

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Adversity

Irish author Christopher Nolan won the Whitbread Book of the Year award on January 19, 1988. Nolan wasn't able to walk, talk or use his hands because of an accident at birth, so he used a rod attached to his forehead to type. His award-winning novel, "Under the Eye of the Clock," was an autobiographical account of his life written in the third person. It was Nolan's second book. His first was a collection of poetry and short stories that was published when he was just 15. Find another story in the eEdition or online about someone overcoming great adversity or disadvantage to achieve something impressive. Write a short biography of the person.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as personal narratives, persuasive essays, lab reports, and poetry.

2 Discovering the Past

Archaeologists have discovered the remains of an 8,000-year-old building in Tel Aviv, a city in the Middle Eastern country of Israel. It surprised the archaeologists, because they didn't think there were permanent structures in the area that long ago. They also found ancient tools and hippopotamus bones. In the eEdition or online, find another article about scientists, historians or archaeologists making a discovery about the past. Write a paragraph about what the discovery taught the researchers and what impact it has had.

Learning Standards: Understanding narratives about major eras of world history by identifying the people involved, describing the setting and sequencing the events; comprehending the past.

3 Safety

A new government study suggests that characters in children's movies are becoming better role models, at least when it comes to safety. More kids in movies are wearing seatbelts, crossing the street at crosswalks and wearing bike helmets. In groups, find five examples of unsafe behavior mentioned in the news this week in the eEdition or online. Create a poster that promotes safe alternatives to each behavior. Share your poster with the class.

Learning Standards: Integrating listening, viewing, speaking, reading and writing skills for multiple purposes and in varied contexts; representing creatively.

4 First Lady

First Lady Michelle Obama was born on January 17, 1964. Presidents' wives don't have official political roles, but they usually have causes or organizations they promote. Read about Michelle Obama in the eEdition this month. Then write an article talking about what she's been up to and how she's using her position.

Learning Standards: Performing the daily functions of a literate individual; acquiring information from multiple sources and then evaluating, organizing and communicating it in various contexts.

5 Search For Service

Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you. Your eEdition also allows you to search recent editions of the newspaper for related stories. In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Monday, search the news and features sections of the eEdition to find stories

about service. Start by searching for the words "service" or "volunteer." When you find a story that interests you, read it and write a short paragraph summarizing the news and explaining why it interests you. Then use the Advanced Search feature in the toolbar at the top of the page to find other stories on the same subject. Finish by writing a paragraph describing how having the ability to search for recent stories can be a benefit to readers.

Learning Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

A Teaching Tool
for Tomorrow