

TIME for KIDS



INSIDE THE RISE OF **GRAPHIC NOVELS**

TFK reports on this booming business.

GARY HERSHORN—GETTY IMAGES



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE Some public spaces, including this park in New Jersey, are closed to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She says social distancing is a response to the idea that many people can't stay home all the time, even during a disease outbreak. "People have lives that they need to continue to live," Rousseau says. By keeping space between them-

selves and others, people "can reduce the likelihood that the virus can be transferred," she says (see "Flattening the Curve," page 6).

Both Hota and Rousseau know it can be difficult to keep away from others in some situations, such as on public transportation or elevators. Going to the bank or grocery store can also be hard. In these cases, social distancing means simply doing the best you can.



Stop and Think!

WHY is it important to hear from experts during an emergency? How does information from experts help limit the spread of misinformation?

> U.S.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

By Josiah Bates for *TIME*, adapted by *TIME for Kids* editors

To limit the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, health experts say people should practice social distancing. But what does that really mean?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, social distancing involves "avoiding mass gatherings" and "maintaining distance" whenever possible. Even standing six feet apart from one another, people can spread the virus through droplets from coughs and sneezes. Social distancing

limits the chances of that.

Dr. Susy Hota is an infectious-disease specialist at the University of Toronto, in Canada. "Social distancing is a very general term," she says. "There are a bunch of different types of measures that can fall under it." For kids, these include learning from home instead of going to school and canceling playdates and sports events. "All of these measures are trying to achieve the same thing," Hota says.

Denise Rousseau is a professor



BE A TFK KID REPORTER

Do you dream of being a reporter? Enter the TFK Kid Reporter Contest for a chance to report for our magazines and website. Editors from *TFK* will choose a group of talented students as TFK Kid Reporters for the 2020–2021 school year. To apply, ask a parent, guardian, or teacher for details, or learn more at timeforkids.com/2020-kid-reporter-contest.



ON THE JOB TFK Kid Reporter Zara with U.S. Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor

“I kind of

DOMINATED

the match, if I’m being honest,”

said **HEAVEN FITCH**, a high school wrestler. On February 22, she became the first girl to win a North Carolina individual state championship in wrestling. Heaven beat seven boys in her bracket.

\$208 million

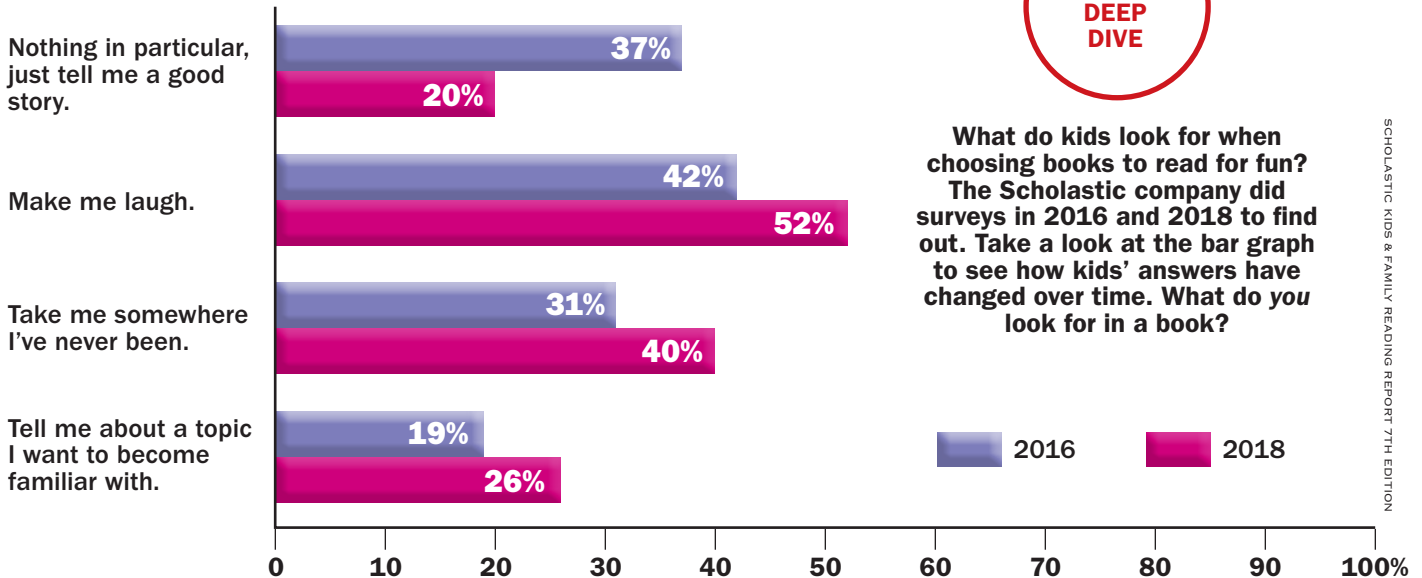


is the amount that United States wireless carriers could face in **FINES** for selling customers’ location data. The Federal Communications Commission announced the fines on February 28.

