

EDUCATION FOR ALL 2022

THE
**READING
ROCKET**



IN BOLIVIA



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR
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**ABOUT THE FRONT
PAGE PICTURE**

Carlito and his neighbor
Denis lives in Batraja in
Amazonas. Read more
about them on page 6.



THE **READING ROCKET**

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FLY WITH THE READING ROCKET TO BOLIVIA



There are 11.000 kilometers in a straight line from Copenhagen to La Paz – one of Bolivia's two capitals.



LUIS ALFREDO



CARLITO



JORGE LUIS



DELIA AND CARLOS



LIETH

- RAINFOREST
- SAVANNAH
- MOUNTAINS AND HIGH PLAIN

Bolivia is located in South America. The country is 25 times bigger than Denmark. 12 million people lives in the country. Bolivia doesn't have a coastline. But the large country has mountains, high plains, tropical rainforest, and savannah.



A part of Amazonas is in Bolivia. Amazonas is the world's biggest rainforest. There are more animal and plant species here, than anywhere else on the Earth. The Amazon River runs through the rainforest. It is one of the longest rivers in the world.



Bolivia have both flooding and droughts. In Amazonas trees are cut down, and the rainforest are hurt by forest fires. That means, that some families are forced to move from their home.



Bolivia has 36 different groups of indigenous people. The two biggest groups are Aymara and Quechua. Some of the indigenous groups are as big as 2 million people but others have fewer than hundred. Many of the indigenous groups live in Amazonas.





