

## AW #11 Crystal Castle (Germany) Features

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### Characters

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- Mimi, Peachtree City, GA, mystery writer, world traveler
- Papa, Peachtree City, GA, modern day cowboy, pilot
- Christina Yother, 10, Peachtree City, GA, Mimi and Papa's granddaughter
- Grant Yother, 7, Peachtree City, GA, Mimi and Papa's grandson, Christina's brother
- Frederick Haag, administrator of Neuschwanstein Castle
- Dirk Haag, Frederick Haag's son and Petra's twin brother
- Petra Haag, Frederick Haag's daughter and Dirk's twin sister
- Gerta, manager of housekeeping staff at Neuschwanstein Castle, housekeeper and cook at Little Bavaria Inn
- Edward, employee at Little Bavaria Inn
- Mrs. Famersham, employee at Neuschwanstein Castle
- A falconer
- Adeline, a falcon
- Dagmar, tour guide at the Bavarian National Museum
- Konrad, Mrs. Famersham's uncle, a former employee at Neuschwanstein Castle

### Locations

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- Munich, Germany
- Bavaria, Germany
- Trandelburg, Germany
- Kassel, Germany

### Places (Integral)

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- Little Bavaria Inn, Bavaria, Germany
- Neuschwanstein Castle, Bavaria, Germany
- Fairy Tale Road, Germany
- Rapunzel's Tower, Trandelburg, Germany
- Brothers Grimm Museum, Kassel, Germany
- Bavarian National Museum, Munich, Germany

### Places (Mention)

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- Bavarian Alps, Germany
- Munich Airport, Munich, Germany
- Georgia
- Bremen, Germany
- Hanau, Germany

### Educational Items (Integral)

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- Oktoberfest traditions
- Traditional German dress
- German food
- History and layout of Neuschwanstein Castle
- King Ludwig II, who built the castle
- Caves in Neuschwanstein Castle
- History of Fairy Tale Road
- Falconry
- Grimm Brothers

- History of the Bavarian National Museum
- History of bicycles

### **Educational Items (Brief Mention)**

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- Famous Germans
- Facts about Germany
- Facts about Bavaria
- Seatbelt safety
- Traditional German tankards
- The Black Death
- The autobahn
- Brahms and Beethoven
- Alpine horns
- Traditional folk dancing

### **Unique Features**

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- German words and their pronunciations are sprinkled throughout the story

### **Visuals**

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- A Beer stein, or tankard
- Mysterious map
- Autobahn highway sign
- Cuckoo clock
- Mysterious note
- Wild boar
- Falcon
- Threatening note
- Scene from Oktoberfest
- Turrets

### **Lessons**

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#### ***Helping people***

Grant collides with a man in the airport, making the man drop everything in his hands. Grant scrambles to help the man pick everything up.

#### ***Protecting siblings***

During the scarier moments of solving the mystery, Dirk and Christina make sure to reassure their nervous siblings and to take on the trickier tasks.

#### ***Taking responsibility***

Grant thinks he is being chased and grabs one of the bikes on display at the Bavarian National Museum. He apologizes to the museum guards and accepts a lecture from Papa without complaint.

### **Features**

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- About the Author
- Built-In Book Club: Talk About It
- Built-In Book Club: Bring It To Life
  - Make a colorful poster about a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm
  - Draw a map of Europe and color it in
  - Research the weather in Germany and compare it to the weather in your town
- Fascinating Facts About Neuschwanstein Castle

- Glossary with 5 SAT words
- Information on [carolemarshmysteries.com](http://carolemarshmysteries.com)

## Online Activities

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- Fact or Fiction
- Fascinating Facts
- Book Club Questions
- Book Club Activities
- SAT Words

## Synopsis

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Mimi, Papa, Grant, and Christina travel to Bavaria, Germany to meet with Frederick Haag, an administrator of Neuschwanstein Castle and Mimi's friend. Mimi needs to do research at the "Crystal Castle" for a new book. At the Munich Airport, Grant collides with a man, who spills everything in his arms. The man gathers everything up quickly and departs before Grant can apologize. After the man leaves, Grant finds a map the man dropped. The map has numbers and a drawing of a tower and treasure chest on it. Looks like the kids have tripped over a mystery!