3,549

people dressed in **SMURF COSTUMES** in Landerneau, France, on March 7. Participants wore blue face paint, blue shirts, and white or red hats. They beat a record set in Germany last year for the largest-ever gathering of Smurfs.

DATA DEEP DIVE



What do kids look for when choosing books to read for fun? The Scholastic company did surveys in 2016 and 2018 to find out. Take a look at the bar graph to see how kids’ answers have changed over time. What do you look for in a book?

2016 2018

TFK's Shay Maunz learns about a new wave of graphic novels for kids that's changing the way people think about comics.

When Raina Telgemeier was a kid in the 1980s, she fell in love with comics. "They were the perfect combination of all the things I liked: characters and stories and humor and artwork," she told *TIME for Kids*.

But she had a problem: a shortage of reading material. At the time, two types of comics were widely available to kids. There were comic books about superheroes, which weren't her thing. She wanted comics that told stories she could relate to as an ordinary kid. And there were newspaper comic strips. Telgemeier loved some of them, especially *Calvin and Hobbes*, but she wanted more.

At around 10, she started drawing her own comics. Twenty-three years later, she published *Smile*. It's a graphic **memoir** about Telgemeier's middle school experiences with braces and dental surgery.

Before *Smile* was published, in 2010, it wasn't clear the book would succeed, Telgemeier says. Some people who worked in the publishing industry figured that kids wouldn't enjoy a graphic novel about an average girl. But Telgemeier suspected they were wrong. "I knew I couldn't possibly be the only kid interested in people and emotions and everyday problems," she says.

She was right. *Smile* became a Number 1 best-seller. Since then, Telgemeier has published several more popular graphic novels. There are more than 18 million copies of her books in print. Telgemeier's success has made a big impact. Industry experts say she paved the way for many more graphic novels for kids.

THEN AND NOW

Comics have been around since at least the 19th century. Traditional comic books are short—around the length of a magazine. They're mostly published monthly, and are often about adventure or superheroes. "Comics have this history in the United States of either being very funny and silly or having a lot of punching of things," Gina Gagliano says. She works on graphic novels at Random House, a publishing company.

Today's graphic novels are different. In a graphic novel, the author uses comics to tell a book-length story. It can be any **genre**. Many tell a serious or realistic story.

Until recently, most graphic novels were for adults. Not anymore. In 2018, sales of graphic novels for kids and teens jumped by more than 50%, according to *Publishers Weekly*. Compare that to the sales of printed books across all categories: They increased by about 1%.

MEANWHILE, AT THE BOOKSTORE...

WOW! IT'S A REAL

COMIC CRAZE!



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPHEN BLUE FOR TIME FOR KIDS (9)



REAL READING

As the sales of graphic novels boom, attitudes about comics are changing. Charell Coleman teaches fourth grade at Woodward Academy, in College Park, Georgia. She often uses graphic novels in class. "They help students visualize the scene, and see who's talking, and what the characters look like," she told TFK Kid Reporter Jack Doane.

This year, *New Kid* became the first graphic novel to win the Newbery Medal, one of the most **prestigious** awards in children's literature. The book is about an African-American boy who feels out of place at his mostly white school.

New Kid author Jerry Craft says that when he was young, he read only comics. His parents were supportive, but he knew some adults didn't approve. "In certain schools, if

they saw you reading a comic, they would confiscate it, because they thought it was rotting your brain," he says. "They didn't realize the amount of imagination and storytelling and vocabulary in those comics."

But *New Kid*'s Newbery confirmed what many kids already understood: that graphic novels are real books. "It's a victory for all graphic novels," Craft says.

