









COLOSSEUM, ROME, ITALY

Ella, Tom, and Alfonso couldn't believe their eyes... Suddenly, they were standing right in the middle of the Roman Colosseum! This is going to be so boring," whined Alfonso. "Was this your choice, Ella?" Tom asked

her. Ella smiled and nodded. "What a great idea!" Tom said with excitement. He loved learning about history and had always wanted to come here. The friends began to walk around. On information boards, there were facts all about the Colosseum and its legendary history. It had been used mainly for gladiator fights and executions. Alfonso gulped as he read further. Some people were thrown into the Colosseum and made to fight lions, avoid being trampled by elephants, and even wrestle with animals. The Colosseum's nickname was "The Roman arena of death."

Some historians believe that between 700,000 to and 1.4 million people died there. Also, nearly one million animals were killed in the fights, which led to the extinction of some species in the Roman Empire. "Wow! This is intense!" Alfonso said. Ella and Tom agreed. "I'm sure glad we don't have Colosseum's like this anymore. People need to treat each other more humanely and with kindness. People shouldn't hurt each other," said Ella. "Yep—and we should also respect each other's different cultures," Tom agreed. "It's also important to listen to what other people have to say and keep an open mind," Alfonso added. Although the Colosseum was very interesting, there was a seriousness to it. They knew it was important to learn about things like this to make sure it never happened again. As the sun began to set over the Colosseum, Ella pulled out the travel book and opened it to a page full of pictures with ice and snow. "Are we ready for a change of scenery?" she asked with a smirk as everything began to spin.





THE GREAT PYRAMIDS, GIZA, EGYPT

It was completely dark. The friends couldn't see a thing. "Oh, no. Where are we?" Alfonso said shakily. "Um – when the book opened, I think I saw a picture of Egypt," Ella said reluctantly. Suddenly, a bark broke

through the dark, startling the kids. "No way! Meggie traveled with us!" Tom said, amazed. He reached into his pocket and found his tiny flashlight. "It's good to always be prepared," he told his friends. As soon as the light was on, Tom saw Meggie wagging her tail. "Meggie," Tom said, "can you help us get out of here?" He petted her head, and she began to sniff. The children followed her through a bunch of long tunnels until one emptied out into a windowless chamber. In the middle of it was an old sarcophagus (a stone coffin) completely covered with dust. Alfonso's eyes lit up. "Let's get closer. There might be treasure in it!" he said. "No way! This is how the ancient pharaohs were buried. Haven't you ever heard stories about mummies?" Ella warned. Tom agreed with her. "But those are just stories," Alfonso insisted. Just then, out of the blue, a huge rumbling sound filled the chamber. Covering their ears, they high-tailed it out of there with Meggie leading the way. They began dashing back through the dark tunnels. Once the sound had stopped, they all collapsed to the floor, out of breath. Just then, a voice echoed from behind them. "What are you doing? You have no business being here." The children jumped in fright.





From the darkness, a young boy appeared. "Hello, I'm Jafari. My father works here as a guide, and I help him out." There are so many corridors in here. Follow me and I'll get you outside." The travelers sighed with relief. Once they were under the blazing Egyptian sun, Jafari invited them back to his house for a traditional Egyptian meal of falafel and hummus. "That sounds wonderful," Ella said happily. "But how will we get there?" Jafari smiled and said, "We'll ride my camels, of course." Once they were climbed atop the incredible animals, he told them all about how the sarcophagus wasn't a real one, and how the booming voice was a recording his father made for the tourists. After a delicious dinner, Ella, Tom, and Alfonso thanked Jafari and said goodbye. Ella opened the travel book and away they went.

THANK YOU

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