



Central Scoop
February 2020
Edition 05

Quote of the Month:

“Walking with a **friend**
in the dark
is better than walking **alone**
in the light.”

- Helen Keller

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Laugh Out Loud

Silly Stories

by Renee

One day at the chocolate factory...

It was almost time for George to go home. But first, he had to do his last job of the day before leaving Yummy Chocolate, the candy factory where he worked. He went to the pile of Valentine's Day chocolate and started searching for Bloopers. Bloopers were candies that were messed up---like if a cream was lopsided or a truffle had no sprinkles. Yummy Chocolate sold the Bloopers for a discounted price. After sorting through the piles, he found that there were exactly twenty Bloopers, the amount used to make one box of chocolates. He quickly packaged the Bloopers into a heart-shaped box before heading home for the night.

One day at the grocery store...

Bloopy sat on the shelf, sadly laying down for bed. *Why doesn't anyone want to buy me?* he questioned. *I would be the perfect gift for someone!* But even as he said this, he knew why no one wanted him. It was because he was a box of Blooper chocolates. Everyone wanted perfect candies, so in all of his nine days on the shelf, no one had even picked him up! His only dream was to be wanted.

The next morning, he woke up to a bright light turning on in the store. *Another day,* Bloopy thought. *Maybe someone will buy me today!* But he was out of luck. It was the day before Valentine's Day, and there were only ten minutes before the store closed. Nine minutes... eight... seven... six... five... It was hopeless. He laid down for the night, giving up.

At that moment, Toby wandered down the aisles of the unfamiliar store, longing to find something worthy of his girlfriend Wanda. But he had no job and only two dollars to spare. Finally, he found the Valentine's Day aisle. *Maybe this store will have cheaper chocolates!* he thought hopefully. But one glance at the price tag on a box of chocolates told him it was just like all the others. "I'm sorry, Wanda," he said. "I guess you'll just have to settle for that plastic fork I found yesterday." But then,

something caught his eye. Next to one of the chocolate boxes, a different price tag was displayed. It was only \$1.50! His breath caught. *Could it be true?* He stepped closer. He read on the box “Bloopers!” Yes! He could afford it! He grabbed it off the shelf and sprinted to the checkout aisle before the store closed. Wanda would be so happy!

Bloopy was jolted awake by a large hand grabbing him. He forced his eyes open just in time to see a man setting him down on the checkout aisle conveyor belt. *Is this a dream?* he asked himself. Lucy the checkout lady put him into a plastic bag and Toby grabbed him. *It is true! I am really being bought!*

The next day...

“Hello, Wanda!” Toby said, seeing her at a park.

“Hi, Toby!” Wanda replied. “What’s that you’ve got hiding behind your back?”

Toby whipped out the box of Blooper chocolates from behind his back.

“Blooper chocolates? I’ve always wanted those!” Wanda exclaimed, grabbing them.

Bloopy was so happy. He was finally making someone happy! Wanda opened him up and took a chocolate out. She put it in her mouth. It was the best Valentine’s Day ever!

THE END

The Punnies

by Lexa

Note: I have decided to change my way of writing these pun stories, so instead of them all being different, they will be connected like the chapters in a book. Enjoy!

The world spun as I struggled for breath—for anything. It had all gone black, and it was as though nothing existed. Nothing *could* exist. Okay, okay. Maybe I was exaggerating just a *little*, but that didn’t matter when it came to that. That crazy, weird, strange (okay, I ran out of adjectives, but you can see my point) phenomenon. It was like nothing I could have ever imagined. You must be wondering, “What on earth are you talking about, Clara?” or, “Did you take too much Ibuprofen?” And the answer is... I don’t know, but I guess we’ll find out.

It all started on a normal day while I was cleaning out the attic of my grandpa's old house. It had been *months* since his passing, and I had finally swallowed down the pain of it. Well, kind of. Anyway, while I was searching, I noticed something: a small bit of drywall protruding from the wall. Any *sane* person would have bypassed it, assuming nothing was out of the ordinary, but *I am no sane person*.

