



Reading Comprehension

MEET MASA

Masa could almost taste the yummy tree sap. The curious slow loris with the white ruffled mohawk and golden eyes had finally reached the forbidden path. He followed the gum drop symbols through the seven ecosystems; beaches, grasslands, meadows, swamps, forests, streams and mountains. These were clues left by the Great Loris Explorer, Jambu Eko.

As a child, Masa's mother, the keeper of tales, often told stories about Jambu Eko. Jambu was the bravest slow loris of all. He traveled the world in search of the answers to great mysteries. But the best story of all was the story of the Rainbow Gum Tree and the nectar gem at its center.

The story goes... An ancient rainbow gum tree sits atop a sleeping volcano. Jambu Eko was the only one to find it, but he left ten clues that only the best detective could find. The tree was guarded by the now extinct Javan Tiger. The ancient tree held an unlimited treasure of dripping nectar. They say Jambu found the sugary paradise and was never heard from again.

Masa spent all of 3rd grade studying the clues. He waited all year to take his first trip away from the village. He would prove that he was the greatest explorer ever and stories would be written about him. He said goodbye to his mother and friends and set off to explore the world.

Nine clues later, Masa had discovered the sleeping volcano. He was less than a mile from the treasure! He climbed and climbed. Suddenly, a helicopter came out of the sky and circled around him. Was this the guardian of the tree? He ran down the volcano as it chased him. Before he could reach the bottom, he was caught in a web of nets. A large figure with red hair slowly approached and then everything went dark.

What happens next? Find out by reading Java Lava!

Check for Understanding:

1. What was Masa's goal?
2. Describe where Masa lives and explores.
3. How are you similar to Masa? How are you different from Masa?
4. Make a prediction about what happens to Masa.

