

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

Retail Sales

Americans who are worried about the economy aren't spending much. In response, many businesses across the country have been offering sales, markdowns and incentives to get shoppers into their stores. Look at ads in this week's eEdition to comparison shop for something you would like to buy. Some stores may state a sales price, while others might offer a percentage off or give back a rebate. Use your math and research skills to find out what the best offer is on three comparable choices for the item you would like to buy. Then use the Search or Advanced Search features of the eEdition to see how stores are doing, by searching for the phrase "retail sales." Write a paragraph summarizing what you find.

Learning Standards: Selecting appropriate representations for numbers, including integers and rational numbers, in order to simplify and solve problems; using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology.

2

Vampire

Author Anne Rice was born on October 4, 1941. Rice is best known for her Vampire Chronicles series. The first book in the series, "Interview With the Vampire," was made into a movie starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt. Vampires have been in the news a lot lately, thanks to new books, movies and TV shows featuring them. Read articles in the eEdition or online about vampire books and shows. Brainstorm other types of characters that appear frequently in literature or on film. They can be specific creatures, like a vampire or a witch, or archetypes, like a hero with a fatal flaw. Pick one type of character and write a short story, poem or comic book featuring it.

Learning Standards: Analyzing and reflecting on universal themes and substantive issues from oral, visual and written texts; describing and discussing archetypal human experiences that appear in literature and other texts from around the world.

3

Overdose

Adam Goldstein, a.k.a. DJ AM, died in late August. Last week the New York City Medical Examiner's Office announced that his death was an accidental drug overdose. He had several different types of drugs in his system, including legal prescription drugs. In groups, read about the dangers of abusing prescription or over-the-counter medications in the eEdition and online. Then create a poster, pamphlet or skit targeted to a specific demographic (such as teens) to warn them about the dangers. Share what you made with the class.

Learning Standards: Synthesizing and evaluating information to draw conclusions and implications based on investigation of an issue or problem; researching and selecting the medium and format to be used to present conclusions based on the investigation of an issue or problem.

4

Twist

The TV show "The Twilight Zone" premiered in October 1959, 50 years ago. It was a science fiction series known for its unexpected, and frequently chilling, twists. Find an article in the eEdition that interests you. Write another paragraph or two to add on to the end of the article that gives it a surprise twist ending. Share your revised article with the class.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, persuasive essays, resumes and memos.

5

Billion-Trillion

Dalton Chisolm is unhappy with the customer service at Bank of America, the country's largest bank. So he's suing it for 1,784 billion-trillion dollars. (A billion-trillion is a 1 followed by 21 zeroes!) Chisolm says that he received inconsistent information from the bank and had problems with

Learning Standards: Describing the political and legal processes created to make decisions, seek consensus and resolve conflicts in a free society; using actual cases, evaluating the effectiveness of civil and criminal courts in the United States.

checks. The judge in the case is giving Chisolm until October 23 to provide a more detailed explanation for his suit, or else it will be thrown out. Where do the dollar amounts in a court case come from? In groups, compare different court cases in the eEdition and online in which someone is suing for money. Talk about which are compensatory damages and which are punitive (you might want to look up the definitions of each), and how those amounts are determined. Present your findings orally to the class.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow