



KidNuz Noodlers

January, 2023

1. Imagine!

News from Thursday, December 8th



Video games are the next furry frontier according to an Axios report that says they may actually help aging canine brains stay active. A UK-based company is using doggie testers to try out different formats including a version of whack-a-mole with a custom saliva-resistant touch-screen console that the dogs operate with their snouts. Unlike your video games, these dispense dog-licious treats when Fido succeeds. The company has not yet set a release date, but says they are also working on a leaderboard, because owners of the pooches testing their products keep asking how their pups stack up.

Imagine how your favorite game could be modified to make it dog-friendly? Draw a picture showing the updated game and its features.

2. Pros and Cons

News from Tuesday, December 13th



This week's 60 Minutes show on CBS disclosed internal memos showing Facebook employees raising concerns over company research that shows 1 in 3 teen girls feel worse about themselves after using the app. The global head of safety for Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, insists they want teens to be safe online and they've improved age verification technology. Thousands of families are pursuing lawsuits against Meta for the negative impact of Instagram on their children.

Do you think Meta is responsible for what happens when kids sneak around age-verification controls to use Instagram and end up feeling worse about themselves? Give 2-3 reasons why Meta is responsible and 2-3 why it is not.

3. Get In Their Head

News from Monday, December 5th



A 15-year-old, Dalin Wilkinson of Oakdale, California was helping his father fix the brakes on a work vehicle, when the truck fell and pinned dad beneath it. Mr. Wilkinson couldn't speak—or even breathe—until Dalin rushed to the bumper and hoisted it just enough for him to roll out. Dad ended up hospitalized with broken ribs, a separated shoulder, punctured lung and no memory of how he got out...until he pulled up the family's security footage. It was only then that he learned his freshman son was also his hero.

Use this true-life story to write a fictional one: perhaps Dalin actually has super powers! You can use this story starter: *It seemed like a typical Saturday morning helping my dad fix his truck, but it turned out to be the most important day of my life.*

4. Design it!

News from Monday, December 5th



Disgruntled, ticketless Taylor Swift fans are not about to shake it off. At least 25 are now suing Ticketmaster parent company "Live Nation" over last month's Eras tour presale train wreck. The accusation: that the company intentionally misled would-be buyers by letting resellers, not Swifties, buy most of the early tickets. The attorney leading the lawsuit says "Ticketmaster messed with the wrong fan base." The company has apologized and points to historic demand to see her perform live. Based on its own calculations, Taylor would have needed to perform over 900 stadium shows -almost 20 times the number of shows scheduled - or a stadium show every single night for the next 2 and a half years.

What could Ticketmaster do to ensure that only fans—not resellers—get to purchase tickets? List out a few ideas.

5. Make a Pitch!

News from Wednesday, December 14th



A young Los Angeles resident sent a handwritten letter to the county's Department of Animal Care and Control, asking for approval to keep a unicorn in her backyard...presuming she could find one. The department responded by complimenting her on her sense of responsible pet ownership and awarded her its first-ever unicorn license. But rules are rules and, according to CBS News, officials also told her that "the unicorn must be cared for in compliance with County Code Title 10, have regular access to sunlight, moonbeams and rainbows, and be fed watermelon once a week. Additionally, the unicorn's horn must be polished regularly to maintain good health. And, because unicorns and sparkles often travel together, the department said any glitter used "must be nontoxic and biodegradable to ensure the unicorn's good health."

Write a letter to the local department of animal care and control proposing rules for keeping some other fantastical creature such as a dragon, griffin, centaur, or werewolf.