

AW #10 Ancient Acropolis (Greece) Features

Characters

- Mimi, Peachtree City, GA, mystery writer, world traveler
- Papa, Peachtree City, GA, modern day cowboy, pilot
- Christina Yother, 10, Peachtree City, GA
- Grant Yother, 7, Peachtree City, GA, Christina's brother
- Dr. Nicholas Pothitos, Archaeologist, Athens, Greece
- Melina Pothitos, 8, Athens, Greece
- Alex Pothitos, 11, Athens, Greece

Time

- springtime

Locations

- Athens, Greece

Places (Integral)

- Acropolis, Athens, Greece
- Plaka, Athens, Greece
- Santorini, Greece
- Philopappou Hill, Athens, Greece
- Meteora Cliffs, Athens, Greece

Places (Mention)

- Aegean Sea
- Thesoliniki, Greece
- Parthenon, Athens, Greece
- British Museum, London, England

Educational Items (Integral)

- The Greek gods – history and facts about each one
- Mythology definition
- Mediterranean Area geography
- Greek customs
- Greek food (baklava)
- Greek god Apollo history and facts
- Oracle history
- Greek language scattered throughout
- Parthenon history and facts
- Acropolis history and facts
- Apokreas celebration history

Educational Items (Mention)

- “High Flight” poem
- Passports and Customs coming into a new country
- Traditional Greek dress – fez, tunic, etc.
- Olympic history
- Socrates’ life and history
- Religious Retreats and Monasteries
- Archeology facts

Lessons

Staying Calm in Strenuous Situations

When Papa begins to lose control of the Mystery Girl, his private airplane, he remains calm and steers her through the trouble. Because he did not panic and had a clear head, he was able to slowly bring the Mystery Girl into a smoother ride.

Being Concerned for Others

When Papa and Dr. Pothitos get into a motorcycle accident, Papa is less concerned about his own safety and more concerned about Dr. Pothitos. Dr. Pothitos is less concerned about his safety and more concerned about Papa’s. They both respect each other.

Trying New Foods

In Greece, Christina and Grant notice all the different food options. Grant is a little skeptical, but he tries them anyway. He ends up really enjoying all the food and is glad he tried something new.

Overcoming Fear and Trying New Things

At the Medeora Cliffs, Melina is a little bit nervous about climbing up so high. However, she is reassured by her brother and climbs up anyway because who would want to miss such a great view!

Features

- About the Author
- Built in Book Club: Talk About It!
- Built-In Book Club: Bring it to Life!
- Greece Trivia
- Glossary
- Scavenger Hunt
- Pop Quiz about the book
- Visit the www.carolemarshmysteries.com website

Synopsis

After a little bit of a scary ride on Papa's Mystery Girl airplane, Christina, Grant, Mimi and Papa arrive in Ancient Greece. After a bumpy landing, the family is concerned about Papa because he looks as white as a sheet. As they get off the plane, four motorcycles ride straight towards the Mystery Girl. Turns out that these men in black are Mimi's old friend, Dr. Pothitos, and his fellow archaeologists. They offer to drive the four family members through the city on their motorcycles. Christina wants to tell Grant a nightmare she had about Papa before it's too late.

Christina had a nightmare that involved an oracle, Dr. Pothitos, and Papa. Grant is scared and he starts to explain about the "good luck" amulet that a man had given him at the last stop. Grant is interrupted because they need to get on the motorcycles. On the way home, Papa and Dr. Pothitos get into a motorcycle accident. Fortunately, everyone is safe, but it seems to help confirm Grant and Christina's suspicions – maybe there is a curse!

As they check into the hotel, Papa is just not himself. Christina and Grant meet Melina and Alex Pothitos, the children of Dr. Pothitos. When Christina and Grant tell them about Christina's dream and Grant's strange acquisition of the amulet, Alex and Marina are concerned. The amulet talks about the curse of Apollo and Grant remembers that the guy who gave it to him had a strange skull ring on his pinky finger.

Dr. Pothitos joins them at dinner, telling everyone about the crime ring for stolen artifacts he just found out about. After they ate a typical Greek meal for dinner, Grant finds a note in his pocket that the waiter, with a skull ring on his finger, had slipped to him. The note said to beware because "they will stop at nothing." The kids don't really know what it means. Papa keeps falling down and truly seems to be cursed, but Grant has a plan to help Papa. When they go to the new museum with Dr. Pothitos, Grant slips the amulet into the hand of a statue of Apollo and asks him to take away the curse. As Grant turns away, a man takes the amulet. The kids have no idea they are being followed!

Their next stop is Plaka, the oldest quarters of Athens. While walking through the streets, Grant gets cornered in an alley by a man dressed in a black robe. Someone in a waiter's outfit rescues him. He runs back to Mimi and tells her they need to go to Santorini because the man in black had said that Apollo's oracle needed to talk to him in Santorini.

In Santorini, near the cliffs of the volcano, the four kids were racing towards a tree when a figure comes out and warns them. The kids are very scared and run away as they try to figure out what all the clues have in common. They get on the ferry and the same waiter that had given them the first note earlier gives them another note. This one says to meet him at the Socrates' prison.

At Socrates' prison, on top of Philopappou Hill, Grant is slipped another note telling him to beware of "the Phantom." On their next stop, a bus tour that paused at the Meteora, Grant once again encountered the same figure they saw at the tree in Santorini. Grant is extremely shaken.

As everyone gathers to begin digging at the Acropolis, Dr. Mendilos charges up with a police officer, accusing Dr. Pothitos of stealing artifacts. But, thanks to all the clues Christina and Grant had, they were able to accuse Dr. Mendilos instead. It turns out that Dr. Mendilos was "the Phantom" and the head of the crime ring!