

## AW #8 Amazon Rainforest (South America) Features

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### Characters

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- Mimi, Peachtree City, GA, mystery writer, world traveler
- Papa, Peachtree City, GA, modern day cowboy, pilot
- Christina Yother, 10, Peachtree City, GA, Mimi and Papa's granddaughter
- Grant Yother, 7, Peachtree City, GA, Mimi and Papa's grandson
- Samantha, 10, Peachtree City, GA Christina's friend and daughter of a Teacher's Retail Store
- Kim Wahoobi, , A few years older than Christina, Guarulhos, Brazil, son of the Manager of the Rainforest Hotel

### Secondary Characters

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- Tribal Shaman (Witch Doctor)

### Time

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- unspecified

### Locations

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- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Machu Picchu, Peru

### Places (Integral)

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- Amazon River, Brazil
- Guarulhos International Airport, Brazil
- Amazon Rainforest
- Rainforest Hotel, Brazil
- Native Village, Rainforest, Brazil
- Ancient Machu Picchu, Peru (specifically the Jail)

### Places (Mentioned)

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- Inca Trail, Machu Picchu
- Amazon River Basin in Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Paraguay

### Educational Items (Integral)

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- Rainforests including size, bugs, history, habitat, conservation,
- Cabana Rooms in Rainforest Hotel
- Machu Piccu including its history, buildings, construction and architecture
- Howler Monkeys
- Witch Doctors
- Gemstones including their natural state

### Educational Items (Mentioned)

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- Amazon Rainforest Wildlife – including, caimans, poison dart frogs, Morpho butterflies, bugs, piranhas
- Carnival (including the Samba) in Rio de Janeiro
- The Jungle including safe traveling techniques
- Indigenous Foods of the Amazon including Crab, Rice, Fish, and Coconut
- Pygmies

## Unique Features

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- Portuguese words sprinkled throughout the entire story.

## Visuals

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- Globe with Amazon River, Brazil and Peru highlighted
- Map of Brazil and Peru
- Picture of the Treasure Map
- Tarantula Sketch
- Playful Howling monkeys
- Clue notes
- Piranhas
- Poison Dart Frog
- A Pygmy climbing up waterfall rocks leading to the next clue
- ‘Lost City of the Incas’
- Stanley in the Jail
- Treasure Chest

## Lessons

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### ***How to occupy yourself on a long plane trip***

The plane trip to the Amazon was long, but the family occupies their time by reading about their destination, sleeping and chatting.

### ***How to Wait Patiently***

When the plane had landed, Grant was itching to get off the plane and to go and get the map that he had seen fall out onto the floor. However, when Papa tells him to wait patiently while everyone else got off the plane, Grant tries very hard to wait, quietly and calmly.

### ***When you find something try and return it to its owner***

When Grant finds the treasure map on the plane, Mimi and Papa think it may be of some value. They try and return the map to the front desk at the airport in order to maybe find the person who was missing the map. Although it didn’t work out, they at least tried to return the item because that item might be extremely important to that person.

### ***How to Deal with Fear and Remain Calm***

Grant has a tarantula climb on his shirt. Kim and Papa both tell Grant to remain calm while Papa took care of the situation. Because of Grant’s bravery and calmness in the situation, no one got hurt and the danger was averted.

### ***Tasting Different Foods***

In Rio de Janeiro, at the Carnival, Grant tastes crab, a new dish to him. He learns the techniques on how to eat it and eats a lot of it. Although the crab dish is different from his normal French fries, breakfast cereal, burgers, and ice cream, Grant enjoyed the new food and gamely tried it.

### ***When Lost, Stay Where You Are And Let People Find You***

When Christina gets lost when she is swept away by the river, she realizes that if she wanted to make sure that people would find her, she should stay in the same place. She acknowledges that by staying in one place it makes it easier to be found.

### ***Taking Turns***

When Grant, Kim, Sam, and Christina come across a waterfall, everyone wants to take a turn underneath the “natural shower.” However, everyone patiently waited their turn and didn’t hog all the time in the waterfall without complaint.