—By Shay Maunz

A-Z Power Words

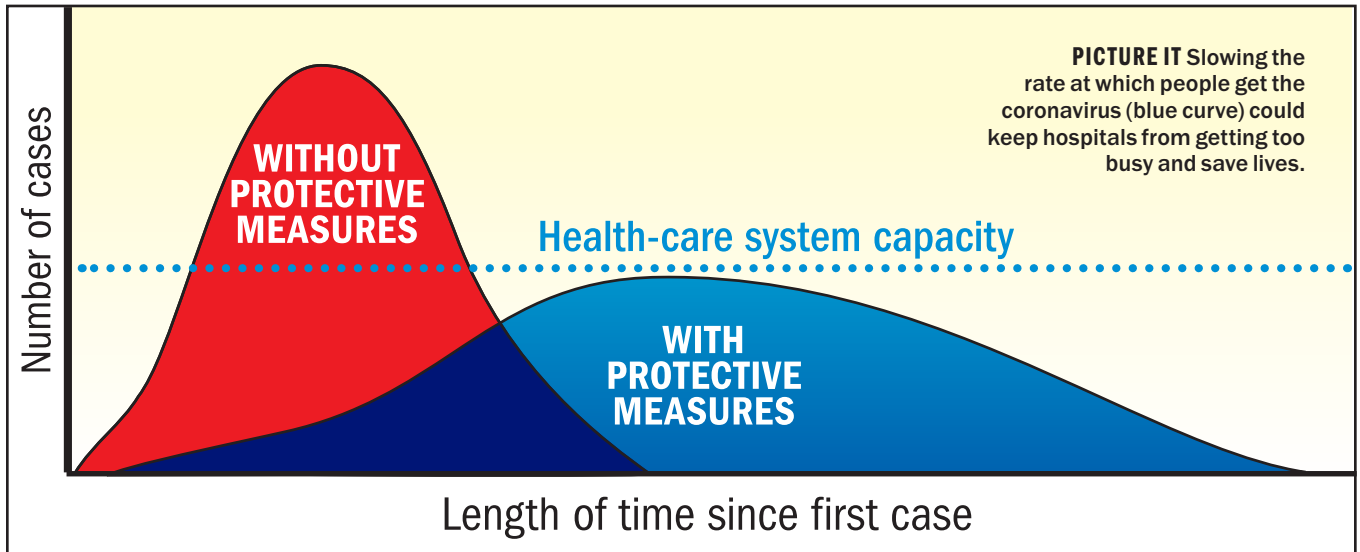
genre *noun*: type; a category, such as realistic fiction, science fiction, or mystery

memoir *noun*: a story about the writer's experiences

prestigious *adjective*: important; respected



FLATTENING THE CURVE



One chart explains how staying home can slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The coronavirus continues to spread throughout the world. Experts say keeping your distance from other people during the **pandemic** could slow down the virus and save lives.

A simple chart, shown above, tells us how. It shows two **scenarios**. One is what would happen if nothing were done to stop the spread of the virus and the disease it causes, COVID-19. Many cases of the disease would appear quickly. The other is what would happen if everyone did their part to help others, including following social-distancing guidelines (see “Social Distancing,” page 2).

“There’s an opportunity here to take power over this virus,” Drew Harris told *TIME for Kids*. Harris is a population health researcher at Thomas Jefferson University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He based the chart on one by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The original showed how an outbreak could be controlled. Harris added the dotted line. It represents how many people the health-care system can care for at a time.

TAKING CONTROL

When health experts like Harris talk about slowing the coronavirus, they speak about “flattening the curve.” The chart shows two curves. The red one with a steep peak represents a **surge** of COVID-19 cases all at once. Such an increase happens if no protective measures are taken. The blue curve has a flatter slope. This represents a

slower rate of infection over a longer period.

And that’s the goal: to spread out infections over time and flatten the curve. This gives hospitals time to care for patients before more people get sick. It ensures that there are beds and medical equipment for people who need them.

Harris offers a comparison: Imagine everyone in your family got the flu on the same day. You couldn’t properly take care of one another because everyone would be sick. “Wouldn’t it be better if everyone took turns getting the flu so there is always somebody healthy to care for others?” he says. “That’s what we want to do in our society.”

To slow the spread of COVID-19, health officials have advised some schools and businesses to close. Many events that attract large crowds have been canceled. This might make people feel disconnected. But the chart suggests that when we practice social distancing to stop the virus, we are not really alone. “We are connected in many more ways than just being near each other physically,” Harris says. “All of us, young and old, have a responsibility to take care of each other.”

—By Brian S. McGrath

A-Z Power Words

pandemic *noun*: an outbreak of disease that spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people throughout the world

scenario *noun*: a possible situation

surge *noun*: an increase

WEAR IT PROUD

The CROWN Coalition wants to end hair discrimination.