CARLITO

CARLITO KNOWS THE TREES IN THE RAINFOREST

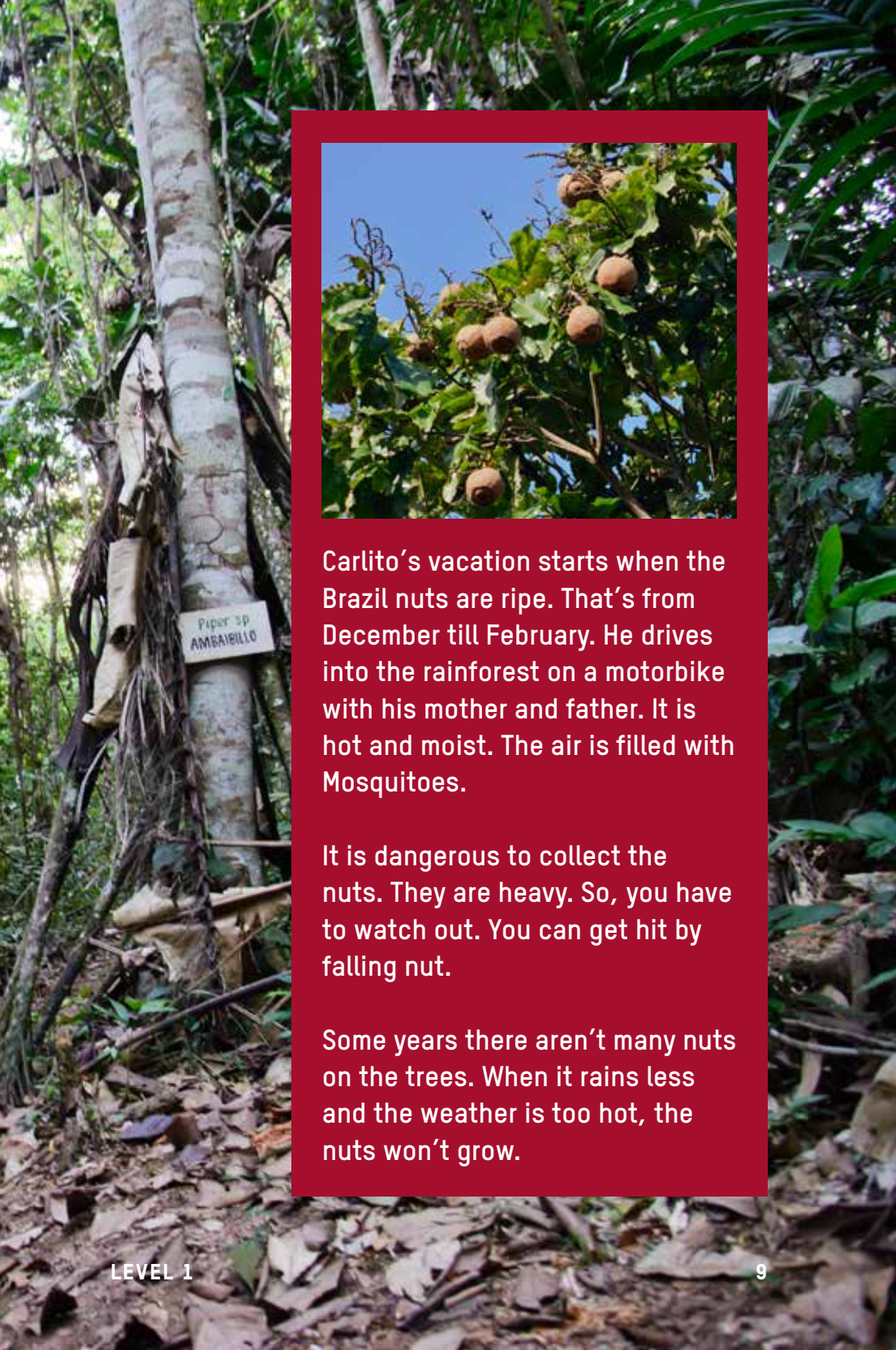
📖 LISE JOSEFSEN HERMANN 📍 JUAN GABRIEL ESTELLANO SCHULZE

Carlito carries a big nut. It's a Brazil nut. It grows on the high trees in the rainforest. When the nuts are ripe, they drop down from the trees. All by themselves. He collects the nuts in a big pile. The nuts are packed in bags.

Carlito is 7 years old. He lives with his dad Juan Carlos and mom Valeriana. And his little sister Alexa. She is 4 years old. They live in a little village. It's called Batraja. The village is located in Amazonas. The rainforest is their backyard.







Carlito's vacation starts when the Brazil nuts are ripe. That's from December till February. He drives into the rainforest on a motorbike with his mother and father. It is hot and moist. The air is filled with Mosquitoes.

It is dangerous to collect the nuts. They are heavy. So, you have to watch out. You can get hit by falling nut.

Some years there aren't many nuts on the trees. When it rains less and the weather is too hot, the nuts won't grow.



Carlito knows the name of many of the trees and plants in the rainforest. In their village they have a school-forest. He is in 2nd grade. It takes Carlito five minutes to walk to school.






Carlito's class often have classes out under the trees. Carlito's teacher tells why you have to protect the forest. You can't cut down all the trees. Then the climate will get too hot. They also learn which trees are good for building houses.





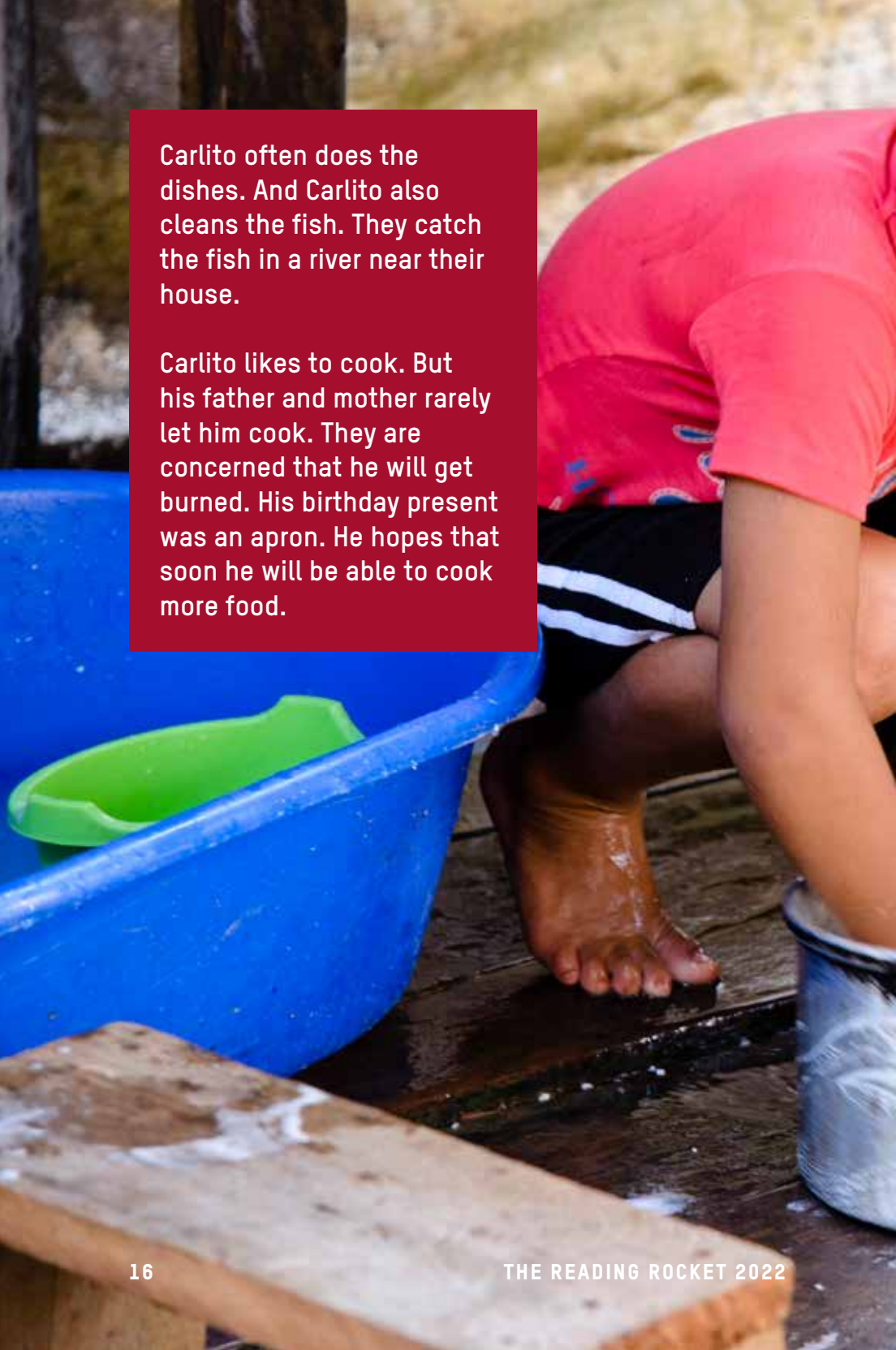
Carlito's classmates live far from him. Today Carlito is playing with his neighbor, Denis. He is in 3rd grade. They often go to a little lake. You can't see the bottom. They are a little scared of the dark water.

