



*All Aboard, South America:
Mighty Mysteries, Wonders, and Mayhem!*

Some Writing Hints from the Playwright/Director

We're so glad that you've decided to enter our writing contest for *All Aboard, South America: Mighty Mysteries, Wonders, and Mayhem!* This is an exciting story about Professor Ponticator and his students and their quest to rescue the lost journals of female explorer Violet Cressy-Marcks. They begin their travels in Mexico at the ruins of Chichen Itza, and then travel through Central America until reaching their final destination of South America. Along the way, they discover hidden treasures, stories, and clues to help them find the hidden ancient city of Machu Picchu in Peru. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

1. The Peruvian legend tells us that when we see a dragonfly, we will receive an important message within the next couple of days. One of the characters in the story is Libeula, the dragonfly, who leads the search party through the mountains, across the lakes and through the rainforest of South America. Write a short story about a dragonfly!
2. Write a short story about the rainforest, the Amazon River, the Inca Indians or the Andes Mountains!
3. Write a short story about Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela or any of the other settings in South America!
4. Of course there are three bandits in the play who try to find the lost journals before the Professor and his students can reach Machu Picchu. Their names are Louie Palooey, Bernie, and Re-Pete. Write a story about these three bandits.
5. Your story can be a mystery, if you like, since the Professor and his students are trying to solve the mystery of the lost journals.
6. If you need help, be sure to go to the Joyner Library's Teaching Resource Center. They've researched and provided a list of books about South America and about how to write a mystery. <http://author.ecu.edu/cs-lib/trc/bibguide.cfm> under "South America" and "Mystery Writing"

Good luck and have fun writing! We can't wait to read your stories!

More questions? Contact Patch Clark at clarkp@ecu.edu