

This Week at a Glance

Page	Title	Summary and Discussion Points	Content Area
3	Additions to cultural heritage list	New items have been added to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. What does intangible mean? What types of items and traditions does this list help protect? What are some new additions added this year?	Social Studies
4	Rare dinosaur fossil goes on view	The most complete specimen of a Stegosaurus is on display in New York City. What made this fossil so valuable? How can people visit and view this fossil?	Social Studies
5	Spotify Wrapped music lists released	Spotify users can now view this year's personalized Wrapped lists to see what songs and artists they listened to the most. What are some of the most streamed artists and songs? Did any of your favorites make the list?	Arts
12	Why humans love starchy foods	Carbohydrates like bread, noodles, pasta, potatoes, and rice are popular worldwide. How has researching the AMY1 gene helped us learn more about early human diets?	Health
13	A robot that lets kids learn to code	A new robot can help kids learn how to code. How does it work? What types of actions can young coders program the device to do?	Engineering



FEATURE OF THE WEEK JUNIOR: Ask the author (page 23)

Invite students to look at this week's feature and answer the questions.

1. What author was featured this week? Why do you think he was featured? What statement from her interview is most interesting to you, and why?
2. Have you read any of Joanne Levy's books? After reading this feature, would you be more or less likely to read one of her books? Explain your answer.
3. Choose a favorite author that you would like to interview. Write five questions you would like to ask your author. Then, conduct research to see if you can come up with answers you think he or she would say.

	DEBATE	CREATE
ARTICLE	"Is it bad manners to regift a present?" (page 8)	"Notre-Dame Cathedral reopens" (page 2)
VOCABULARY	regift, manners, devil's advocate, perspective	cathedral, Gothic, gargoyle, architecture
ACTIVITY	Write the statement on the board, "It's bad manners to regift a present," and divide the class into three groups: Agree, Disagree, and Devil's Advocates. Tell the "Agree" group they should read the article looking for evidence that explains why it's bad manners to regift a present. Have the "Disagree" group look for evidence for why isn't bad manners to regift a present. Challenge the "Devil's Advocates" group to familiarize themselves with both perspectives. Facilitate a debate with the class by inviting the "Agree" group to speak for 2 minutes about their support for regifting. Then, ask the "Devil's Advocate" group to pose questions back that ask that group to explain their position more deeply. Repeat with the "Disagree" group.	Notre-Dame is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture in France. As buildings and cathedrals across Europe became more decorative with this style, architects wanted the rain gutters to look just as fancy as the buildings. Builders started to add gargoyles to cathedral roofs as an ornate spout that helped water drain away from buildings. Invite students to use an image and hand-shape a paper-mache gargoyle. Mix a large batch of papier-mâché pulp and shred pieces of paper. Guide students to use cups as a base and then layer on the pieces of paper, sticking them with the paper-mache mixture to make a gargoyle shape. Add sand for a stone effect and paint over the finished piece once it's dry. Or spray with faux granite paint.
EXTEND	Read about gift-giving traditions around the world.	View Notre Dame in a 360 virtual tour.

	ACT	CONNECT
ARTICLE	"Amazing artwork" (pages 14-17)	"Give gifts with meaning" (page 24)
VOCABULARY	inspiration, themes, emotions, convey	keepsake, meaningful, personalize, recipient
ACTIVITY	Readers were invited to submit cover designs for the Winter Cover Contest, showcasing their creativity and unique interpretations of the season. Guide students to view the finalists and winners and select their favorite. Ask students to share the inspiration for each design, discussing the themes, emotions, or ideas the artist may have been trying to convey. Then, ask students which cover scene they wish they could transport into and why. Encourage them to imagine the sights, sounds, and feelings they would experience in that scene. Finally, have students share their reasons for wanting to step into that specific cover with a partner and what about it resonates most with them.	Have students make a decorative gift or holiday decoration. Invite students to find '6 symbol' plastic cups that have been recycled. Or use plastic cups that have been washed after a classroom party. Tell students to draw designs all over the outside of the cup with permanent markers. Make sure they also color the bottom of the cup. Preheat an oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit at the school, or take the cups home to melt them. Place the cups face down on a cookie sheet lined with parchment or foil. Watch the cups melt down until they are flat; this should take anywhere from 15 seconds to no more than 1 minute. Once they cool, help students punch holes in them to hang them, and use them as gift tags or other holiday decorations.
EXTEND	Find out how to become an illustrator.	Make recycled paper.

* Note: On your computer or mobile device, click or tap blue links to access linked content.