They also play a game of tag. "You can't catch me, Toco!" Denis yells. Toco is Carlito's nickname. His mother gave him the nickname when he was little. In Bolivia almost everyone has a nickname. Adults too.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a bright pink t-shirt and black shorts with white stripes, is sitting on a large mound of reddish-brown soil. He is looking down at something in his hands, possibly playing. In the background, there is a structure made of horizontal wooden planks and a corrugated metal roof. The scene is outdoors with some green foliage visible on the left.

Most days Carlito plays with Alexa and their cousin. He's name is Esneiber. But he is called Gordito. Alexa and Esneiber are 4 years old. They mostly play with cars or play hide and seek.





Carlito often does the dishes. And Carlito also cleans the fish. They catch the fish in a river near their house.

Carlito likes to cook. But his father and mother rarely let him cook. They are concerned that he will get burned. His birthday present was an apron. He hopes that soon he will be able to cook more food.





Carlito also likes to do his homework. So, he is rarely bored. He likes math the most. In his school they are preparing for Mother's Day. They create decorations of cardboard. He is excited to give his mom a present.

Carlito just got an invitation. It's from his friend. The whole class are going to Nardiely's birthday this Friday. It's going to be fun.



HELEVERDENISKOLE.DK/CARLITO





LIETH

LISETH'S FAVORITE FRUIT IS CACAO

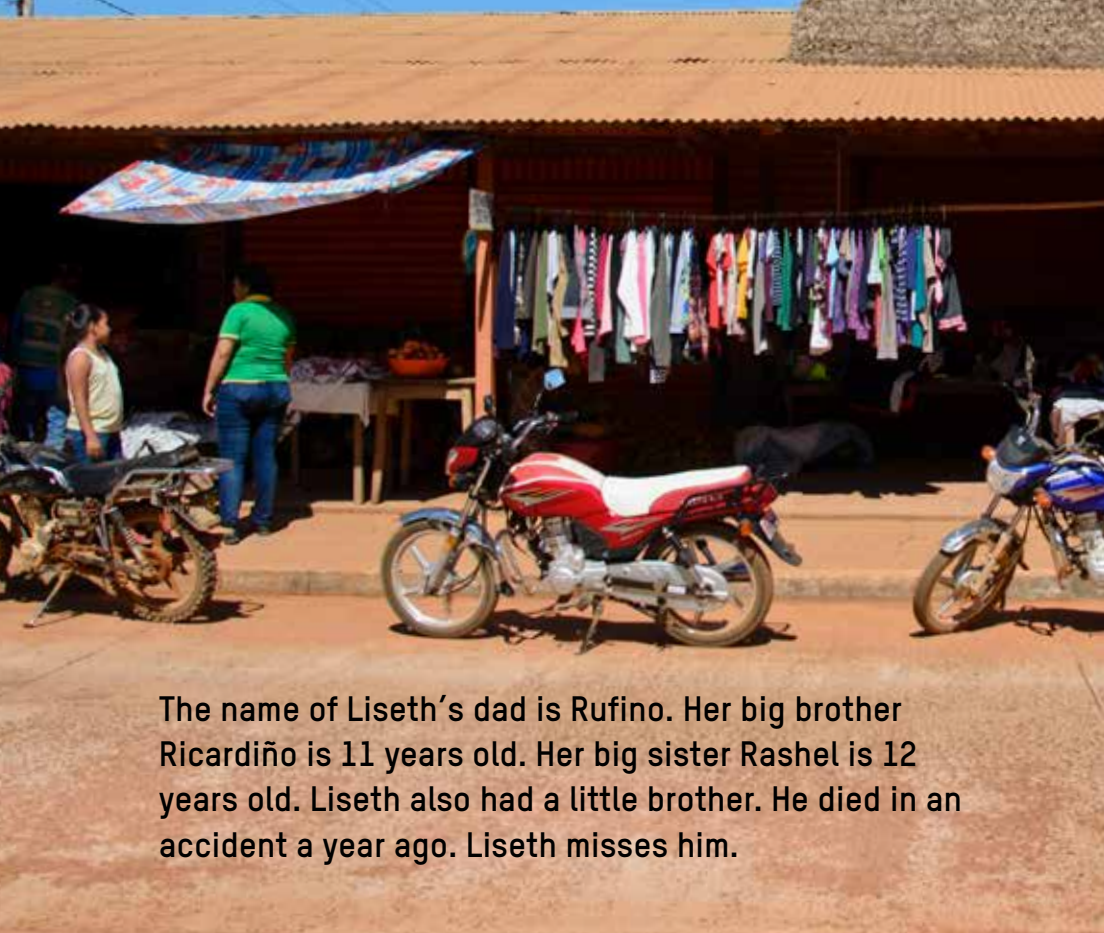
📖 LISE JOSEFSEN HERMANN 📍 JUAN GABRIEL ESTELLANO SCHULZE

