South America Book Report

I read the book Go And Come Back by Joan Abelove. This book is fiction, so the author made up all of the characters, the tribe and the events. It is about a girl named Alicia that lives with a Peruvian jungle tribe called Poincushmana. Two anthropologists from New York come to her village to study the ways they live. Alicia's tribe has a very different lifestyle than someone living in the United States would have. The whole tribe accepts the women as stingy, selfish and stubborn. An example of this is when they are unpacking all of their things, and they will not eat the food or use the beads they already have. The villagers are appalled at this. If you have something, then use it! You shouldn't just leave it sit around. There were a lot of cultural differences and misunderstandings in this book between the visitors and the villagers, and Alicia was the only one that really made an effort to help the women adjust to their village. She, unlike all the others, was kind and gave advice about what they could do to “fit in” better. The women really appreciated Alicia’s kindness, and in return they spent time with her and gave her gifts.

Recommendation

I really enjoyed the book Go And Come Back. It was very interesting to learn about what life is like in South America, and how they deal with their daily challenges. One of the most interesting parts was when one of the anthropologists was very sick, and the medicine man cured her. He did this by sucking the “bad spirits” out of her body and into his. After he did this ritual, he threw up the sickness and the woman was cured. I thought that this was very unusual but interesting. My absolute favorite part of this book was when the two anthropologists first came to the village. The villagers had funny reactions and they asked the women “silly” questions. But to them, the questions were completely normal. During this part, Alicia was the only was that really didn’t make a fuss about the new visitors. She was curious, but she didn’t show it one bit.

I would recommend this book to any teenage girl. It is really interesting to read what Alicia’s world is like from her perspective. Alicia’s family lives extremely different then how we would, here in America. Go And Come Back is for anyone that likes books that explain a lot about culture and lifestyle of different people. If you don’t like learning about these things, then this isn’t the book for you. This novel is a fast read that gives you a lot of information. I didn’t find any parts very confusing, except for when a lot of names were mentioned. It was hard to keep track of it all. This is one of my new favorite books. I hope you enjoy it, too! ☺