



# Amazon Rally

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## Summary

*Amazon Rally* is a story about two boys from England who are motorcycle racers. Brian and David take part in a rally through the Amazon jungle in Brazil. The race starts in Brasilia and ends in Manaus. At first it is easy, as the roads are good but as the racers go deeper into the jungle the roads get very bad.

They get lost and are approached by some angry Indians, who mistake them for miners who want to kill their people and take their lands. They are taken to the Indian village, where a German woman who works with the Indians can translate.

When they learn there is danger of an attack, Brian offers to ride his motorbike and get the police in the nearby village to help. He takes Caruak, the Chief's son, with him so that he can show him the way.

They get to the village and warn the police about the miners' attack. The police bring many men who hide in the jungle and when the miners come, they stop them. The villagers are very happy. Brian and David are happy too; they don't win the race but they have helped the Indians keep their homes.

## Background and themes

**The Amazon:** The Amazon is one of the world's great rain forests. The Amazon River runs 3,000 miles from the Andes to the sea. The Amazon basin covers more than two and a half million square miles, more than any other rain forest. The Amazon is essential to the ecological balance of our planet, but it is in danger, as economic interests are often prioritised. This results in deforestation, which may lead to the destruction of the forest.

**Rally:** A motor race over public roads. A very famous one is the Paris-Dakar Rally.

**Tolerance and solidarity:** Brian and David meet people with a different culture but offer to help them defend their land. They are not afraid of the unknown or of taking risks.

**Winning at all cost?** Brian and David do not win the race but make friends and help others. Is winning always important?

## Discussion activities

### Pages 1–7

#### Before reading

- Discuss:** Have students look at the covers in pairs and:
  - Write a file card: Have students identify title, author, publisher, ISBN and write a file card for the book.
  - Read the title: *What can the story be about? What is a rally? Where is the Amazon? What do you know about it?*
  - Describe the picture: *Where are these boys? What are they doing? Who is looking at them? Can you drive a motorcycle?*

#### While reading

- Role play:** Have students work in pairs: Brian phones a friend at home to tell him about the rally.

### Pages 10–13

#### Before reading

- Guess:** Have students answer these questions.  
*What do the racers find in the jungle? A famous person / some Indians / some big fruit?*

#### After reading

- Write:** Have students suppose they are Brian or David and write the diary for Day 5 in Brazil.  
*Today the jungle is beautiful but we can hear some noises . . .*

### Pages 16–19

#### While reading

- Guess:** Have students look at the picture on page 12 and say what they believe Brian, David, Chief Maoni and Astrid are thinking.

#### After reading

- Discuss:** Have students discuss the following.  
*What do people do in rallies? Do you like rallies? Why/why not? Is the Amazon a good place for a rally? Why/why not?*
- Write:** Have students add a short comment on the book on their file cards.

## Vocabulary activities

For the Word list and vocabulary activities, go to [www.penguinreaders.com](http://www.penguinreaders.com).