Liseth stretches. Her dad calls again. Its 7am. She crawls out of her bed. She opens the water tap in their kitchen. Not even a drop comes out. So, her mother have to take their motorbike to the river. Here she collects water.



Liseth is 9 years old. She lives in El Sena. The village is in Amazonas. It is almost always hot here. 35 degrees.

Liseth's dad drives her to school. On their way they stop for breakfast. Liseth is in 4th grade. Her school is only open from 8am till 12am, three days a week. That is because of Covid-19.



The name of Liseth's dad is Rufino. Her big brother Ricardiño is 11 years old. Her big sister Rashel is 12 years old. Liseth also had a little brother. He died in an accident a year ago. Liseth misses him.



Liseth eats lunch with her mother Damary when she gets home from school. Liseth likes when her mother tells her about her job. Damary teaches others on how to protect the forest and the animals.





Their family has a vegetable garden in the rainforest. They grow food bananas and manioc. It's a root crop.

Liseth loves the fruits from the rainforest. Her favorite is cacao. Liseth's uncle has a cacao tree in his garden. Liseth and her sister scratches chunks of the cacao fruit with a spoon. They also add milk. And some sugar. Somedays they get hot chocolate for dinner.

A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top, is looking up at a cacao tree. The tree has large green leaves and a thick, textured trunk. Two yellow cacao pods with dark spots are hanging from the trunk. A pink circular callout highlights the pods. The background shows more greenery and a wooden structure.

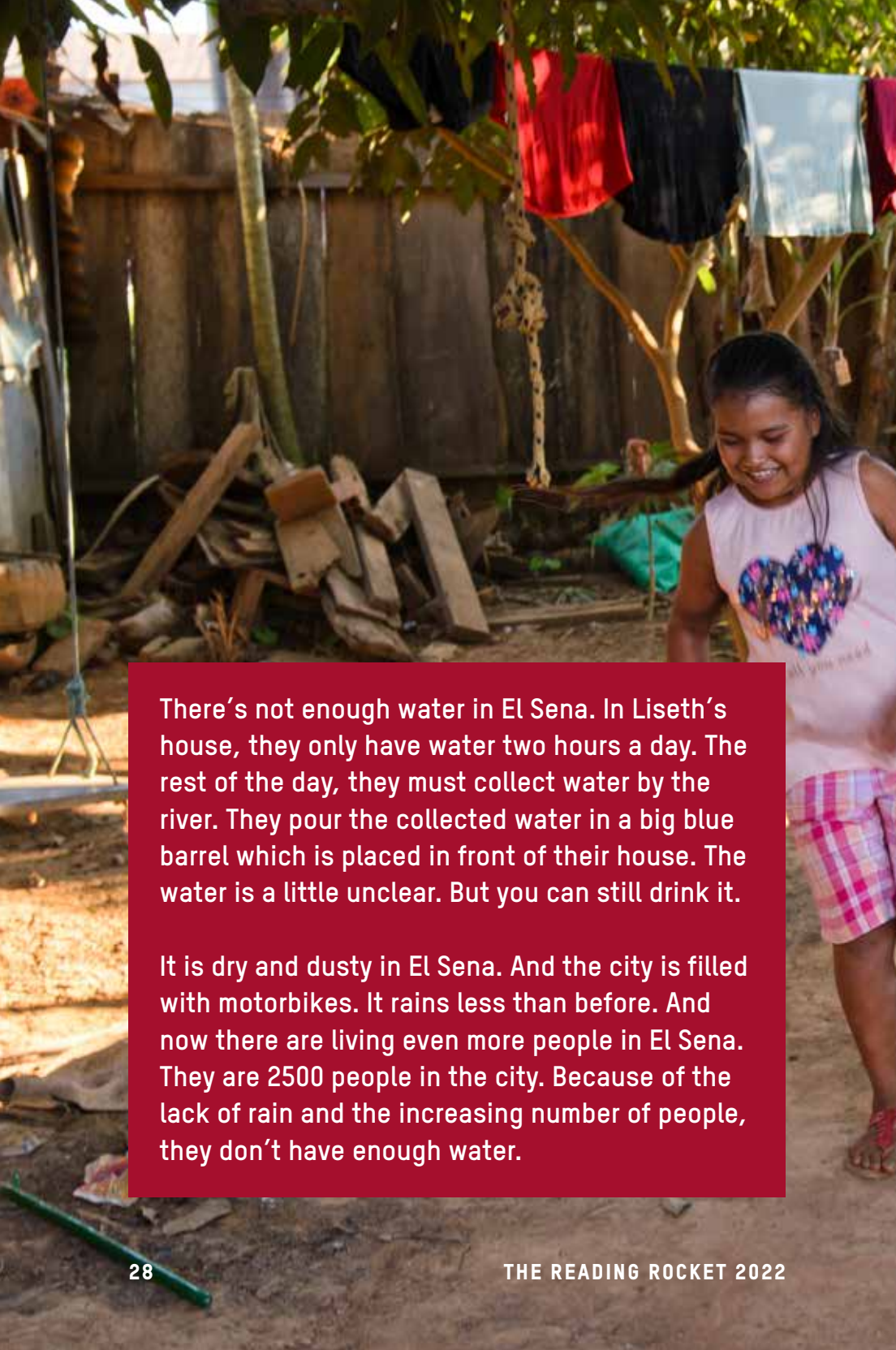
The cacao
fruit grows
directly on the
trunk of
the tree.





