

# Time for Kids

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MARCH 27, 2020

# TIME EDGE

AAAH!!!

BOOM!

WHAT JUST--?

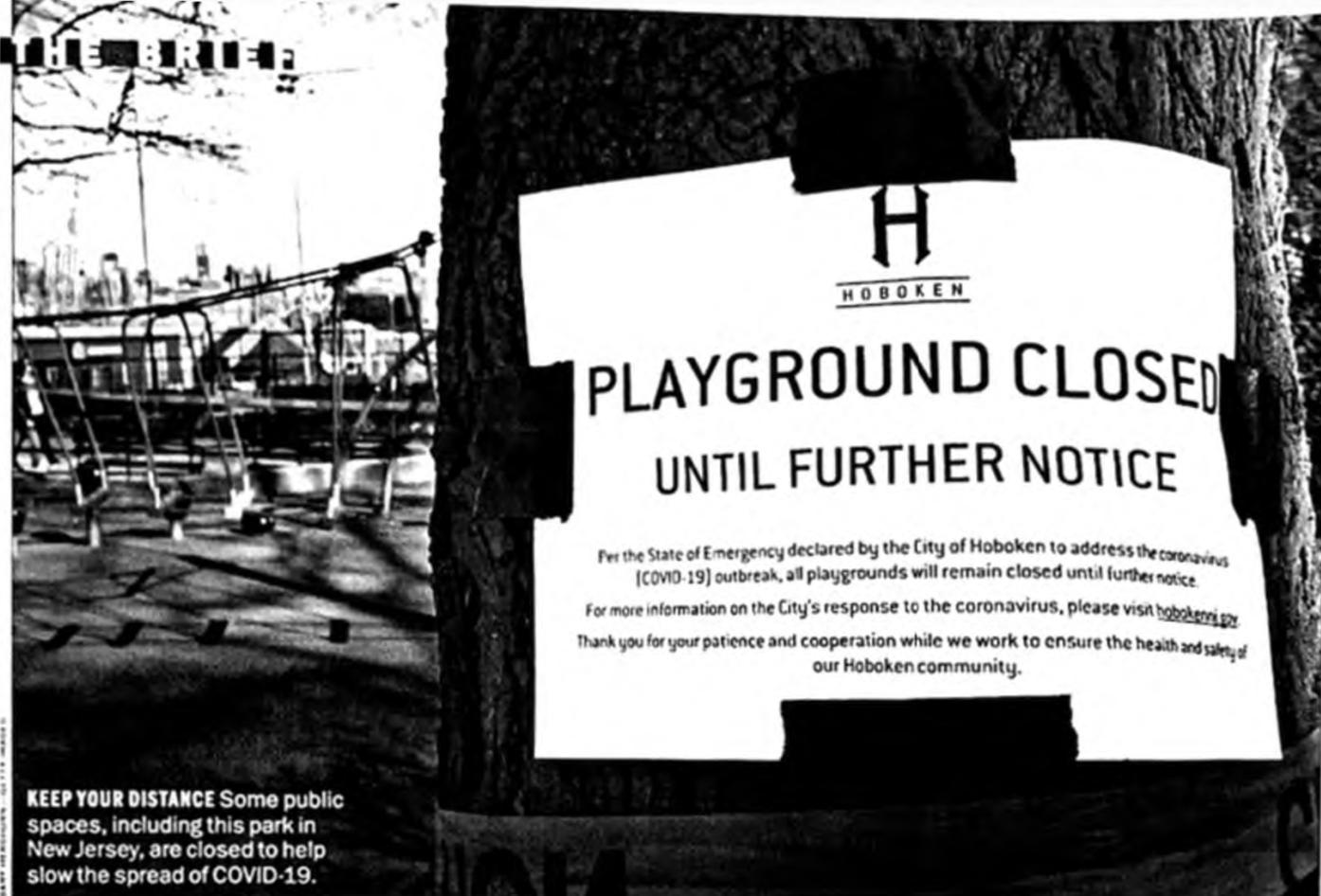
NOW I REALLY  
HAVE A STORY  
TO TELL!

I WISH  
THERE WAS  
A WAY FOR ME  
TO ENTER...

INSIDE THE RISE OF

# GRAPHIC NOVELS

**TIME** Edge reports on this booming business.



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

U.S.

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

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

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

Health and government officials are scrambling to limit the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. One method they suggest is social distancing.

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.

This practice is not the same as self-quarantine or isolation, which restrict the movement of people within a certain area. “Social distancing is a very general term,” says Dr. Susy Hota, an

infectious-disease specialist at the University of Toronto, in Canada. “There are a bunch of different types of measures that can fall under it.” For kids, these measures include learning from home instead of going to school and canceling playdates and sporting events. “All of these measures are trying to achieve the same thing,” Hota says.

