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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

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks (April 28, 2015)

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Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.3 x 7.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â See all reviewsÂ (77 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

I approached this book as both a teacher and a parent. I'm always on the lookout for books for 7-9 year olds who are ready for chapter books, but need to build reading stamina so they can tackle bigger texts in 3-5th grade. Scholastic has several new series and "Race to the Wild" is a solid entry. First, it has a nice mix of adventure and education as the various teams compete to find and photograph animals in the Rain Forest. This book could be incorporated into a reading option for a science unit and included in a classroom library. The only plot point that was a little confusing was

the casting of Russell's friends as the "bad guys", but it does add dramatic tension. (I guess we'll have to keep reading to find out how they handle that conflict.) Second, the author uses some of what we call "juicy" words to amp up the images in the book: wrenched, sloshed, murmured, scurrying. So the book is not only interesting to read, but models some of the writing that students are expected to demonstrate in school. My 8 and 10-year-old boys both gave this book a thumbs-up and the younger one read it more than once. The Lexile level is 650L which puts it on a 3rd grade level. However, I recommended it to our school's 2nd grade team to purchase because it fits nicely with their science units and is a simple chapter book that many of the kids can handle independently. This book has 9 short chapters of about 9 pages each, with illustrations and several 2-page "Creature Feature" spreads that provide info about the animals in more detail. Looking forward to reading the next books in the series.

A book that combines the concepts on which several reality shows are based, *Race the Wild #1: Rain Forest Relay* is both enjoyable and educational. Kristen Earhart has given young readers a book that will maintain their interest and will have them rooting for Russell Dean and his Red Team. Russell Dean and his four best friends apply to participate in *Race the Wild Life*, a race around the world that features wild life and its habitats. Upon arriving at the location for the race's first leg "the Rain Forest" Russell discovers the game has changed and that teams will have four members instead of five. He finds himself on a team with three strangers "Sage, Mari, and Dev. As they work through the first leg of the race, they discover each has knowledge and strengths to contribute to the team. When Russell discovers his friends on the Green Team have not played fair, he becomes determined to work with his new friends to win the race. A page of discussion about the Rain Forest environment follows Chapter 1. A page highlighting a specific animal "Creature Feature" - found in the rain forest separates each of chapters 2 "6 from the next and chapter 8 from chapter 9. It gives the animal's common name, the scientific name, the type of animal e.g. mammal, reptile, etc. the animal's range and food type. A brief discussion follows that information that is both easy to understand and appropriate for the 7 "10 year-old target group. This is one of the strongest features of *Race the Wild #1: Rain Forest Relay*. Separating chapters 6 and 7 is a discussion titled "Endangered Species and Habitat". A discussion "Life in the Rain Forest" follows chapter 7. The illustrations of the environment and wildlife are nicely done, they have depth and texture; the human figures lack dimension and appear flat. Although the teams seem to be composed of multiple ethnicities and

aces, the illustrations of the characters depict little of that variety. It would be more appealing if the human figures had the same dimension and depth as the remaining portions of each illustration. I like the educational aspects and the highlighting of teamwork and fair play that are emphasized throughout. *Race the Wild #1: Rain Forest Relay*. Kristen Earhart has done an excellent job in creating relatable characters, an exciting adventure, and imparting factual information in an interesting format.

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.

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