (*Jack Black*) lives in a rather unusual house, a huge magical mansion. This house has feelings and emotions, and it really seems to like Lewis.

Lewis finds out that his uncle is a warlock, and that their neighbor, Mrs. Zimmerman, (*Cate Blanchett*) is a witch.

The house once belonged to an evil warlock, who left a hidden clock in the walls, but they have no idea what it does so they have looked all over the house in an attempt to find it, but have not succeeded.

Jonathan begins to teach Lewis magic spells, like making his bed with the swipe of his hand.

Meanwhile, Lewis tries desperately to befriend Tarby, a boy at his school. He uses an evil form of magic to impress Tarby, but, in doing this he causes a bad situation for himself, his uncle, Mrs Zimmerman and potentially the entire world.

Some scenes in the movie were creepy -- "So

Creepy" as said by Jonathan during the film when he was looking at the menacing dolls that had come alive -- but not all of them.

Still, it would be best enjoyed by ages 11 and up because it was "so creepy" and the jokes were not for younger kids even though it is rated PG.

There were some screams in the audience a few times during the movie, but also lots of laughter.

For example, there is a chair that is alive and acts like a pet dog.

It's also really funny how Jonathan and Mrs. Zimmerman had kind of a love-hate relationship. They call each other funny names like "withered purple skeleton."

The actors are all very convincing, especially Owen Vaccaro, playing 10-year-old Lewis. He is very much in character and Jack Black is awesome as always.

The style of the decoration in the house is quite similar to the Harry Potter movies, and it is very detailed and precise.

This spellbinding movie is definitely worth watching if you enjoy magical, hilarious, amusing and eerie movies.



By Lily Warneke, 10, a CK Reporter from Golden

Nothing boring about Patterson's latest novel

Bartholomew Bean is probably the most boring kid on the planet, and, after moving to Rancho Verdugo, he starts to feel even more boring.

I am a huge fan of the Jimmy Patterson books. I have read "I Funny," "Jacky Ha Ha," and the "House of Robot" books.

I was looking forward to reading the newest one, "Unbelievably Boring Bart."

The first chapter is really boring and hard to follow. You don't really want to keep going.

But do keep reading! You will find that this book is well

When I was reading it at school, I found a boy looking over my shoulder, interested in what was going on.

plotted.

It is geared more towards boys. When I was reading it at school, I found a boy looking over my shoulder interested in what was going on.

He even asked questions!

It also has the trademark Jimmy Patterson humor, so it keeps the girls entertained too.

Still, I think this would be a great gift for a older boy.

It's about a boy who moves from Pennsylvania to Rancho Verdugo. His school is right next to Hollywood.

That means all the celebrities' kids go to his school, making him boring. And the perfect target for bullies.

His dad is a gym teacher and always tries to get Bart to be active. But Bart would prefer to be texting on the couch.

Bart decides to start coding a virtual reality game in secret.

Then, CyberGirl103 starts texting him. Bart is slow to admit it, but CyberGirl103 is the closest thing to a friend he has.

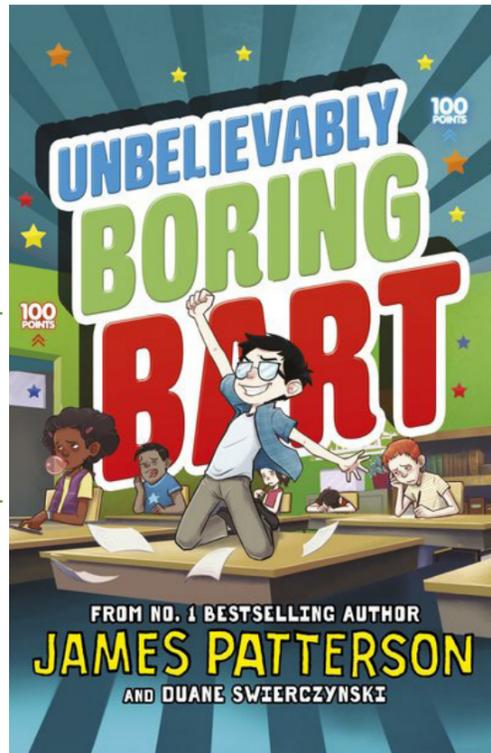
Feeling brave, he sends her the game.