My hand jutted out in front of me, and I watched as it slowly pulled back the flap, giving me a clear view of a secret room. My grandpa had *never* mentioned anything about it, and it was obvious why.

Through a small alcove big enough for a single person, I saw books that painted thousands of shelves, and I barged in within a second. Yeah, it was narrow, but what was the worst that could happen? I'd be attacked by spiders? I'd see a dead body? I mean, come on, nothing ever happened in my small town. You know, the one with the stupid, lovey-dovey name that every state had. Yeah, *that* one. Besides, if I went missing, at least it'd make for a great story, right? *That* certainly didn't happen everyday.

It didn't take long for me to scrounge through the books. The next time I'd see my family, I'd make sure to give them a stern talking-to about secrets. I might have only been sixteen at the time, but I had a huge impact on my family.

I'm the youngest child of four, if you must know, and I was *always* given what I wanted. A new TV or book series? Yup. A whole bag of makeup at only nine? Of course. Anything you can name, I probably had. That is, until I moved out, and my parents donated all of it. Their loss.

As I walked up and down the rows of bookshelves, one book in particular caught my eye. It wasn't its color or size, but the words written on it. "The Punster," I read aloud, only slightly intrigued. Although I had probably imagined it, I could have sworn it whispered at me to open it. One problem, though: it was too high up. I tried everything—standing on the tips of my toes, using a step-stool, jumping up and down until my legs collapsed... Nothing. Then, I thought of a better idea. It was a bookshelf, for goodness sake, and it wasn't attached to a wall, like many others, so what was the harm in giving it a little shake? You're right, there wasn't one, and I wasted no time on starting. If that book wanted to be difficult, I'd beat it at its own game—whatever the consequences.

Remember those sane people we talked about earlier? Yeah, well they would have just asked for a ladder, but I liked doing things in style. After a few minutes, a book struck my head, turning my vision blurry. I wasn't going to stop then, though. The book was worth it, but I soon found out that I was far from the truth. Before I knew it, the shelf toppled over me, slamming into my head and shutting out the lights.

To be continued...

Jokes

by Kaitlyn

What did one boat say to the other?
Are you up for a little row-mance?

What do you call two birds in love?
Tweet-hearts!

"If you step on a purple mushroom, you'll be forced to marry the ugliest person in the world," warned the old gnome, so the man carefully continued through the woods. He didn't step on any purple mushrooms.

Suddenly, a beautiful woman walked up and said, "We have to marry."

"Why?" asked the man, smiling.

"I just stepped on one of those pesky purple mushrooms!"

A woman was taking a nap on Valentine's Day afternoon. After she awoke, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a gorgeous and expensive diamond necklace for Valentine's Day! What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening, her husband came home with a small package for her.
Thrilled, she opened it and found a book titled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Roger, who was nineteen years old, was buying an expensive bracelet at a very smart jeweller's shop in Hatton Garden, London, to surprise his girlfriend on Valentine's Day.

The jeweller inquired, "Would you like your girlfriend's name engraved on it?"

Roger thought for a moment, grinned, then answered, "No, instead, engrave 'To my one and only love'."

The jeweller smiled and said, "Yes, sir. How very romantic of you."

Roger retorted with a glint in his eye, "Not exactly romantic, but very practical. This way, if we break up, I can use it again."

A guy walks into a post office one day to see a middle-aged, balding man standing at the counter and methodically placing "love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. He then takes out a perfume bottle and starts spraying scent all over them. His curiosity gets the better of him, and he goes up to the balding man to ask him what he is doing.

The man says, "I'm sending out one thousand Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'"

"But why?" asks the other.

"I'm a divorce lawyer."

A prince was put under a spell so that he could speak only one word each year. If he didn't speak for two years, he could speak two words the following year, and so on. One day, he fell in love with a beautiful lady. He refrained from speaking for two whole years so he could call her "my darling." But then, he wanted to tell her he loved her, so he waited three more years. At the end of these five years, he wanted to ask her to marry him, so he waited another four years.

