

DECEMBER 2023

# CRITICAL THINKING NOODLER



## If You Ran Things

*News from Monday, November 27th*

[Listen to the Episode](#) ▶

Some drivers in Summerville, South Carolina got a big surprise in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. They were pulled over by police officers for minor traffic violations, but they weren't given tickets. Instead, they were given turkeys! The officers giving out turkeys were part of a program called "Turkey No Ticket." It's been a tradition in Summerville for five years, and it's meant to build positive relationships between the police and the community.

Imagine that you are in charge of the police in your town. What creative ways will you find to build trust between community members and police officers? Write a plan for how you will create opportunities for police officers and community members to have positive interactions.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

+ + +

Want to showcase your students' work?  
Send it to us at [wehearyou@kidnuz.org](mailto:wehearyou@kidnuz.org) and it might be featured on our social media channels or website!



## Imagine!

*News from Friday, November 2nd*

[Listen to the Episode >](#)

A well-known hospital in Minnesota has a new four-legged member of its therapy team. Munchkin, a two-foot-tall white miniature horse, has an important job at the Mayo Clinic: to bring joy to sick patients, their families, and the medical staff. While therapy dogs are common—Munchkin joins a team of them at the Mayo Clinic—some people may be allergic to or scared of them. Munchkin, who wears tiny boots to avoid slipping on the floors, has been a hit so far.

Imagine that you are Munchkin. Write a short story about a day in your life at the hospital. Be sure to include details about how you felt and what you did, saw, heard, and smelled!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

+++

Want to showcase your students' work?  
Send it to us at [wehearyou@kidnuz.org](mailto:wehearyou@kidnuz.org) and it might be featured on our social media channels or website!



## Expand It!

*News from Wednesday, November 1st*

[Listen to the Episode](#) ▷

Many cultures have days dedicated to the memory of their loved ones. For Mexicans, it's Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, celebrated on November 1st. The important annual holiday is a colorful celebration to remember and honor those who have passed away. The holiday's roots go back thousands of years. Today, families visit the graves of their ancestors, cleaning them and decorating them with flowers and candles. There may also be parades, music, and dancing to celebrate those who are no longer with us.

Talk with your family to learn more about one of your ancestors. In the space below, write a tribute to that person. It could be a poem, a letter, a song, or a speech. Your tribute should celebrate that person and share why their memory is important to your family.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

+++

Want to showcase your students' work?

Send it to us at [wehearyou@kidnuz.org](mailto:wehearyou@kidnuz.org) and it might be featured on our social media channels or website!



## Design It!

*News from Wednesday, November 1st*

[Listen to the Episode](#) ▶

12-year-old AJ Iredell is using a passion for surfing to do good. The California native volunteers his time at a free surf camp for kids, including many with special challenges. In an interview with CBS News, Iredell said that the healing power of the ocean and the exhilarating experience of wave-riding helps to build confidence in those who need it most.

Imagine sharing one of your passions with others by creating a free camp. What would it focus on? In the space below, describe your camp. Be sure to include the camp's activities, who it would serve, and how it would help others.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

+++

Want to showcase your students' work?

Send it to us at [wehearyou@kidnuz.org](mailto:wehearyou@kidnuz.org) and it might be featured on our social media channels or website!



## Make a Pitch!

*News from Friday, November 17th*

[Listen to the Episode](#) ▶

A threatened New Zealand bird has a new claim to fame. That bird is the puteketeke, known for its distinct pointy black beak, a long white neck and black-brown frill. When comedian John Oliver got wind that the puteketeke was part of a competition hosted by Forest & Bird, a conservation organization, he put up billboard ads and even dressed as a puteketeke on his show in order to convince his fans to vote for the bird. The bird won in a landslide with nearly 300,000 votes.

Choose an endangered animal that you care about. How would you convince people to protect it? Design a campaign to save that animal. Be sure to include information about why the animal is endangered, why people should care about it, and what they can do to protect it.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

+++

Want to showcase your students' work?  
Send it to us at [wehearyou@kidnuz.org](mailto:wehearyou@kidnuz.org) and it might be featured on our social media channels or website!