When he goes back to school he is shocked to find that someone has discovered his game!

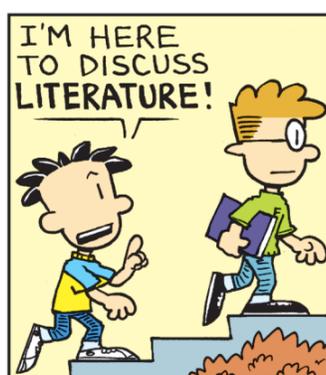
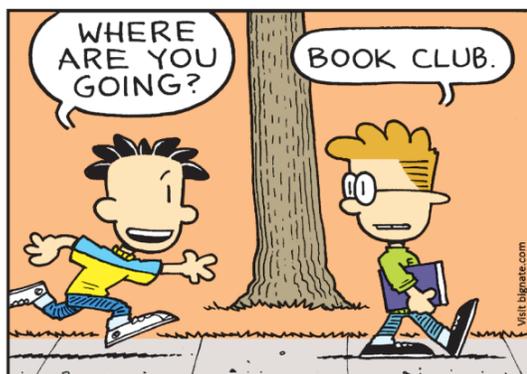
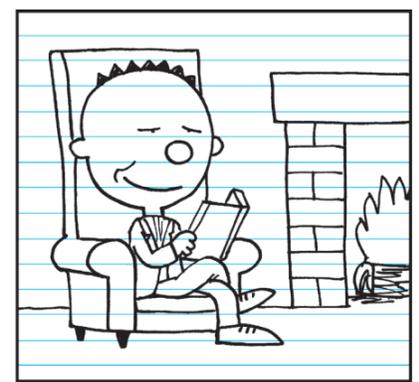
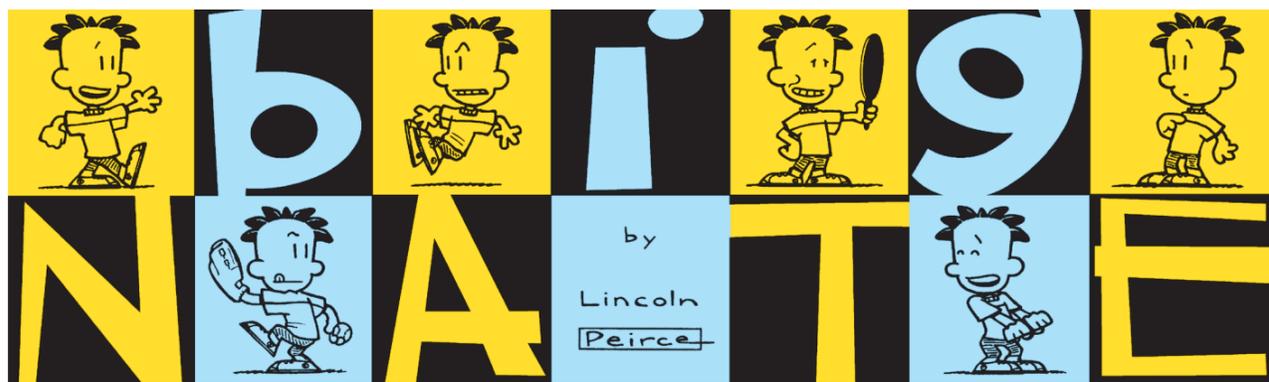
The game goes viral and everyone is playing.

Suddenly Bart is facing a hard choice: He can either reveal that he was the creator of the game, or he can use it to get revenge on his bullies.

I thought that this was a terrific book. If you like technology, then I think you will love it, too.



By Izzy Intriago, 10, a CK Reporter from Aurora



'Smallfoot' combines humor with a solid plot

The animated movie "Smallfoot" is really funny, while still managing to have a consistent plot.

It's about yeti that live on a mountaintop surrounded by clouds. They have a set of basic beliefs written in stone.

Literally carved into stones worn as a robe by the village leader, is the rules and beliefs of the tribe.