Jurikan is Liseth's best friend. Liseth calls her Juri. They ride bike together, as often as they can. Liseth borrows Juris bike. Liseth doesn't have her own bike.

Liseth's mother often asks Liseth to buy something from the store. When she asks, Liseth always drive an extra lap around the block. Riding the bike is her favorite thing to do.



There's not enough water in El Sena. In Liseth's house, they only have water two hours a day. The rest of the day, they must collect water by the river. They pour the collected water in a big blue barrel which is placed in front of their house. The water is a little unclear. But you can still drink it.

It is dry and dusty in El Sena. And the city is filled with motorbikes. It rains less than before. And now there are living even more people in El Sena. They are 2500 people in the city. Because of the lack of rain and the increasing number of people, they don't have enough water.





Some days, Liseth goes with her mother to work. They drive on her mother's motorbike.

Liseth loves to be in the rainforest. "You should not cut down the trees. The air comes from the trees. And the animals also live in the forest. And we use the plants for medicine." Liseth says. The rainforest is their pharmacy.

Liseth dream is to have the same job as her mother. She wants to give out different seeds to people. She has seen her mother do the same. "Then everyone can get vegetables and medicine."



HELEVERDENISKOLE.DK/LIETH





**JORGE
LUIS**

JORGE LUIS LOVES PIRANHAS

☰ LISE JOSEFSEN HERMANN **📍 JUAN GABRIEL ESTELLANO SCHULZE**

Jorge Luis and his dad are sitting in a little canoe. It's completely quiet. They are looking on the river's green water. Then something pulls in their fishing line. Now it's all about dragging the fish in at the exact right moment. Quick and secure.



Jorge Luis loves to fish. He likes piranhas the most. They taste good. But you have to watch out, when you are swimming in the river. The piranhas have big and sharp teeth. They can bite you in the leg or the hand, so you will get a wound. You must hold tight in both the line and the canoe if the fish is big and strong. Otherwise, you risk falling in the water when the fish pulls. Luckily Jorge Luis has never been dragged into the water. But he knows others who have been.

They use larvae as bait. It increases their chance to catch the big fish. Fish like pacú, paiche and surubi. The fish live in the Amazonas rivers. But there aren't as many fish as there used to be when Jorge Luis's father was a kid. And the fish are smaller now.

Jorge Luis is 11 years old. He lives in Amazonas with his mother, father and little brother, he is 9 years old. They live in the village Buen Destino. Buen Destino means "good fate".



Jorge Luis lives with his mother Angela, father Walter and little brother Walter Dilo. His 3 older siblings have left home.

Here the Cavineño-people rule

Jorge Luis is part of the Cavineño. The Cavineños are indigenous, they are around 2000 people. They have their own language. Jorge Luis can only say a few sentences in Cavineño. His mother and father can speak the language better. Normally they speak Spanish.

