

The Last Straw

Name _____

🕒 Code Breaker

Use the book to infer what these words mean. Record your inferences. Check the dictionary and record the dictionary meanings.

Word	My inference	Dictionary meaning
raucously		
canopy		
nonchalantly		
poach		
inadvertent		
durian		
hostage		
corrupt		
conservation		

Write synonyms for the words in italics.

A bird called *raucously* from the top canopy.

I *nonchalantly* followed her gaze.

I remained *stock still* and barely dared to breathe.

You might be an *inadvertent* witness to the poaching.

The poachers were going to use me as *leverage* against Dad.

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☐ Meaning Maker

Use the book to answer these questions.

1. What do orangutans eat?

2. What do orangutans look like?

3. Why do poachers hunt orangutans?

4. Why might poachers enter a national park to poach animals?

5. Would you be keen to eat a durian? Why or why not?

6. On page 16 the author refers to the use of unlicensed weapons. What are these?

7. On page 16 the author talks of government funding. Why might the government provide funding to Troy's family?

8. Reread page 17. What made Troy suspicious of the men in the jeep?

9. What is corrupt a police officer?

10. What are some other animals that you think might be at risk from poaching?

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⦿ Text User

Answer these questions to give your opinions about the plot of the story.

1. What would you change about the beginning or end of this story? Why?

2. Did the events in the story flow in an order that made sense? Explain.

3. Did the story move along at a comfortable pace? Did it move too fast or too slow? Explain.

4. What are three problems in this story?

5. Did you feel involved in this story? Explain.

6. This is a story that could happen in real life. What could make a story like this happen?

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● Text Critic

The author constructed Ahmad's (Tarantula) character very deliberately in this story. He began as Troy's captor, then he befriended Troy, and, finally, he saved Troy from the fire. Use these chapters of the book to find evidence to show how this character changed over course of the story.

Captured

Time Stands Still

Where There's Smoke...

To the River

Early Retirement

Do you think that Ahmad continued to poach orangutans after the end of this story?

Do you think Ahmad and Troy could remain friends after what had happened? Explain.

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Multiple Intelligences

Logical-mathematical, Intrapersonal

Choose two conservation issues that you feel strongly about. Construct an idea web in each blank box to show your thinking about each issue. On the lines next to each box, record some things you could do to raise awareness of the issue.

Issue one: _____

Issue two: _____

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Realistic Fiction

How were these elements of the story realistic? Use words from the story to support your opinions.

The plot

The setting

The characters

The kidnapping

The ending

Was there anything unrealistic about this story? Explain.

Do you enjoy realistic fiction? Explain.

What other realistic fiction stories/shows/films do you know?
