



READ YOUR WORLD



Themes

- good versus evil
- bravery
- friendship
- compassion
- the power of one
- teamwork

Cross-Curricular Connections

Geography

- Southeast Asia
- Indonesia
- West Sumatra

Current Events

- rainforest destruction
- refugees
- immigration

Literacy

- cause and effect
- problem/solution
- sequence of events
- making predictions
- point of view
- fact and opinion
- descriptive language
- voice

The Adventures of Joy Sun Bear The Blue Amber of Sumatra

by Blanca Carranza and John Lee

The Adventures of Joy Sun Bear: The Blue Amber of Sumatra is a timely fictional children's book embedded with real-world problems and issues. This early chapter book is a great story for teaching kids about rainforest destruction, loss of animal habitats, and the compassion our world needs for humans in search of refuge.

Take a journey to the Sumatran rainforest with Joy Sun Bear. – a curious bear that lives on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

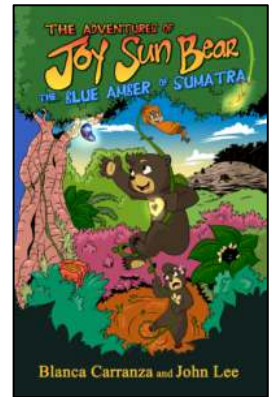
Joy finds himself on a precarious adventure with magical creatures, tricksters, and rainforest bulldozers - all in an effort to help a new friend, save his family's habitat and create a refuge for animals in need.

On the day of the great fig harvest, Joy and his sister, Ayu, are surrounded by unfamiliar animals and their families. They notice that all the figs from The Great Big Fig Tree have suddenly disappeared. Not knowing what is going on, they listen in on a discussion between their father and Keliru, the oldest orangutan. Keliru warns that the "outsiders" have brought a curse with them and evil will follow.

Worried about a curse, Joy and Ayu, stumble upon Tipah, a newcomer orangutan. When Joy reacts fearfully around the new orangutan, Tipah begins to cry. She shares the sadness of how her forest home was bulldozed to the ground and how her family had to flee in search of food and shelter. Not believing in a curse, Ayu explains to her little brother that the new animals are refugees and are simply looking for a new home. Joy and Tipah become fast friends and discover that they are more alike than different.

With an open heart and a desire to help his new friend, Joy stands up to Keliru in hopes to make a difference. Keliru scolds Joy for associating with the cursed ones. He leaves his brave moment uncertain and sad that maybe he has made things worse for the new animals. As he wanders off into the forest, the adventure begins...

Discover how Joy finds his inner magic and desire to change the forest world!



Activities



The Adventures of Joy Sun Bear The Blue Amber of Sumatra



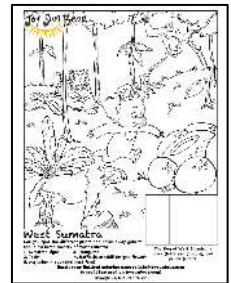
There are several free resources on the Joy Sun Bear [website](#) to help students analyze the story elements.

Setting

Joy Sun Bear's home is in West Sumatra, on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. Learn about this beautiful part of the world through Joy's travel journals and activities. Print Joy's coloring page.

Try This!

Have students create their own illustration of the setting, and write a description that includes important details and examples from the story.



Characters

Discover more about each character's personality with printable profile coloring pages.

Have students create a new character to join Joy on his next adventure!

And yes, there really are sun bears!

Learn interesting facts about sun bears that live in the tropics of Southeast Asia.



Plot

Check reading comprehension with a fun printable crossword puzzle.

Try This!

Have students work in groups to create a performance (skit, puppet show, slideshow, etc.) that includes events from the beginning, middle, and end of the story.



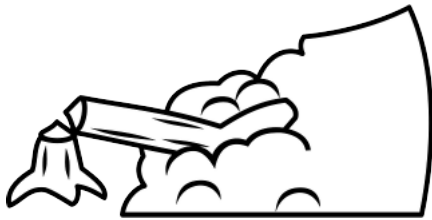


Take Action!

Change comes from individuals who have a vision and a drive to do what is right. Answer the calls to action with individual and/or group plans to make a difference

Reduce Deforestation

On pages 172 and 173, there are eight ways people can make a difference when it comes to saving our world's precious forests.



- Have students choose something that they can commit to for the cause - recycling, planting a tree, researching how the manufacturing of palm oil is devastating forest habitats, etc.

Help Refugees

At the end of the book, the Joy Sun Bear team lists five ways that people can help make the world a better place for the 68.5 million people around the world who are fleeing their homes.



Choose an activity such as writing letters to refugees or organizing a fundraiser for donating goods or funds.

[The Adventures of Joy Sun Bear: The Blue Amber of Sumatra Review & Activities](https://www.globetrottingkids.com/the-adventures-of-joy-sun-bear-the-blue-amber-of-sumatra-review-activities/)

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