Finally, as the ninth year of silence ended, he led the lady to the most romantic place in the kingdom and said, "My darling, I love you! Will you marry me?"

The lady said, "Pardon?"

Do you think skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?

Sure, they're very scent-imental.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. Their wedding ceremony wasn't fancy.

The reception, however, was excellent.

What did the bat say to his girlfriend?

"You're fun to hang around with."

What did one flame say to the other on Valentine's Day?

"We're a perfect match!"

Brain Games

Puzzles

by Aaron

2	6		8	9		7		5
9								
		5	2		1		8	
5								
	1	4	9		8	6	7	
								4
	8		7		2	1		
								7
4		7		6	5		2	8

Last month's puzzle:

6	1	9	3	4	2	8	5	7
7	2	4	5	6	8	9	1	3
8	3	5	9	1	7	4	2	6
9	4	3	7	5	1	2	6	8
2	7	1	8	3	6	5	4	9
5	8	6	4	2	9	7	3	1
3	9	2	1	8	5	6	7	4
1	5	7	6	9	4	3	8	2
4	6	8	2	7	3	1	9	5

Riddles

by Layla

1. Mr. Red lives in a red house, Mrs. Blue lives in a blue house, and Miss. Pink lives in a pink house. Who lives in the White House?

Trump

2. I am neither a guest nor a trespasser. To this place I belong; it belongs to me. What is it?

my home

3. I start with "m", end with "x", and have a never ending amount of letters. What am I?

a mailbox

4. I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I?

a candle

5. I always run, but I never walk; I sometimes ring, but I cannot talk; I have no head on which a hat to place, but yet, you always look me in the face. What am I?

a clock

Did You Know?

News

by Ethan

General News

- NASA warns that smoke from Australian bushfires will travel around the world.
- There is a missing Polish farmer thought to be dead. Rumor says he was eaten by his pigs.
- On January 21, a monkey was sent to space.

Sports News

- LSU beat Clemson in the championship 42-25.
 - The Houston Astros cheated by using video cameras in their dugouts. They have been forced to get rid of their team manager.
 - Kansas City Chiefs will play against the San Francisco Forty-Niners in the Super Bowl.
-

Fun Facts

by Mariam

1. The total amount of paint on the Eiffel Tower is as heavy as ten elephants.
2. "A 26 sided shape is known as a rhombicuboctahedron."
3. Canada consumes more mac and cheese than any other country.
4. Sudan has the most pyramids of all nations. With 255 pyramids, Sudan has over twice the amount that Egypt has.
5. "On April 1st, 2005, NASA pulled an April Fool's prank telling the world that they had found water on Mars."

Source: <https://www.thefactsite.com/1000-interesting-facts/4/>

National Days

by Brianna

February 1

National Baked Alaska Day

National Freedom Day
National Get Up Day
National Serpent Day
National Texas Day

National Icecream for Breakfast Day

February 2

National Heavenly Hash Day
National Tater Tot Day
National Groundhog Day

February 3

National Carrot Cake Day
National Day the Music Died Day
National Missing Persons Day
National Women Physicians Day

February 4

National Create a Vacuum day
National Hemp Day
National Homemade Soup Day
National Thank a Mail-Carrier Day
National Safer Internet Day

February 5

National Girls and Women in Sports Day
National Weatherperson's Day
World Nutella Day

February 6

National Frozen Yogurt Day
National Lame Duck Day

February 7

Bubble Gum Day
National Fettuccine Alfredo Day
National Periodic Table Day
National Send a Card to a Friend Day
National Wear Red Day

February 8

National Boy Scouts Day
National Kite Flying Day
National Iowa Day

February 9

National Cut the Cord Day
National Bagel and Lox Day

National Pizza Day
National Toothache Day

February 10

National Clean Out Your Computer Day
National Cream Cheese Brownie Day
National Home Warranty Day
National Umbrella Day