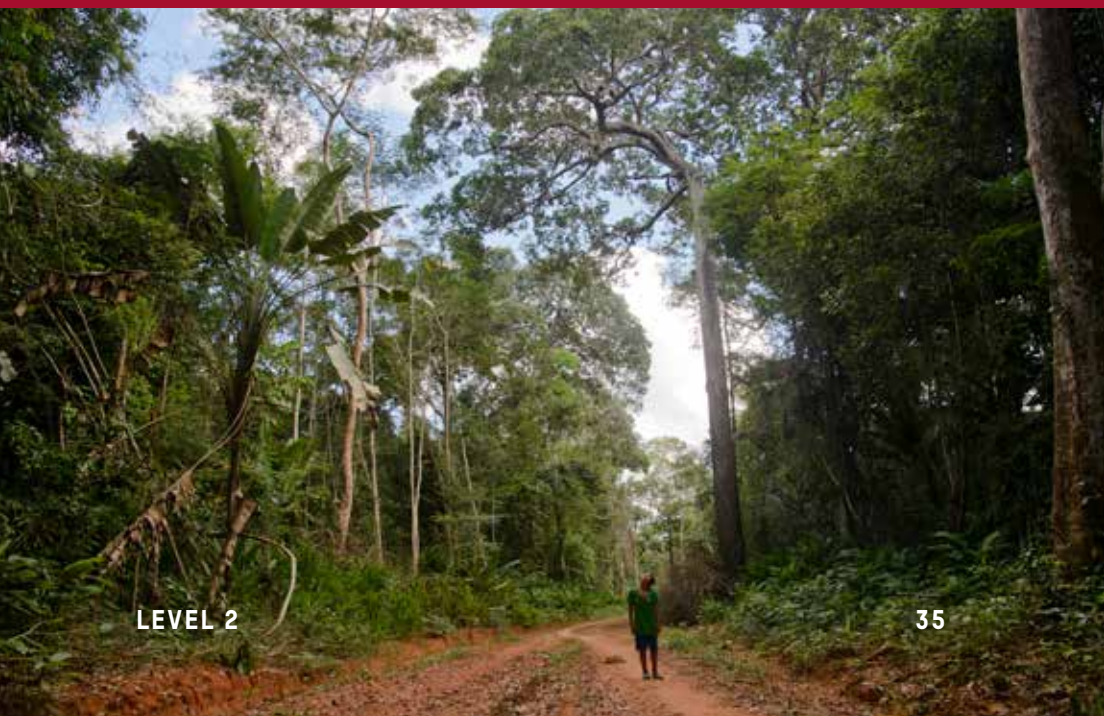
When Jorge Luis was younger, they lived deeper in the rainforest in a really tiny village. They were only 7 families. His father often talks about it. There was more peace and quiet and more trees and animals.

Now they live in Buen Destino. There is a narrow river running through the village. You sail across it with a wooden canoe when you want to visit other towns. There are no cars. Mostly people just walk. But there are a few motorbikes. The cows walk freely and graze around the school.

The village is located in the Cavineño-peoples area. Here they are in charge. They decide which trees they want to cut down. And which trees is forbidden to chop down. But sometimes there come people from the outside. They chop down the trees and hunt their animals. Without the permission of the Cavineño-people. Jorge Luis farther gets mad when they do that. It's like stealing. Because it's the Cavineño-people that owns the area. But it is a big area. So, it's hard to monitor the area for outsiders.

The Cavineño-people lives is closely connected to the nature. And the mountains, rivers and forest. The many wild animals are also important. Here lives wild boars, armadillos, tapirs, and monkeys. Sometimes Jorge Luis' father goes deep into the rainforest. But the wild animals get mad if you are too loud. Then the snakes scare you away, because the animals want the forest in quiet and peace, tells his farther.

Amazonas is the world's biggest rainforest. Rubber trees and banana palms grows freely. One of the highest trees is the Brazil nut tree.





Jorge Luis pumps water from the well close to their house every morning and afternoon.

No water and electric power

In the family's house there are no water nor power. Jorge Luis collects water from a well twice a day. Some days his little brother helps. It's funnier when he helps. They also like to fish together.

It's hot in Buen Destino. There are a lot of mosquitos. Especially when the sun rises and go down. Jorge Luis and Walter Dilo often get tired and lazy in the afternoon. They can hardly do anything.

Jorge Luis likes to visit his neighbor. His neighbor has a power generator and a television. Here all the kids from the village watch television. The power generator is a motor that converts gasoline into electric power. It's expensive to buy gasoline. Only a few people in Buen Destino own a power generator.

A little school

The village school does not have any electric power. The school is located right next to Jorge Luis' house. He is in 6th grade. It is a special school. They do more mathematics than a usual school. His teacher often tells them, that it's important to finish school. Jorge Luis knows several kids that's not in school. They dropped out.



Jorge Luis likes mathematics the most. When he gets older, he wants to become an accountant. He knows that he then can work just with numbers. There isn't a high school in Buen Destino. If you want an education, you will have to move to a big city like the city Riberalta. Jorge Luis would like to do that.

Brazil nuts and the kitchen garden

Just outside Jorge Luis' house there is a big tree full of grapefruits. They taste so good. His mother uses them to make delicious juice. Deep inside the rainforest the family owns a vegetable garden. It's a 30-minute walk from their house. In their garden they grow corn, cooking bananas, manioc-root and rice.



The whole family likes the fresh grapefruits. It's nice in the shadow when it's very hot in the afternoon.



The fruit from the Brazil nut tree is the size of a coconut. Behind its shell it contains edible seeds which we call Brazil nuts.

Jorge Luis and his parents harvest Brazil nuts. They grow on wild trees in the rainforest. Sometimes they have to walk for three hours to find trees with Brazil nuts. They have to be careful not to get a nut in the head. They are heavy and fall a long way down from the high trees. It's dangerous to get hit by a Brazil nut. They are so heavy that you can die.

The Brazil nuts are ripe from December till February. Jorge Luis has vacation when the nuts are ripe. He helps with the harvest.