These include some such as, you must ring the gong every day for the giant light-up snail to appear (*Sun*). Another is "Smallfeet (*humans*) do not exist", and "The mountain is held up by large tree trunks above the

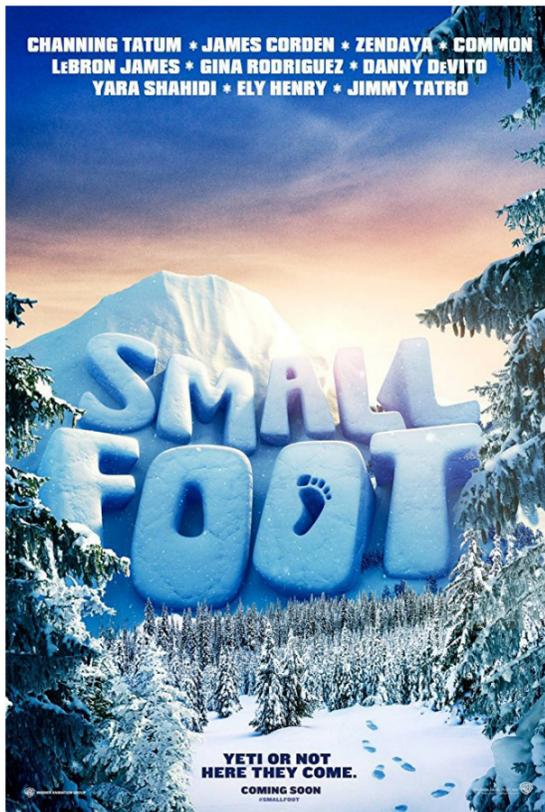
This is a terrific movie to see either at home with your family, or at a theater with your friends.

nothingness," and "Below the clouds is nothingness." These are all obviously lies.

However, the tribe believes them.

So, when Migo (*the main character, voiced by Channing Tatum*) is wandering around, his world is turned upside down when he sees a plane crash in front of him, and out of it comes a smallfoot.

However, the human's parachute catches the wind while Migo gets the tribe, and his evidence is lost.



Luckily for him, though, he is not the only one who believes in the smallfoot.

A secret group of the yetis' approach him while he is wandering and he soon becomes friends with them.

They use rope to lower him beneath the clouds, but another yeti approaches them, and they get startled enough to drop the rope.

Migo rolls down the mountain and finds a town.

He finds the human he saw on the mountain, and grabs him.

Migo takes the human back, and the rest of the movie includes the flipping of a yeti tribe's world, lies and cover-ups, and even an attempted murder.

I think that everyone should see this movie.

It is very funny and still kid-friendly, and, even though it is animated, it still includes the voices of actors like Danny DeVito, James Corden, and Channing Tatum.

This is a terrific movie to see either at home with your family, or at a theater with your friends.

Either way, I think you'll enjoy it.



By Jack Vanourek, 13, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Smart fun, as scientists laugh at science

The Nobel Prize Winners are being announced this week, saluting the most important achievements in medicine, chemistry, physics and economics, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize.

The committee chose not to make an award in the category of literature, but perhaps that's because the "The Broken Heart Opera" did not debut until last week, as part of the Ig Nobel Prizes.

"Ignoble" is the opposite of "noble," so it means something that should be embarrassingly silly, and each year, just before the Nobel Prizes are awarded, the Annals of Improbable Research offers its own prizes, the "Ig Nobels."

The Ig Nobels salute the silliest sounding research, which sounds like it would be insulting to receive.

In fact, the winners of the Ig Nobel come from all around the world, because they are in on the joke:

First of all, science is a lot of fun. And, second, a lot of very important discoveries have come from curious people who didn't do what everyone else was doing.

Not only do the Ig Nobel winners gather at Harvard University for the ceremony each year but many winners of the Nobel Prizes come as well, because they know the joke, too, that science is fun and good things happen when you are curious.

Besides the very silly opera, in which many in the chorus of "kids" were actually cardiologists and heart researchers, this year's Ig Nobels included a variety of awards.

The Ig Nobel Prize for Medicine went to two physicians who sent an artificial kidney for 20 rides on the Big Thunder roller coaster at Disney World, which sounds very silly.



As a "group of annoying little children," who are "filled with that annoying quality, curiosity" sing behind them, genuine Nobel Prize Winners assemble a heart out of balloons, fly swatters and other objects. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

But the doctors treat people with kidney stones, small bits of calcium that form in the kidney and are very painful when they come out.