### ***If Approached By a Stranger, Call for Help***

When Grant and everyone split up inside the store, Grant is approached by the strange man with the scar on his face. Instead of just listening to what the man said and following his directions, Grant yells for help and gets the attention of other people in the store.

## Features

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- About the Author
- Built-In Book Club – Talk About It!
- Built-In Book Club – Bring It To Life!
  - Pretend to be in the rainforest
  - Make up a story
  - Choose a rainforest animal, study it and present it to the others
  - Play samba music and learn the dance
  - Draw and color pictures of butterflies
  - Draw a map of the Amazon Basin
  - Identify medicine plants using the internet
  - Create colorful headdresses of Carnivale
- Amazon Rainforest Trivia
- Glossary including SAT words
- Would you like to be in a Carol Marsh Mystery?
- Write your own mystery!

## Online Activities

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- Fact or Fiction Quiz
- Amazon Trivia
- Fascinating Facts – Amazon
- Fascinating Facts – Brazil
- Fascinating Facts – Peru
- Built-In Book Club: Talk About It
- Built-In Book Club: Bring It To Life

## Synopsis

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While waiting to leave the plane at Garulhos International Airport in Brazil in order to explore the Amazon Rainforest, Grant sees a man with a signature scar on his cheek hurriedly walk off the plane and unknowingly drop a piece of paper. Grant fishes the paper out from underneath a plane seat and realizes it's a treasure map. They try and return it, but Grant finally gets to keep the map.

The family checks into the hotel and invites Kim, the hotel manager's son, to come along with them on their trip. After going on a day trip to Rio de Janeiro, Kim and Grant are alone in the boys' cabana, trying to fall asleep. A huge brown tarantula climbs up Grant's chest but Papa knocks him off onto the floor. No one sleeps well that night.

The next day, Kim offers to take Grant, Christina, and Sam on a tour through the Amazon Rainforest. Christina asks Kim if he has ever heard of the 'Lost Treasure of the Rainforest.' Kim tells the story, explaining how the treasure was stolen and how one of the thieves and the treasure itself fell overboard into the river, never to be seen again.

Suddenly, the kids hear the screech of a howler monkey. The monkey swings dangerously close to them, dropping a note. They had received their first clue! Kim decides to go see the shaman, or witch doctor, of a nearby village that may be able to help them with their mystery. The shaman tells them that he has seen that someone will try to stand in their way of the treasure!

The four kids wind their way through straight jungle instead of sticking to the path in order to make sure they aren't being followed. Feeling tired and sweaty, they stop for a minute to rest. Grant finds a poison dart frog and Christina finds herself staring at a beautiful Morpho butterfly when another clue falls to the ground, as if from the butterfly. The note says, "The treasure lies where the water grows high." They quickly realize the note is referring to a waterfall. They find the nearest one and Grant immediately rushes into it, using it as a natural shower.

When Christina takes her turn under the waterfall, she slips and falls into the rushing current. She manages to get out of the water, but finds herself lost in the jungle. Suddenly, a young pygmy boy stands in front of her and leads her up to a rock ledge where she finds a connection between the ancient necklace and Grant's map. Christina is finally found, but someone has been watching every move the kids have made. At a feast held in honor of the visitors, Grant finds a note that threatens the group. Soon afterwards, the family goes to Machu Picchu for Mimi's research, bringing Kim along with them. After walking around the ancient city, they think that the treasure might be in Machu Picchu. They go to a store to check out a treasure display and the clerk at the store gives Grant an odd look. When Grant is alone, the man with the scar on his face comes up and tells Grant to give him the map. Grant yells for help and they get away.

Christina thinks that the thief may have been a woman and may have hidden the chest in Machu Picchu because of a pamphlet she had read. Kim and the kids go to the ancient jail. Grant notices a stone that doesn't quite fit in. Immediately, the man with the scar and the clerk from the store come out of the darkness of the jail. They are in the middle of threatening the children with being locked in the jail when Mimi and Papa show up with the police. The two thieves are immediately arrested. The family decides to return the treasure to the village and the shaman is very grateful. He tells them that he was the one who had been sending them clues throughout the rainforest, using the "magic of the rainforest." The mystery had been solved.