They are missing rain

There are two seasons in this area, the rainy season, and the dry season. Every year there is floods. But in the recent years there have been less rain. And it's also gotten hotter. Therefore, there grows less Brazil nuts than before. This year the family has harvested half as many Brazil nuts as before. So, they earn less money when they sell the fewer Brazil nuts.

There are a lot of forest fires in Amazonas. It hurts both the trees, animals, and rivers. The fish eats the fruit that drops from the trees. So, there isn't enough food for the fish when the trees burn down. So now there are fewer and smaller fish in the rivers. Jorge Luis hopes that he can catch a piranha next year.

He knows it's important to protect the rainforest. "The trees are good for us. They make the air that we breath." Him and his family wants to protect the nature their family has lived off in many generations.



HELEVERDENISKOLE.DK/JORGE-LUIS





**DELIA AND
CARLOS**

PEÑA
DE
HORES
CDI-60-447

WHEN YOU CAN'T TRUST THE WEATHER

 LISE JOSEFSEN HERMANN  JUAN GABRIEL ESTELLANO SCHULZE

Delia and Carlos are standing by a football field. They can see far into the horizon. They can see mountains with snow. They can see the mountain Ilimani in the southeast. North they can see the mountain Huayna Potosí. The two siblings live in El Alto. The city is in the high plains of Bolivia. They are four kilometers above the sea level, but the area is still quite flat. The air is thin and feels dry in the lungs. Carlos and Delia are used to it because they live here. But guests often lose their breath and become dizzy. The sky is clear and light blue. The sun is sharp and burns the skin.

Delia is 15 years old, and Carlos is 12. They have seven siblings. They always have someone to play with. Or argue and fight with. There is always something going on in their little house in the outskirts of El Alto. The family almost lives on the countryside. Delia and Carlos live with their mother and father, Roxana and Genaro. Delia shares her room with her older sister. And Carlos shares his with his brothers.



The frost destroys the potato harvest

Delia and Carlos's mother and father comes from the countryside. They still have a piece of land there. Sometimes they go there to harvest potatoes and quinoa. Sometimes the parents are gone for a whole month. While they are away the 9 siblings are home alone, so they have to make their own food and get through the everyday. When they are gone, Carlos misses his mother and father. "I always feel more alone when they are not here. Despite having all my siblings here."

It's not easy with the harvest. The seasons don't change as much as they used to. You never know when it will rain again or when the frost will come. In Bolivia, it's winter in June, July and August. But last year the frost already came in February. It destroyed all the potatoes and quinoa, says Genaro. Now they have to buy potatoes instead of eating their own. Their parents have to work even harder to have enough money to buy food.



In the high plains for Bolivia, they make frost dried potatoes. It extends their durability. The frost dried potatoes are called chuños. The family often eat potatoes, vegetables and eggs for lunch.



Carlos plays with Chica and her puppies. He loves to draw cars and trucks.



Carlos and the dogs

Carlos is in 7th grade. He wants to become an engineer. Then he can build big bridges and roads. He would also like to become a priest. He likes going to church and sing.

Carlos likes to play football with his siblings. It's good that they are so many.

Carlos always rushes to his dog Chica when he gets home from school. Chica is one of the family's dogs. Chica has just given birth to four puppies. Carlos can't get enough of them. He keeps picking them up. He makes sure, that all the puppies get milk from their mother. Carlos think they are so cute. He helps protect all the dogs.



Delia helps making the food and washing the dishes. She also has time to be with her siblings.



Delia follows the news

Delia reads the bible every morning before going to school. It makes her happy. The whole family are very religious. There are cites from the bible on the walls in their house. The family goes to church every Thursday evening and Sunday morning. Delia likes the peace in the church

Delia is in 9th grade. It takes her 15 minutes to get to school. There are 180 students at her school. It's a new school, that were build three years ago. Before it was built, they went to another school. Delia wants to become a dentist. She likes to help people. She dreams to visit another country. Once she had a pen pal from Canada. She liked to read the letters about the big cold country.

When Delia gets home from school, she likes to watch the news with her big sister. Sometimes she writes down what they are saying. Today the news host says that a lot of women are getting assaulted. It's a problem in Bolivia. Some men treat women as if they were worth less. It's called machismo-culture.

Afterwards the news host tells about the earlier president. Evo Morales was the world's first president that belonged to the indigenous people. He was Aymara. Delia writes it down.

The Aymara people

Delia and Carlos are also Aymara. There are two million people in Bolivia that speak the Aymara language. Their whole family speaks the Aymara language. Delia knows the Aymara-peoples dances, which they dance at the big carnival each year. You can recognize the Aymara-women on their special skirts and blouses.

Delia, Carlos and their brother Freddy often plays UNO in the afternoon





Now the river is so dry that you can walk where the water used to flow.

Their mother talks about the old Aymara rituals. They used to sacrifice a sheep and pour the blood on the ground. That was a way to thank Mother Earth for a good harvest. If you were sick you went to the medicine man. He reads coca leaves. It made him able to tell you what you should do.

