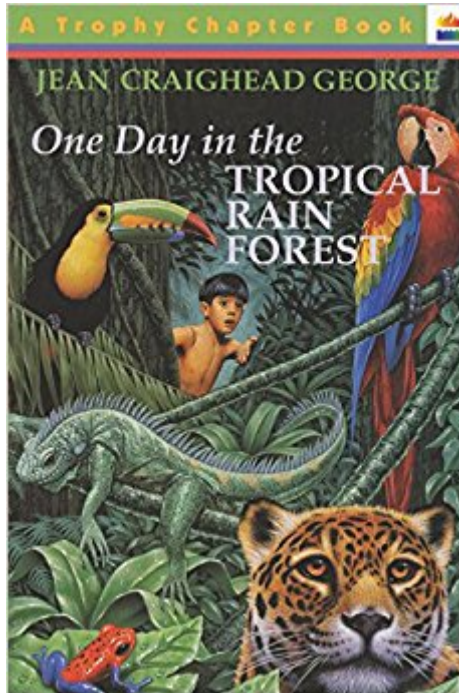


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# One Day In The Tropical Rain Forest



## Synopsis

Today is doomsday for a young Venezuelan Indian boy's beloved rain forest and its animal life—unless he and a visiting naturalist can save it. "George makes drama large and small out of the minute-by-minute events in an ecosystem . . . gripping ecological theater." —C. "An example of nonfiction writing at its best." —SLJ. Notable 1990 Children's Trade Books in Social Studies (NCSS/CBC) Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children 1990 (NSTA/CBC)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 880L (What's this?)

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Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

It takes a few pages to catch the rhythm of naturalist George's new book, but once readers do, they'll find themselves drawn in. Set on the banks of the Orinoco River, the fictionalized tale chronicles the efforts of Tepui, an Indian boy, to help a group of scientists find a new species of butterfly, thereby saving the Venezuelan rain forest from being bulldozed into oblivion. The tension created by this literary device--which in the hands of a less skillful writer could have appeared contrived--adds considerable impact to this timely, well-wrought work. George imparts an amazing amount of information about these fast-disappearing tracts of land as she carefully describes the delicate ecological balance of exotic flora and fauna--from flesh-eating army ants to the vast

colonies of butterflies that flutter high above the canopy of trees. Children will come away from this book not only with a satisfying story, but more importantly, with a clear understanding of why these areas are worth preserving. Ages 9 - 12. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

George has again taken a microscope to a typical day in a natural region. An Indian boy leads a scientist who is trying to locate a previously unknown butterfly that the scientist hopes will halt the destruction of this particular rain forest. At the same time, a horde of army ants moves across the forest floor; a sloth comes down from a tree for its weekly visit; and other animals go about their daily business. Such ordinary happenings make an exciting sequence of events that holds readers' attention as they also learn facts about the flora and fauna of the rain forest. There may not be enough material here for a report, but the book is an example of nonfiction writing at its best, for readers learn facts and get a sense of the rain forest in diary form rather than straight factual writing. The description of the relationship between the destruction of the rain forest and the greenhouse effect is easy to understand, and the index helps readers wanting specific facts. The drawings are clear, but do not expand the textual information. --Margaret C. Howell, West Springfield Elem . School, VA Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

We have a lot of the one day books, They are good reading , Something different. Something new to read.

I read every day, so does my 8 year old, and we often read to each other. 10 pages into me reading this one, and we looked each other in the eye and made faces. I can't remember the last time we didn't finish a book. Too many long streams of colors matched with birds we hadn't heard of (and we have almost memorized David Attenborough's Life of Birds, and my son does a couple dozen bird calls from those videos). The illustrations were nice drawings, but honestly, the rain forest is best taught with a visual component. Or perhaps with much better writing.

Good shipping service, and obviously good book, this was a part of my son's summer reading homework and it's for real a good book

Collect all of the series!

