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Race The Wild #1: Rain Forest Relay



Synopsis

When Russell entered the race, he knew it was going to be a wild ride. Especially the first race course! He'd been studying up on the animals and culture forever. But nothing could prepare him or his teammates for what they'd find in the rain forest: raging rapids, poisonous venom, and sneaky competitors who'd do anything to win. Can the red team work together to make it to the finish line in one piece? Each chapter in this action-packed adventure series is bursting with totally true facts about wild and wonderful creatures, dangerous habitats, maps, and more!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650 (What's this?)

Series: Race the Wild (Book 1)

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,308 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #160 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature #375 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5 — When Russell and his four friends enter The Wild Life Rain Forest Relay competition deep in the , he assumed that they would be teamed together. The prize is one million dollars, but now he is halfway across the world and his friends have been put on another team. With each clue comes survival challenges, brain puzzles, and adventure. Russell must rely on his skills and those of his team members to survive. To make matters worse, the boy discovers that his friends have been spying on him and cheating. Feeling betrayed, Russell doesn't know what to do.

Should he tell his team members? Some of the words seem a little forced and the author tells more than she shows. The plot, however, is well-paced and engaging. The facts used to solve the clues are fun but not overwhelming, and even provide a few twists. Illustrations are detailed and complement the text. Characters are likable, if a bit flat. VERDICT Fans of survival stories, adventure, puzzles, and mystery will enjoy this book. —Kira Moody, Whitmore Public Library, Salt Lake City, UT

Kristin Earhart grew up riding horses, pestering her cat, and reading books about amazing animals. These days, she lives with her husband and son in Brooklyn, New York, and writes books of her own. She still loves animals. But now, when she pesters her cat, the surly cat pesters back.

a+

I purchased this book for my son when he turned 7. He's a decent but not great reader for a boy who just finished first grade (races through simpler chapter books such as Magic Treehouse and Baseball Mysteries) but he just couldn't deal with this book. I think the large amount of words he couldn't read stymied him. After some discussion and him begging to be able to get other books, I finally asked him what the deal was since I know he loves adventures, competition, and wilderness and he admitted he just wasn't able to understand what was happening. We agreed that I'd read him the book and that he could then reread it himself. Well, when I started to read it to him, he became much more involved, asking for multiple chapters and looking intently at pictures (very good and interesting artwork in the books). He and his much younger sister discuss the animals mentioned in the books during picture viewing breaks. I liked the fact that the group features both boys and girls working together and that they're multi-racial. My son didn't care at all, but it was still nice that it was so, instead of being all male or having a token girl. If anything, the one girl in it, Sage, quickly attempts to become leader of the group and does it. The main viewpoint character of the book, Russell, is neither the smartest or the leader, but he is the one to push teamwork. The adventures were straightforward (this is basically a junior version of the Amazing Race with more wilderness) but I loved reading about the environment to my son. I didn't like the fact that it has Russell's old friends be cheaters who use him, but I guess it's a good way to introduce the conversation of "what makes a real friend" with a child, which I did after several chapters. Overall, good book. We'll be getting more.

This is a fiction book about a boy who has three or four friends at the beginning and when he goes into this race, he gets put on a team with some other kids and at the end of the book they become friends with each other, too. At the end, the main character's old friends come up to him and say that maybe his new friends could work with them on the next leg of the race. So the book is about lots of new friends working together to achieve a goal. My favorite part was when the team had to cross a rope bridge that another team had cut so that no other team could pass and they had to swing on vines. The main character stayed behind and had to get across by himself. It made me feel a little scared because of the piranhas in the river but I also felt confident that he could do it. I think people ages 5 and up would enjoy this book. Reviewed by Eliot K, age 8, Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa

This is the first installment of an ongoing series about a bunch of kids who are a part of a reality show much like the "Amazing Race." They've been divided up into teams and have to solve clues as they make their way through the different habitats, in this case, the rain forest. The storyline relies heavily on the reality show theme, and kids who are fans of the show will probably enjoy that. After reading this out loud to my family, and having two of my kids read it to themselves, here are the pros and cons from my perspective as a homeschooling mom: PROS: *the book includes interesting facts about several rainforest creatures and the habitat, weaving them in both the storyline and also as a few "break out" sections where a different creature is highlighted. *both my second and fourth grade sons were able to read it and enjoy it. The writing is at about a third grade level I would guess. *the pictures added a lot and were helpful in visualizing the different environments the kids were in *my kids are interested in finding out what happens next CONS: *My kids haven't seen any episodes of the Amazing Race, so that aspect of the story was kind of lost on them. *I personally didn't care for the antagonists in the book actually being a group of kids on the other team who were the main characters "good friends" from back home. They had all applied for the show together and when they got there they found out they would be on separate teams. That would have been fine, but that other team of kids was the main source of conflict in the story as they cheated and sabotaged the main character's team. I am not sure what message the author is trying to send here, but it seems like an unnecessary source of conflict for this book. They are in the amazing, and DANGEROUS, rain forest... surely, that in itself could have presented enough challenges without diabolical scheming from people he considered his friends. *This book only covers the first leg of the race. You have to wait for, and pay for, the next two or three books in the series in order to find out how the race ends. That may really frustrate some kids. OVERALL: This is

a good reader for a second or third grader. I didn't enjoy it very much as a family read aloud, mostly because I felt like the interpersonal drama and dialogue distracted a bit from their adventure. I also didn't particularly like the attitude of the kids in the story and my children didn't really relate to them, but they were still intrigued by all the fun things they got to do and would like to know what happens next. I'd be willing to check them out of the library when they all come out.

(NOTE: This is the first in a series of 6 completed books. I encourage you to try the whole series!) Are you ready to run the WILDEST race of your life? Readers will be blown away by this engaging title, as they join Team Red in their race around the natural world for a chance at winning a grand prize of one million dollars! Our adventure begins in the heart of South America-- the Rainforest, home to lush scenery and vibrant wildlife. Get ready for zip-lining, kayaking past rapids, wild encounters and a little foul play from another team! This book is both exciting and educational. Each chapter ends with a "Creature Feature," 2-3 pages of insightful facts that spotlight a specific animal found within that section of the book. Other chapters include information on the Rainforest, Endangered Species and their habitats, as well as a quick look into the history of the area and its ancient people. I found the members of the Red Team to be endearing; they could easily be related to by children. And, as a bonus, readers will get a chance to read ahead some sample pages of the second installment, Great Reef Games, to keep their anticipation high. A perfect book for young animal lovers and "adventurers to-be."

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