Denise Rousseau, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 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 themselves and others, people “can reduce the likelihood that the virus can be transferred,” she adds (see “Flattening the Curve,” page 6).

Both Hota and Rousseau know it can be challenging to keep away from others in some situations, such as when traveling on public transportation, riding an elevator, or going to the bank or grocery store. In these cases, social distancing means simply doing the best you can.

For the Record

# “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



# 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.

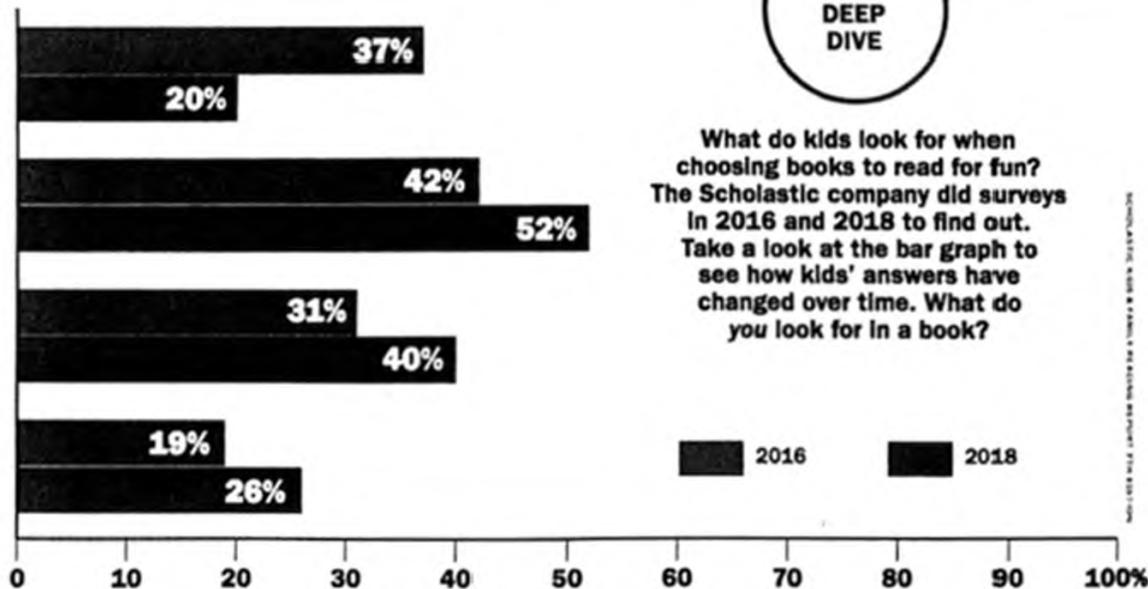
### DATA DEEP DIVE

Nothing in particular, just tell me a good story.

Make me laugh.

Take me somewhere I've never been.

Tell me about a topic I want to become familiar with.



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?

NEWS STORIES MAY INCLUDE REPORTING FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEANWHILE, AT THE BOOKSTORE...

WOW! IT'S A REAL

# COMIC CRAZE!



...IT'S OUR ACE  
REPORTER,  
SHAY MAUNZ!

**TIME Edge'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 Edge*.

But she had a shortage of reading material, because at the time, only 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, Telgemeier started drawing her own comics. Twenty-three years later, she published *Smile*. It's a graphic memoir about her 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, and since then, Telgemeier has published several more popular graphic novels. There are more than 18 million copies of her books in print. Industry experts say Telgemeier's success has made a big impact on the publishing world, paving 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

I USED TO THINK THAT GRAPHIC NOVELS WERE ALL ABOUT...



UNTIL ONE DAY...



WAIT A SECOND!



NOW I REALIZE THAT THEY CAN BE ABOUT ANYTHING!

WHO'S SHE TALKING TO?



of punching of things," says Gina Gagliano, who works on graphic novels at Random House, a publishing company.

Today's graphic novels are different. In graphic novels, authors use comics to tell a book-length story. They can be any genre, and many tell a serious or realistic story.

Until recently, most graphic novels were for adults, but 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%.