The dry river

Delia and Carlos can remember when there used to be a river in El Alto. They used to catch fish in the river, which the family ate. Now the river is almost all dried out. The river is called Rio Seco. The dry river. There are no fish in the river anymore.

It's hard for their parent to find work. Genaro works in a little company that creates building materials. They use the clean water from the river to wash sand. The sand is mixed with cement. They pour the dirty water back into the river. Genaro knows it's bad for the river and the nature, but he needs to have a job. Especially now that the potato harvest is failing.

Delia and Carlos don't know what the future will bring. But they hope that the water will return to the river and that the next harvest will be better.



**HELEVERDENISKOLE.DK/
DELIA-OG-CARLOS**



A portrait of a young boy with dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a grey t-shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a brick wall. A red circular graphic is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the boy's name in white text.

**LUIS
ALFREDO**

A CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RAINFOREST

 LISE JOSEFSEN HERMANN  JUAN GABRIEL ESTELLANO SCHULZE

Amazonas is the world's biggest tropical rainforest. Rubber trees and palms stand close and reaches for the sky. The river meanders and the moist air is filled with insects. Both jaguars, crocodiles and birds hunt deep in the forest.

But there are also many small villages and bigger cities in Amazonas. One of the cities are Riberalta. Here there live around 100.000 people. The city is hot and filled with motorbikes. If you want to go with a taxi, it's a motorbike. People use their horn, and the traffic is tight. Motorbikes drives in and out between each other. Along the road there are many stands and vendors.

Here you can buy cloth, fruit, tools, lunch – all that you need. Luis Alfredo is 11 years old. He lives in the outskirts of Riberalta with his mother, father, little sister and two older brothers.



Reading is the best

A rooster crows loudly. Luis Alfredo is already awake. He can hear all the birds singing in the trees and the vegetable garden behind the family's house. He always wakes up by himself at 7am. He gets dressed, drinks a cup of coffee and eats a piece of bread.

After that he goes to school. It takes 5 minutes to get there by the red gravel road. He likes reading the most. He loves histories. Histories teaches you about the world. About nature and environment.

At 12am the bell rings, Luis Alfredo's school day is over. He walks home and eats lunch. His favorite dish is masaco. It's a dish made of food bananas and cheese. It gets fried. Afterwards you mash it. Luis Alfredo also gets to drink a coke if he is lucky.

Luis Alfredo is in 5th grade. Today's lectures are mathematics.





Luis Alfredo likes to draw when he runs his mother's store.

In the afternoon he lays in his bed, watching television. He likes scary movies and a series called Toretto. The rest of the time he plays on his mother's phone.

Today he wants to visit his big sister, she has moved from the family's home. But she still lives nearby. Luis Alfredo helps sitting her children. He likes to play with them.

Poverty is big in Riberalta

Luis Alfredo lives in a dangerous neighborhood. The houses are small and made of wood. Some of them have a thin roof. Many move to Riberalta from the small villages. They hope to find work there and send their children to school. But it's difficult to find work in the city.

Many adults and youths in Luis Alfredo's neighborhood drinks and do drugs. It happens that Luis Alfredo also gets drugs offered. But he says no, he doesn't want it. It's not true friends that offer you drugs, he says.

Luis Alfredo also knows children that steals. "If someone steals anything from you, like an apple or a pen It's better to let them keep it. They might steal because they need it." Luis Alfredo says.

This is the house of Luis Alfredo's sister. He can walk there when he wants to visit her.





Here you see Luis Alfredo with his mother Adela, father Jorge and little sister Rihana, who is 9 years old.

The family has lived in the neighborhood for three years. They used to live in another part of the city in a better house. But then his mother got ill. For a long time she couldn't work. She had to go to the hospital to get a surgery. You have to pay to go to the hospital. Luis Alfredo had to drop out of school and work with his father. They worked in other people's farming fields. Therefore, Luis Alfredo have taken 3rd grade twice. Luis Alfredo's mother and father had to harvest Brazil nuts. So, they could afford his mother's surgery.

Luis Alfredo was very sad. He feared that his mother would die. "Losing you mother is like losing your whole family, you will feel all alone" Luis Alfredo says. "I keep praying to god, that my mother will live till I get way older."

Luis Alfredo family doesn't have a lot of money, but he isn't ashamed of that. There are many people with less money, he says. For example, there are some that have to find food in the garbage bins.



There are challenges in life

Luis Alfredo likes to hang out with his friends. They bike around in the city. He used to have his own bike. But the family had to sell it because they needed the money.

Luis Alfredo also like to be by himself. He draws houses, churches and plants. He also reads a lot of poems. His favorite poem is about the hummingbird. It starts with “the hummingbird has arrived. It leaves a gasp in the flowers...” It’s always nice and quiet when he draws or reads.

Luis Alfredo dream is to become a designer because he loves drawing. He wants to get an education. “I hope I get one. But you never know what happens. Sometimes it’s hard because life is full of challenges.” Luis Alfredo says thoughtfully.



HELEVERDENISKOLE.DK/LUIS-ALFREDO



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