February 11

National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
National Inventors' Day
National Make a Friend Day
National Peppermint Patty Day
National Shut-In Visitation Day
National White Shirt Day

February 12

National Plum Pudding Day

February 13

National Giving Hearts Day
National Break Up With Your Carrier Day
National Cheddar Day
National Tortellini Day

February 14

National Cream-Filled Chocolates Day
National Ferris Wheel Day
National Organ Donor Day
National No One Eats Alone Day
Valentines Day

February 15

National Gumdrops Day
National Singles Awareness Day
National Wisconsin Day

February 16

National Almond Day
National Do A Grouch a Favor Day

February 17

National Random Acts of Kindness Day
National Cabbage Day
Presidents Day

February 18

National Battery Day

National Crab Stuffed Flounder Day

February 19

National Chocolate Mint Day

National Lash Day

National Vet Girls ROCK Day

February 20

National Cherry Pie Day

National Love Your Pet Day

February 21

National Caregivers Day

National Grain-Free Day

National Sticky Bun Day

February 22

National California Day

National Cook a Sweet Potato Day

February 23

National Banana Bread Day

National Dog Biscuit Day

National Tile Day

February 24

National Tortilla Chip Day

February 25

National Chocolate-Covered Nut Day

National Clam Chowder Day

Paczki Day

Fastnacht Day

February 26

National Pistachio Day

National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

Ash Wednesday

February 27

Anosmia Awareness Day

National Chili Day

National Retro Day

National Strawberry Day

National Toast Day

National Polar Bear Day

February 28

National Chocolate Souffle Day

National Floral Design Day
National Public Sleeping Day
National Skip the Straw Day
National Tartar Sauce Day

National Tooth Fairy Day

February 29 (every four years)

National Time Refund Day
National Rare Disease Day

Extra-Curricular Update

by Corinna

The CIS Drama Department is preparing to preform *The Snow White Variety Show* on March sixth and seventh. Mrs. Woolard is directing a cast of forty-one students, and Mrs. Randolph is directing the backstage crew. The talk show, *Real Talk with Fairytale Characters*, invites the seven dwarves to tell the story of Snow White in their own way. This show has romance, comedy, suspense, mystery, and even a cooking show. Come on out and support the drama department for an enjoyable night!

“What is your part in the play?”

“I’m Heidi Perbole.”

“What is your favorite line?”

“When I’m about to say ‘under where’ for Bob’s joke but I get cut off.”

“What is your favorite scene or part of the play?”

“Scene six because I feel like everyone has lost hope and we learn the end of the story in a way we didn’t expect.”

“Is this your first year in drama?”

“Last year.”

“If you could have any other part, what would it be?”

“Rowdy because she’s one of the more interactive, funny dwarves.”

“If you could change anything about drama, what would it be?”

“I’m not sure. It’s really good the way it is.”

How To...

Recipes

by Erica

INGREDIENTS

Crust

- 1 package of oreo cookies
- 6 tablespoons of unsalted butter (melted)

Filling

- 9 oz. of fresh strawberries
- ½ cup of sweetened coconut flakes
- 6 oz. of semisweet chocolate chips
- 6 oz. of bittersweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup of unsweetened coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon of pure vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Chop the strawberries into small, bite-sized pieces and combine them with sweetened coconut flakes. (Chopping the strawberries will make it easier to cut the tart later on.)
2. Set aside.
3. In a food processor, pulse the oreo cookies to fine crumbs, and mix them with melted butter.
4. Evenly press the crumb mixture into nine-inch tart pan.
5. Refrigerate while making the ganache.
6. In a small saucepan, bring the coconut milk to a simmer, remove from heat, and pour it over the chocolate chips to make the ganache.
7. Let it sit undisturbed for at least two minutes, then whisk the mixture until smooth. (If for some reason, you still have solid chocolate pieces and the mixture is cooled too much, simply heat it in a double boiler over simmering water until completely smooth.)
8. Reserve about ⅓ of the strawberry mixture for later and spread the remaining mixture evenly on the tart crust.
9. Then, pour the ganache.
10. Refrigerate for at least two hours (to set).