not what i was looking for

First, this book is not one which most elementary-aged children could read successfully on their own. The one-star review dings this book because her 9 year old could not get into it - and I can understand that. My 7th grader liked this book because he could appreciate the educational value; yes the story is interesting, but only if it excites you that you are learning cool information about tropical rain forests. My 7th grader and I LOVED learning about sloths (who house an entire ecosystem in their algae-coated coats), Hercules beetles the size of baseballs, soldier termites who build nests out of chewed wood and fecal glue, armies of ants capable of killing and devouring a mammal as large as a jaguar (who knew? Kind of guts the argument that ants native to Texas are anything worse than a nuisance!) In addition to introducing readers to fascinating information about tropical plants and animals, Ms. George describes the different layers of rainforest vegetation -- canopy, understory, shrub layer, forest floor -- thus bringing core science knowledge to life. I never before thought about the fact that there is no winter rest period in tropical forests such that fallen leaves do not have time to decay and form deep soil. (Interesting.) She also puts into stark relief the reality that plants compete and battle for access to sunlight: plants in a tropical rainforest are not passive and inert like they sometimes seem elsewhere in the world. And Jean Craighead George's gift of imagery is so vividly illustrated in this book. Millions of ants fan out forty feet across the ground "like a river of tar." Thousands of fleeing crickets, katydids, and beetles "roar like a chain saw." Ants "stir like a pot of boiling water" in their home between rocks, a soldier beetle has a "gunlike snout," the face of a baby sloth looks like a turtle's face (i.e., an animal most children have seen and, thus, can identify with), the mother sloth is "an apartment house" since plants and some ninety little creatures live in her long fur. Not including the challenging names of tropical plants and animals, the text is CHOCK full of sophisticated vocabulary (which is why it is better for an older reader): quiver, bivouac, fecal, noxious, chrysalis, ominous, bracts, corollas, rhythmically, doomsday, sawyers, understories, laden, humidity, ferocious, bromeliads, prehensile, enthusiastic, ornithologist, crimson, herpetologist, marsupial, sac, mammalogist, mischevious, botanist, lepidopterist, transparent, gossamer-winged, industrialist, iridescent, tantalizingly, ingenious, nourishment, marauding, gully, mature, pincers, flayed, piteously, horde, penetrated, corridors, caste system, nutrients, protozoans, cellulose, Fahrenheit, avalanched, vicious, mewing, bloodcurdling, yowl, lamented, evaporated, contemplating, siesta, chittering, abate, streambeds, cascading, mournful, buttresses, parasol, fungus, fascinated, zinged, abreast, predator, descending,

hasten . . .BTW: the story is so realistic I assumed the new species of butterfly discovered in the story -- *cercyonis isabella* -- would be a real species. The butterfly in the story has a blue forewing with an iridescent purple spot, and a green-gold hindwing with a white and blue checkboard design. Through online research I discovered that there is no *cercyonis isabella* species although yes there is a genus *cercyonis* and an *isabella* species in a different genus. Both are bland looking (mostly tan/brown) moths, not colorful butterflies. Disappointing that after doing SO MUCH detailed research Ms. George couldn't have picked a real genus of butterfly, a genus that plausibly could contain a new species like the butterfly described in the story. There also does not seem to be an "International Tropical Rain Forest of the Macaw," the name given to the book's rainforest at the end. The book is a work of fiction, so of course I cannot fault her for using a fictional name for the forest . . . but, again, even though the story is fictional she should have used a plausible butterfly genus since the rest of the book is so realistic and factual.

An unnamed butterfly must be found today in order to save this chunk of the rainforest. Loggers are already on the way to cut it all down. The premise is exciting, but the execution of the story, particularly in the beginning, is often less than pulse-stirring, weighted down by a thousand facts about rainforests. These facts are, however, by far the most interesting part of the book, and there's even an index. Once I was into the book, I enjoyed it very much. So far I have not been able to get my son to do more than open it, and I think the slow start may be the problem. This would be an excellent book to have in a classroom during a unit on rainforests.

Here is another superb entry in beloved nature writer Jean Craighead George's informative and thrilling ONE DAY . . . series. The award-winning author of JULIE OF THE WOLVES, MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, and more than eighty other wildlife books for young readers does a great job of bringing to life the magical setting of the tropical rain forest. Tepui, a young boy who lives in Venezuela's Tropical Rain Forest of the Macaw, befriends some biologists who are studying the rain forest. To his and the scientists' dismay, the rain forest is scheduled to be chopped down and destroyed one afternoon. The only way to save it is to find a special butterfly that has never before been identified and present it to a wealthy businessman who wants to name the butterfly after his daughter. So Tepui and his friend Dr. Rivero--a lepidopterist--set out to find the elusive insect. But the human characters are only a small part of the story. The rain forest is alive with thousands of species of creatures--amusing ones like a leisurely sloth, and creepy ones like flesh-eating ants. There are birds of all the colors of the rainbow, mammals like jaguars and tapirs, magnificent tree

giants, and, of course, millions of insects. This is a fascinating glimpse, written in a fast-paced minute-by-minute style, into an environment so complex and diverse that there are many creatures who don't even have names, and have never seen humans. It is also an important story that all young people should pay attention to to better understand their natural world and help to preserve its unique magnificent ecosystems. Other titles in the series are: ONE DAY IN THE . . . ALPINE TUNDRA, PRAIRIE, DESERT, and WOODS. Any ecologist will also want to check out Jean Craighead George's Eco-Mysteries series: WHO REALLY KILLED COCK ROBIN?, THE CASE OF THE MISSING CUTTHROATS, THE MISSING 'GATOR OF GUMBO LIMBO, and THE FIRE BUG CONNECTION. These include information on chemicals, the ozone layer, human development, and how these things threaten our wild places and creatures.

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