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The Mystery Across The Secret Bridge (Greetings From Somewhere)



Synopsis

Ethan and Ella find a mystery atop Machu Picchu in the seventh book of Greetings from Somewhere, an exciting series about mystery, travel, and adventure. The Briar family is off to Peru! They explore small towns within the Sacred Valley, go horseback riding up into ancient salt mines, help weave alpaca wool into blankets, and then travel to Machu Picchu, the “Lost City of the Incas.” While Ethan and Ella are exploring the incredible site, they come across a wooden bridge that leads them to a mysterious stone structure. What is it, why haven’t they heard about it, and why does it seem to look like a snake, a bird, and a puma at the same time? With easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, the Greetings from Somewhere chapter books are perfect for beginning readers.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0550 (What’s this?)

Series: Greetings from Somewhere (Book 7)

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #276,356 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Books > Children’s

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

Harper Paris loves to travel. Her favorite cities in the world are Paris (like her name!) and New York City. She has collected many souvenirs on her travels, including a good-luck coin from Japan and a reindeer-horn pendant from Sweden. She also loves mysteries. When she was a kid, she read Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books after bedtime with a flashlight. She now lives with her family

(including two cats and a bunny, who are not good travelers) in Ithaca, New York. Marcos Calo has worked as a professional artist for more than fourteen years. He has worked in different fields including illustration, animation, and comic books. He lives with his wife and daughter in A Coruña, a small Spanish town by the seaside.

The Mystery Across the Secret Bridge 2> 2> Ethan Briar peered over the edge of the rocky cliff. “Whoa! That’s a big drop!” he exclaimed. The roaring river down below now looked like a skinny ribbon. “Yeah, I believe you,” said his twin sister, Ella, nervously. She kept her gaze straight ahead and clutched Butterscotch’s reins. “Butterscotch” was the nickname she had given her Peruvian Paso horse. Ethan called his horse “Keeper” because he liked soccer. Ella, Ethan, and their parents, Andy and Josephine, were horseback riding through the Sacred Valley in Peru. The guide, Fernando, led their tour group along a dirt path that went steeply uphill. Towering mountains and lush, green grass surrounded them. The Sacred Valley was the Briars’ second stop in Peru. Their first stop had been the capital city of Lima. In Lima, they explored catacombs, which were ancient passageways underground, and swam in the Pacific Ocean. It was the same ocean they swam in when they had visited their cousins in California the year before! The Briar family was taking a big trip around the world. Mrs. Briar was writing about their trip for the Brookeston Times, which was their hometown newspaper. The family had already been to Italy, France, China, Kenya, and India since leaving Brookeston several months ago. “Kids, check it out!” Mrs. Briar said, pointing. The twins gasped. Up ahead was a sight that was both totally awesome and confusing at the same time! Wide terraces had been carved into the side of a mountain. Along those terraces were little pools. Hundreds of white patches covered the pools, like snow. Except that it wasn’t snow. “We have arrived at the salineras de Maras, or the salt mines of Maras,” Fernando, the guide, explained. “The people of this area have harvested salt here since before the time of the Incas. There is natural salt water inside this mountain. The people let the salt water collect into pools. They wait for the water to evaporate, or dry up, in the sun. What remains are those white patches of salt you see before you.”

Just finished reading it with a 7yo - one chapter per day. Easy enough to get decent velocity in the 3-4 page chapters, but there is still an inkling of an adventure plot.

My daughter has enjoyed this series for over a year. We always pre-order.

Keeps my 8 year old reading he loves this series

Great book, my grandson love this book.

Great book for elementary school age kids.

In the seventh book of the series, the world-traveling Briar family is off to Peru. While at Machu Picchu, twins Ella and Ethan volunteer to help a little boy find his lost toy snake -- and on the way, they see an ancient artifact their grandfather had mentioned in a recent email. While one of the best parts of this series is that children learn about the places Ella and Ethan visit, this one seemed so jam-packed with information that it slowed the plot quite a bit. Also, despite the name there was very little mystery involved. Still, this is a nice addition to the series, especially if the next one picks up the pace again, and it will likely have some children yearning to explore Peru for themselves -- though hopefully without wandering off without their parents' approval as the Briar twins so often do.

Ethan and Ella were tasked to locate the Tree of Life Temple of the Sun, Peru by their uncle Harry. During the adventure they made new friends and together they braved the scare of crossing a cranky bridge and walking through underground passage to reach their goal. One takeaway from Ethan is use distraction as a tactic to overcome fear.

My 5 year old and 2.5 year old love this series. It is also enjoyable for parents who are reading the books to their children.

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