11. Before serving, decorate the top of the tart with the reserved strawberry mixture.
12. Serve tart chilled.

Tip: Store the tart in the refrigerator for up to three days. Make sure it's covered!

Crafty Corner

by Lillian

What You Need:

- mason jar
- heart stickers
- pink spray paint (matte finish)
- clear spray paint (matte finish)
- ribbon
- trim
- tea light candle or fairy lights
- scrapbooking paper



Instructions:

1. Place the heart stickers around the jar.
2. Spray-paint the jar with the pink spray paint.
3. Carefully peel off the stickers, and if the paint chips off, paint some on with a brush.
4. Seal it with the clear spray paint (this helps prevent chipping).
5. Get ribbon and other trims to tie around the rim of the jar for decoration
6. Finish the jar by putting fairy lights or a tea light inside (for a cute light fixture).
7. If you want to add decorations, add paper flowers and maybe a love note.

Source: <https://www.thisgrandmaisfun.com/valentines-day-votive/>

Student Suggestions:

Book Recommendations

by Annabelle

Book: *The Selection*

Author: Kiera Cass

Reading Level: 4.7

AR Points: 12.0

Audience: Middle Grade+ (6 grade and up)

Summary: America Singer never thought she'd ever be anything extraordinary. She always believed she'd grow up, marry the boy of her dreams, Aspen, and live a quiet, happy life. But when her name is drawn for the Selection, a contest in which girls compete to win Prince Maxon's heart and become a princess, her life is turned upside down. America goes into the contest already wishing to go home, but what she finds at the palace could possibly change her life forever. Will she win the crown or go back to the life she left behind? Find out in Kiera Cass's gripping book, *The Selection!*



Review: This book is one of the best I've read in awhile, and as a picky reader, I don't throw that term around much. This book is the perfect Valentine's Day read, full of romance and moments that made me root for the characters until the end. It is the first book in the series, and while most of the content is good, some parts in the later books can be a wee bit mature. I would probably recommend this book to anyone in sixth grade or older. Overall it is a nice, well written series perfect for all of you who love a nice, romantic book!

Movie Recommendations

by Nick

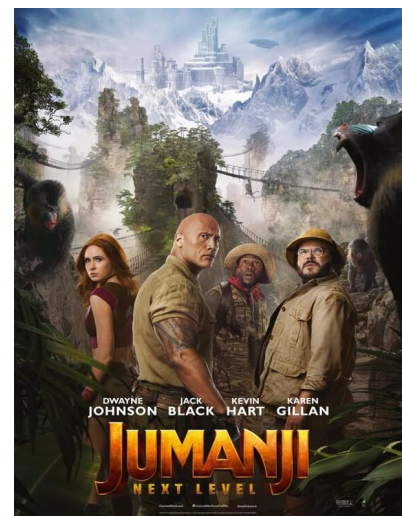
Title: *Jumanji - The Next Level*

Release Year: 2019

Reviews: 70% on Rotten Tomatoes

Age Rating: PG-13

Duration: 2 hours 3 minutes



The second in the series, *The Next Level*, presents an all-new challenge to the players. This time, the grandparents are involved, and of course, they have a hard time figuring out how to play. I give this a ten out of ten, mostly because Danny DeVito is in it, but you have to appreciate how the actors have to

play multiple personalities. It's funny and active, and my whole family couldn't stop laughing. Kevin Hart still is amazing--as always.

Student Surveys

Poll

by Kaitlyn

Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoALhcIh4GOwd2GyRayIcoDlDYuutbOcQBwziaPPrgS5rarg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you for reading! We hope you enjoyed. :)

The next edition will be published on March 1st, 2020, on the [Central Scoop Website](#) under the "The Paper" section.