They had heard of people who lost their kidney stones after riding on that rollercoaster, so the experiment made sense.

And the answer was not only "yes," but that it helps if you sit in the back.

The chemistry prize went to a group of scientists who tested whether saliva is really a good way to clean dirty surfaces, while the biology prize was awarded to researchers who studied whether chimps in zoos were as good at imitating visitors as visitors were at imitating them (yes).

As for the opera, it was part of the fun that also included a lot of silly costumes and two paper airplane deluges, in which members of the audience all fling paper airplanes at the stage.

But the evening is a true celebration of curiosity.

As Dr. Dudley Herschbach told the Christian Science Monitor, many chemists thought his early research was foolish, but it won him the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

"Scientists are really kids. They're the ones who are really curious, and they never grow up. They stay curious. That's an important aspect of science," Herschbach told the Monitor.

And at least two Ig Nobel winners have had a second chance to laugh, when they continued their silly research until other scientists stopped laughing and awarded them Nobel Prizes. Which do not include paper airplanes, but are still pretty cool..

Sudoku

	6				
			3		5
6			4		
		5	2		
	4			3	
		2		4	

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 1950, a new comic strip called "Peanuts" appeared in newspapers, so we'll salute its hero by having our answers all begin with "C" for Charlie Brown.

1. The largest nation in North America
2. A flexible-necked, streamlined, deep-diving fish-hunting bird sometimes kept in China by fishermen as a tool of their trade.
3. The first name of Mr. Bucket, a young fellow known to Roald Dahl's readers for his adventures touring a company that makes candy.
4. The cylindrical, vine-grown vegetable most often used to make pickles
5. Spanish military explorer who ended the reign of the Aztec Emperor in Mexico
6. Small lookout platform towards the top of a main mast of a sailing ship
7. Central American nation between Nicaragua and Panama
8. Alice's guide in Wonderland, he was not always helpful but he did always smile.
9. Small dwelling with a long, overhanging roof, most often seen in Switzerland or in other places with mountainside communities, especially ski towns
10. A hatchet-like cutting implement used by butchers as a heavy knife

(answers on Page Four)

Experimental treatment helps paraplegics

Two separate but similar experiments have given several people paralyzed from the waist down the ability to stand and walk for the first time since they were injured.

The patients were treated by having electrodes placed in their spines in hopes of assisting the brain in communicating with the legs, communication that had been cut off in the accidents that damaged their spines.

None of the patients were able to move their legs before the electrodes were implanted, but they all went through a few weeks of physical therapy to prepare for the experiment.

The physical therapy did not change their abilities,

but, once the electrodes were in place and turned on, they began to show progress.

A man in Minnesota, injured in a snowmobile accident, was finally able to walk the length of a football field on his own.

Meanwhile, in Kentucky, four patients all showed success, although two of them were only able to walk with assistance and not on their own.

One of the Kentucky patients told the press that it didn't get them all back to where they had started, and it only worked while the electrodes were turned on, but it was still a real improvement in her life.

Researchers, meanwhile, said this progress would help their work improve.

photo/Univ of Louisville



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NASA's Space Place

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How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Paraplegia treatment

The Ig Nobel Awards

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 Nine: Nellie in the Middle East

Our story so far: Nellie has crossed the Atlantic and met Jules Verne in France. But, as she is coming out of the telegraph office in Brindisi, Italy, she hears the sound of a ship's whistle as it pulls away!

Nellie and the guard raced through the streets of Brindisi, until they came to a bend in the street from which they could see the port, and a ship pulling away from the dock as its whistle blew.

But it was a different ship, headed for Alexandria, Egypt.

They relaxed and walked the rest of the way to their ship, which was still getting ready to leave.

This trip so far had been about schedules and not about people or countries. The first week had been spent looking at the waves of the Atlantic. Then, she had seen very little of England, and, of France, only Jules Verne's home.

Mostly, she had been hurrying to make the next connection, traveling at night, or peering through sooty train windows and seeing very little at all.

For the rest of her trip, Nellie's biggest problem would not be things that happened before she was ready, but things that happened long after she wanted them to.

But at least she would get to see some of the people and places on this globe she was racing around.

The ship from Brindisi to Colombo had a rude crew and bad food, but stopped at some very interesting ports.