The family settles in at Little Bavaria Inn and meets Gerta, who works at the inn and manages the housekeeping staff at the castle. Christina and Grant view the castle from the inn, and Christina sees a mysterious light there. The next morning, they arrive at the castle and they meet Mrs. Famersham, an unfriendly employee of the castle. They also meet Mr. Haag and his twin children, Petra and Dirk. The four kids take to each other instantly and decide to explore the castle.

While looking at portraits, Dirk and Petra tell Christina and Grant the story of the pearls King Ludwig II, the builder of the castle, once gave to his mother. The pearls were stolen, and one of the maids was accused of the theft, but the necklace was never found. Christina suggests that the pearls may still be in the castle. Maybe the map Grant found has something to do with the pearls and Crystal Castle! As the kids discuss the possibilities, Grant sees a slip of paper wedged into a suit of armor. It reads, "Find the key!" That's what the kids plan to do, but they don't see the man from the airport lurking behind them. The kids continue to explore and end up in a hall of mirrors. Grant gets lost, and no one can find him because the mirrors confuse their senses of direction. Finally, Christina and Grant find each other. Grant says he tripped and fell into another room. There, he found a very old gold key. Christina thinks it's the key from the note and might open a box where the lost pearls are kept. After lunch, the kids go to Dirk's secret hiding place, a series of caves in the castle. They've only walked a short distance in when they hear someone slam the door to the caves. They're trapped! After searching, they finally find an exit on the other side of the caves, and make their way home.

The next day, the family plus Petra and Dirk go sightseeing through Germany. The mysterious man follows them. The kids meet a falconer. His falcon has a note in his mouth that he gives to Grant. It says, "Give the map back!" The next morning, back at the inn, the kids eat breakfast with Gerta. She sees they are worried about something, and when they leave, she finds the threatening note, which Grant accidentally left in the kitchen. She recognizes the handwriting! She decides to write a note of her own. Later, the family and Petra and Dirk attend Oktoberfest. There, the mysterious man who has been following them reveals himself to Grant and gives chase! Luckily, Grant escapes by borrowing a bicycle from the museum they are visiting before the festival.

The next morning, Grant finds a note tucked under his napkin. It reads, "People from the past are stirring up the present. Beware!" The kids decide to search for the necklace in a certain tower, but first, Dirk needs to see his father and Mrs. Famersham asks Petra to watch the desk. A few minutes later, Grant hears the voices of Mrs. Famersham's and an unknown man's. They're talking about the map and the necklace! Grant runs to tell the others.

When Dirk returns, they all go into the study. He reveals to the kids that the numbers on the map are longitude and latitude coordinates for the castle. In the study, the drapes are down for cleaning, and the kids see a sparkling ruby embedded into the painting of King Ludwig. The beam from the shine points out the window to a tower! The kids rush to the tower, where they discover Mrs. Famersham and a man, who Mrs. Famersham calls Uncle Konrad, taking a pick axe to a wall. The older man and woman advance on the children. Grant uses the mirror from his ever-present spy kit to catch the light from the window and hopefully send a distress signal to someone else in the castle. It works! Gerta, Mr. Haag, and the police burst through the door! Gerta had seen the signal. She explained that Konrad had been fired from the castle and was seeking revenge. She had recognized his handwriting on the note. Christina uses Grant's laser pointer to examine a drawing of the family coat of arms on a bell. There's a jewelry box inside the bell! Grant gives Gerta the key to open her, because it was her ancestor who was accused of stealing the jewelry. The pearls are inside! Mystery solved!