## 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 *TIME* Edge Kid Reporter Jack Doane.

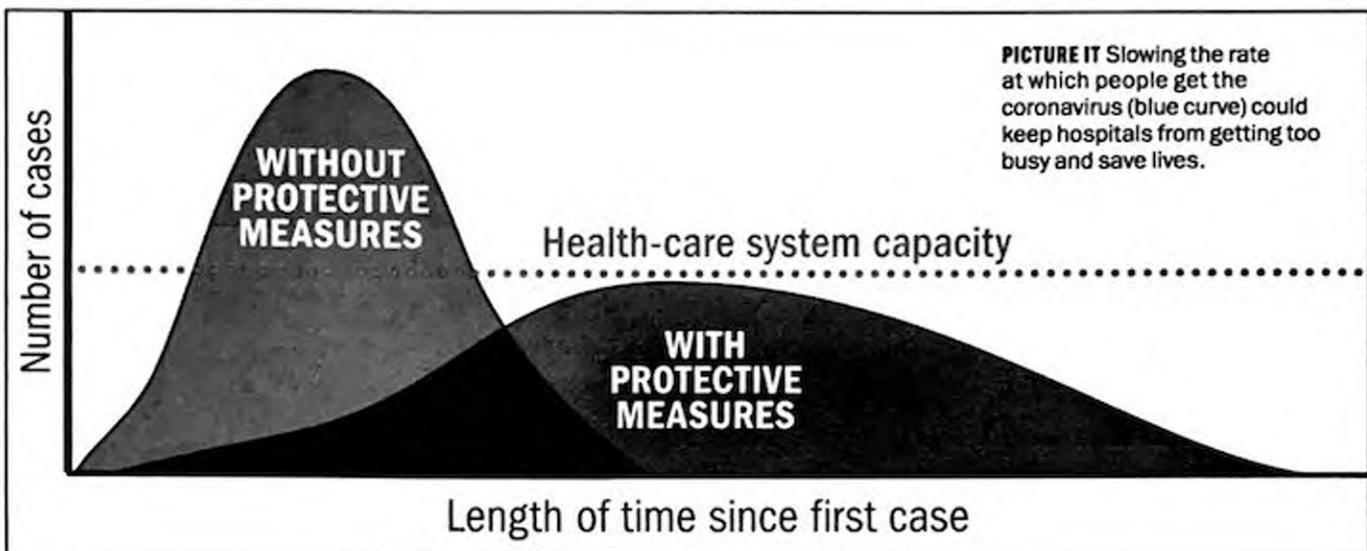
This year, *New Kid* became the first graphic novel to win the Newbery Medal, one of the most prestigious awards in children's literature. The book is about an African-American boy who feels out of place at his mostly white school.

*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

# 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," says Drew Harris, a population health researcher at Thomas Jefferson University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He spoke with *TIME Edge*.

Harris based the chart on an original by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which showed how an outbreak could be controlled. Harris's contribution was small but significant. He added a dotted line representing how any 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, which would happen if no protective measures were taken. The blue curve has a flatter slope, representing a slower rate of infection over a longer period of time.

And that's the goal: to spread out infections over time and flatten the curve. This gives hospitals a chance to care for patients before more people get sick, and it ensures that there are beds and medical equipment, such as ventilators, 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, and 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 more ways than just being near each other physically," Harris says. "Keeping a distance can prevent the disease from spreading to a grandparent, or to a child with an illness that makes them at-risk for infection. All of us, young and old, have a responsibility to take care of each other." —By Brian S. McGrath

# WEAR IT PROUD

The CROWN Coalition wants to end hair discrimination.

Eight-year-old Jonathan Brown, from Texas, rocks his dreadlocks proudly and was looking forward to letting them grow long. But in December 2019, he was sent home from school with a note from the assistant principal saying that 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* Edge.

Many schools have dress codes that are supposed to help keep students focused on learning. Some include rules about hair. A policy might prohibit boys from wearing their hair long, forbidding 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 attend 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, which is 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 California, Colorado, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia, and there are efforts to pass it 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



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

**GAME DELAY** This monument to the Olympics stands in Tokyo, Japan, where the 2020 Games have been pushed to 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.



# OLYMPICS POSTPONED

The Summer Olympics in Tokyo were supposed to be a show of hope during the coronavirus pandemic. Now the virus has put the games on hold.

The 2020 Summer Olympic Games, in Tokyo, Japan, will be postponed for a year because of the coronavirus pandemic. According to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the games will be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

The IOC and the Japanese government reached an agreement about these dates on March 30, less than a week after they formally announced that the games would be postponed.

In the initial statement, the IOC and Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, said they made the decision "to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games, and the international community." They added that while the games will take place in the summer of 2021, they will still be called the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The Summer Olympics, which were set to run from July 24 through August 9 of this year, join a long list of major sporting events put off or canceled due to the risks from COVID-19. The rescheduling will be a big shift for athletes who have been training for years to get themselves ready for the Olympics. Organizers in Japan, thousands of volunteers, and thousands more who planned to attend the games will also have to adjust.

But many welcomed the announcement. For months, athletes and health officials have pressed the IOC to delay the games over concerns about the widening pandemic.

The IOC said that keeping the Olympic flame burning until 2021 could help the world heal from the pandemic. "The leaders agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope . . . during these troubled times," it said.

Never before have the Olympic Games been postponed. But they have been canceled, in 1916, 1940, and 1944—during World War I and World War II.

—By Brian S. McGrath