The first was Port Said, where Nellie noticed the other passengers getting canes or parasols, to keep the beggars from bothering them. She refused to take one, she said, because she thought "that a stick beats more ugliness into a person than it ever beats out."

A crowd of men in small boats came out to where their ship was anchored, crowding around and arguing over who would get to row the passengers to shore.

They pulled at passengers as they climbed down the ladder, and Nellie wrote that she understood the sticks now, but still felt sorry for the poor men who were only struggling to make a living.

When they got halfway from the ship to the beach, the boatmen stopped and demanded to be paid. One of the Arabs told Nellie they had learned that, if they waited until the English passengers were safe on shore, they would get a beating and no money.

Some of the tourists took rides on donkeys, but Nellie had seen burros in Mexico. She got away from the tourist area and walked through the parts of Port Said where tourists didn't usually go, "feasting my eyes on what were to me peculiarities of a peculiar people."

In this part of town, she didn't need a stick. The people were going on about their normal lives, and she saw women in veils, fishermen men capturing a crocodile and firewood being carried on a string of camels.

The ship then entered the Suez Canal, and had to go very slowly. Although the canal was only 30 years old, waves from ships passing through too quickly had already washed in enough sand to reduce it from 325 feet to only 195 feet wide.

At night, the ship was able to keep going because it had an electric light to show the way; other ships had to stop for fear of running aground.

As they moved through the darkness, Nellie could see the fires of nomad camps on the canal banks, and the dark outlines of people, tents and camels. During the day, she watched them live their daily lives on the side of the great canal.

The ship stopped in Ismailia, and again in the Bay of Suez, and local people came on board with souvenirs to sell or to perform tricks for the tourists, in hopes of tips.

Nellie was chosen to hold a scarf for a magician, and later told her fellow passengers he had performed an old trick that she knew very well.

One man became angry that she hadn't said so at the time, but Nellie just replied that she wanted to see the magician make some money.

At the southern tip of the Red Sea, they stopped at Aden, where Nellie saw "perfect, bronze-like women, with a graceful drapery of thin silk wound around the waist, falling to the knees, and a corner taken up the back and brought across the bust."

She admired their bright bracelets, chains and nose studs, but not their stretched earlobes.

The ship, which was headed for Australia, next stopped at Colombo, where Nellie was to get off and catch a different ship to Hong Kong.

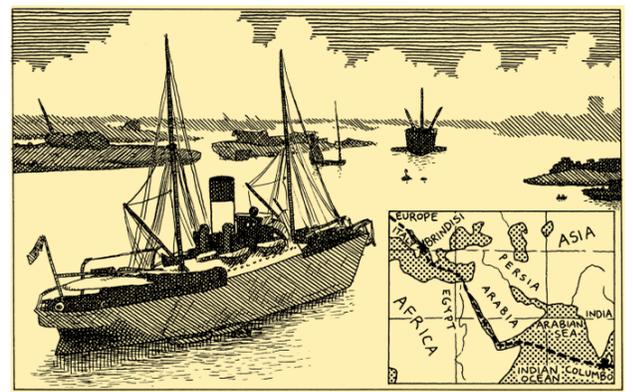
She let the other passengers take the steam launch in to shore while she rode in a small, swift catamaran. She already had a room at the hotel before they were even on the dock!

In Colombo, Nellie bought jewelry, rode in rickshaws, visited temples, went to a play with a friend who could translate for her and saw snake charmers and other street performers. She visited the city of Kandy, at the center of the island.

Ceylon was beautiful, but, for five days, Nellie itched for the ship to come that would get her moving again, until her frustration made her realize how foolish and bad-tempered she must seem to others.

"I thought how little anyone could realize what this delay meant to me, and the mental picture of a forlorn little self creeping back to New York ten days behind time, with a shamed look on her face and afraid to hear her name spoken, made me laugh outright."

But she wasn't sorry when her next ship finally left port, bound for Hong Kong.



Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Canada 2. cormorant 3. Charlie 4. cucumber 5. Cortes 6. crow's nest
7. Costa Rica 8. Cheshire Cat 9. chalet 10. cleaver

Next Week: Racing for the Record!

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is produced by
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eEditions of the Post are
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