

AW #6 Great Barrier Reef (Australia) Features

Characters

- 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, Christina's brother
- Dr. Jervis Rottnest, Sydney, Australia, Marine Biologist specializing in the Great Barrier Reef
- Darla Darpeg, Uluru, Australia, daughter of the Park Rangers
- Devin Darpeg, Uluru, Australia, son of the Park Rangers

Time

- Unspecified

Locations

- Sydney, Australia
- The Red Centre of the Australian Outback
- Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Places (Integral)

- Alice Springs, the Australian Outback
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, the Australian Outback
- Uluru, or Ayers Rock, the Australian Outback
- Kata Tjuta, or The Olgas, the Australian Outback
- The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland, Australia
- Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia

Places (Mention)

- Woolloomooloo, Sydney, Australia
- Peachtree City, GA
- Sails in the Desert Hotel in the Yulara Resort, Alice Springs, Australia
- Sydney Harbor Bridge, Sydney, Australia

Educational Items (Integral)

- Australian vocabulary
- Legend of the Loch Ness Monster
- Australia's geography during the Jurassic Period
- History of the Australian Aboriginal people
- History of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)
- The Great Barrier Reef
 - Definition of a reef
 - How the Great Barrier Reef formed
 - Sea life in the Reef/Geography of the Reef
- Equipment used in and description of experience of scuba diving

Educational Items (Brief Mention)

- Differences between America and Australia (e.g. seasons are opposite)
- Animals' use of camouflage

- Aboriginal music and instruments
- Use of camels in the Outback
- Quick facts about Australia including its size, native plant life, geography, etc.
- History of Sydney
- Australian animal life

Unique Features

- Clues come on the backs of cards with facts about Australian sea life on them.

Visuals

- Great Barrier Reef sea life
- Native Australian animals
- Didgeridoo
- Dr. Rottnest’s fossil find
- Uluru (Ayers Rock)
- Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)
- Reefs, lagoons, and cays in the Great Barrier Reef
- Note from Dr. Rottnest
- Sydney Opera House
- Boomerang

Lessons

Greetings

When the family meets Dr. Rottnest, Papa greets him with a handshake, and Grant follows his example.

Traveling

Mimi believes that the correct way to travel is to start at the farthest point and work back to the beginning.

Manners

Mrs. Darpeg calls Grant and Christina “sweetie-pies,” which they do not like. Instead of making a fuss about it, they smile politely at her. Later, at the restaurant in the Sydney Opera House, they eat in “well-behaved” silence. Once in the Concert Hall of the Opera House, Mimi makes sure that she and Papa take their seats early so they do not have to disturb anyone by climbing over them later.

Reputation

Christina knows that a man’s reputation rests on the kids discovering the truth about Dr. Rottnest’s fossils. She realizes how important the outcome of the mystery is because of this. She thinks, “A good-as-gold reputation is a treasure, and someone tarnishing that is a theft.”

Features

- About the Series Creator
- Built-In Book Club: Talk About It
- Built-In Book Club: Bring It To Life
 - Make a Marsupial masterpiece
 - Amble across Australia by creating a map that locates the places in the book
 - Make a boomerang
 - Time Travels, learn about the tome zones
 - Color your world, create a mural of beautiful fish
 - Learning the Language; look up Australian words
- Glossary (SAT words)
- Apply to be a Character in a Carole Marsh Mystery

Online Activities

- Fact or Fiction Handout
- Fascinating Facts about Australia
- Track your reading with a map of The World. Color the countries that you have read about.
- Built-In Book Club: Talk About It
- Built-In Book Club: Bring It To Life

Synopsis

Mimi, Papa, Grant and Christina arrive in Sydney, Australia for what they hope will be a relaxing summer vacation. At the airport, though, a man tells them their paperwork is messed up and they can't stay in the country. This man turns out to be Dr. Jervis Rottnest, a world-famous marine biologist who specializes in the Great Barrier Reef. He has corresponded with Mimi to help her with her research, and he is playing a joke on them about their papers. Still, Mimi is suspicious as to why he has met them at the airport. He tells her that he needs her help solving a mystery. Mimi is reluctant to help him because she is on vacation, but agrees to hear him out.

Dr. Rottnest explains that he has discovered the fossils of an Australian Loch Ness Monster and is set to make an announcement of his findings in a week. Someone who wants to discredit him has been sending around cards of marine animals with the words, "DR. ROTTNEST IS TRYING TO KILL ALL THESE ANIMALS. DO NOT TRUST HIM!" printed on the back. Mimi says she will think about helping him. When Grant and Christina are alone, he tells her that he already knows who the bad guy is, but that's all he can say because they're off to the Outback!

Once they are in the Outback, Grant and Christina get a chance to talk. Grant says a man sitting behind Dr. Rottnest in the airport recited verbatim the words on the back of the cards while Dr. Rottnest was saying them. The only distinctive feature about the man, though, was a tattoo of the Loch Ness Monster on his right arm. Grant and Christina agree to keep an eye out for suspicious characters, but when Mimi says she would like to help solve the mystery, they suggest she enjoy her vacation.

The next day, the group travels by camel to Ayers Rock. Their guide, who has a Nessie tattoo, slips Grant a card warning the kids not to get involved with the mystery. Christina and Grant walk far ahead of the group touring Ayers rock, and they run into two Australian kids named Darla and Devin Darpeg who agree to show them around. Grant gets dehydrated, though, and the kids rest. Suddenly, a man that Darla and Devin identify as Outback Jack but who Grant and Christina know as their tattoo-sporting guide shows up. He hands them another card that says the answers are at the Great Barrier Reef, where they are traveling next. The kids also get Darla and Devin to join them. Once there, they get on a boat to go scuba diving, and a boat-worker with a Nessie tattoo gives them a note, supposedly from Dr. Rottnest, telling them to trust the people with the tattoos. Now the kids don't know who are the good guys and who are the bad!

Everyone heads back to Sydney for Dr. Rottnest's unveiling at the Sydney Opera House. When they get inside, a woman named Miss Darling agrees to give the kids a tour of the traveling zoo. She tells them that her boyfriend, a dinosaur expert, says Dr. Rottnest is a fraud, which just adds to their confusion about who is in the right. Later, they go back to the Opera House for the unveiling. The kids see Miss Darling crying and talking to her boyfriend. The man is saying that he was Dr. Rottnest's lab assistant, that he discovered the monster, and that Dr. Rottnest planted the cards that discredited him. The tattooed men are his friends who have been trying to prove Dr. Rottnest is a fraud. Miss Darling has a picture that will prove her boyfriend is telling the truth, but it might not be enough. Christina takes the photo to the microphone, and announces to the room that Dr. Rottnest is a fraud. Dr. Rottnest doesn't deny anything. The police come and take him away. Miss Darling's boyfriend gets the credit he deserves. Mystery solved!