

Rowan to the Rescue

“A Message to Garcia” for kids



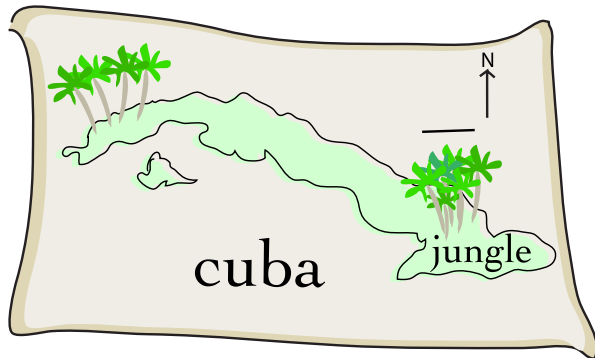
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The General stared down at the map stretched out on his desk. Sweat dripped down his neck. Mosquitoes buzzed in his ears. The General was very worried.

“Where is Garcia?” he thought.

The General had sent Garcia out into the deep, dark jungle to track down and spy on

the enemy’s camp. Garcia was supposed to send word to the General once he found them. But weeks and weeks had gone by with nothing from Garcia.

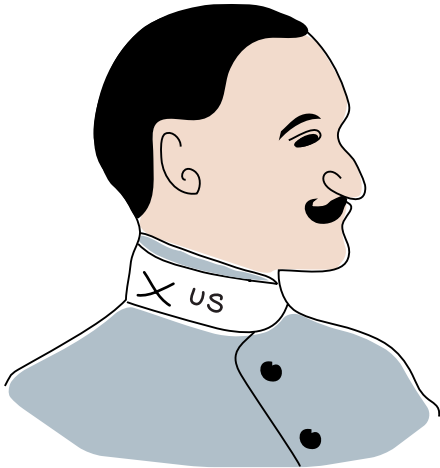
How could the General and his men defeat the enemy without knowing where they were? And what if something happened to Garcia?

In times like this, there was only one man the General could turn to: Rowan.

Rowan lived alone in a small cabin in a small clearing by a small stream deep in the jungle. He had built his cabin with his own two hands and had even trained the monkeys that lived near him to help with his daily chores! As you can see, Rowan was a man of many talents.



Just as the General turned to ask a soldier to fetch Rowan from his small cabin in the jungle, Rowan himself marched straight into the General’s tent.



“I heard about Garcia. I came to see if I could help.”

The General breathed a sigh of relief. Finally, there was hope.

The General held up an envelope. Inside was a top-secret message meant for Garcia’s eyes only.

There were two people in the world the General would trust with that envelope: Garcia and Rowan. The General began to explain how important it was to find Garcia and that no one knew where he was. Rowan held up his hand.

“I’ll find him,” said Rowan.

Rowan didn’t ask for hints about where Garcia was.

He didn’t complain about how hard the journey would be.

And he didn’t ask why he was the one who had to do it when the General had a whole army of soldiers.

He just took the letter from the General’s hand, carefully tucked it into the pocket over his heart, and took off into the jungle.



Rowan conquered danger at every turn...

He out-climbed prowling (and hungry!) jungle cats. He crept past sneaky and slithering snakes. He didn’t have any ropes, so he built some out of tree vines and soared over lake after lake of deep, murky quicksand.

There was no time to sleep, eat, or even ask for directions. Rowan had to keep moving through the steamy jungle and get the message to Garcia.

Four days after leaving the General's tent, a sweaty and starving Rowan marched out of the jungle and into Garcia's camp.

He placed the secret message straight into Garcia's hands. "The General sent me. This is for you," he said.



Garcia looked at the strange, quiet man and thanked him. Rowan nodded, turned around and walked back into the jungle, back to his small cabin in the small clearing by the small stream, back to his daily chores...but always ready to drop everything should the General ever need him again.

After all, that's what mattered most to Rowan: being the first person everyone turned to when they needed to get the job done.



Discussion questions

1. Why was the General happy to see Rowan walk into his tent?
2. What happened in the story that helps you understand why the General trusted Rowan so much?
3. What could you do to be more like Rowan in your life?

Lessons learned from Rowan:

1. If you don't succeed right away, keep trying different things until you reach your goal.
2. Always be ready to help when you're needed.
3. It's nice when people feel like they can count on you.