Eight-year-old Jonathan Brown, from Texas, rocks his dreadlocks proudly. It's a style he was looking forward to letting grow long. But in December 2019, he was sent home from school with a note from the assistant principal. It said Jonathan had to have his hair cut to comply with the school dress code. His mom, Tiffany Brown, refused to cut it. "On the way home, Jonathan cried," she told *TIME for Kids*.

Many schools have dress codes. The policies are supposed to help keep students focused on learning. Some include rules about hair. A policy might prohibit boys from wearing their hair long. This would prevent styles such as afros and dreadlocks. Some policies ban braids, twists, and other

styles associated with black culture.

Jonathan's story isn't the only one of its kind. In January, Texas teen DeAndre Arnold was told he needed to cut his dreadlocks to go to his graduation. In 2017, twins Mya and Deanna Cook were given detentions at their Massachusetts school because their hair extensions violated school code.

Esi Eggleston Bracey sees these types of rules as hair **discrimination**. She helped found the CROWN Coalition in order to end them. CROWN stands for Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair.

ACT NOW

Tiffany took the issue up with the school board, and after about six months, Jonathan's school changed the dress code

in his favor. But the CROWN Coalition hopes to prevent other students from having to go through that process. That's why it's **championing** the CROWN Act. If passed, the act will prevent public schools, charter schools, and workplaces from discriminating against black people for wearing their hair in "natural styles."

Growing up, Bracey says she often felt like her own natural hair texture wasn't "good enough." She wants kids today to feel pride in their hair. "There have been far too many incidents of children being sent home, suspended, or expelled from school because of their textured hairstyles," Bracey says.

The CROWN Act has already been passed in five states. Efforts are also being made to pass the bill on a national level.

"I think it's empowering," Tiffany Brown says. "For so many people of different cultural backgrounds, hair is a symbol of strength, power, and individuality. . . . The CROWN Act is now saying 'No longer will we be forced to not be who we are, and our hair is included.'"

—By Constance Gibbs

A-Z Power Words

champion *verb*: to fight or speak up for

discrimination *noun*: unfairly treating one group of people differently from another group

ALL NATURAL Long dreadlocks are banned in some dress-code policies.



ROCK ON

Get ready to jam out with *Trolls World Tour*. It's a sequel to the 2016 *Trolls* movie. The film follows troll friends Poppy and Branch as they make a big discovery: There is not the world's only troll tribe. Poppy and Branch learn that every tribe is dedicated to a different type of music—funk, country, techno, classical, pop, or rock. Rock troll King Thrash and his daughter, Queen Barb, want to destroy the other tribes and transform all trolls into rock zombies.

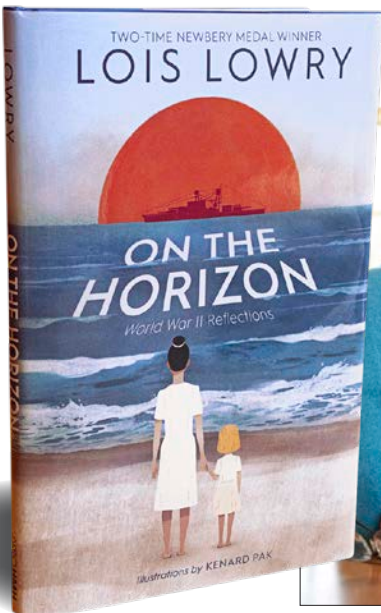
RON FUNCHES is the voice of Cooper, a four-legged troll. “Cooper is a member of the Snack Pack,” Funches told *TIME for Kids*. Its other members, including Poppy and Branch, are pop trolls. But Cooper, a funk troll, stands out. “He becomes determined to find more trolls that look like him,” Funches says.



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The movie shows that it's okay to be different. “We need each other in order to create this symphony called life,” Funches says. *Trolls World Tour* will be available to stream online on April 10.

—By Constance Gibbs



FROM LEFT: STEPHEN BLUE FOR TIME FOR KIDS; MATT MCKEE



ANOTHER LOOK

LOIS LOWRY is one of America's most celebrated authors. In the course of her career, she's published more than 30 books.

Lowry's latest is *On the Horizon*. It's her first work of poetry. “When I sat down to begin to write about the things in the book, they sort of floated up in my imagination . . . and they wanted to be written in a different way,” she told TFK Kid Reporter Nora Wilson-Hartgrove.

On the Horizon is about World War II. It describes soldiers in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and ordinary people in Hiroshima, Japan. The book also tells of kids who lived through the conflict. One was Lowry. She grew up in Hawaii and Japan. *On the Horizon* challenges readers to reflect on war and imagine a world without it.



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