

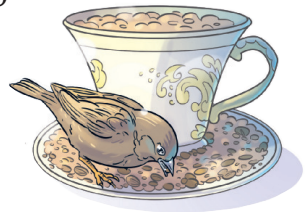


ARE WE EVEN GOING?



A **wind** blew away the clouds that had covered Whale Island in a light blanket of **snow** that morning. A little sparrow left its perch on a branch and **flew** toward a window on the second floor of Mouseford Academy.

From inside her room, Paulina saw the little bird pecking at the **seeds** she'd placed out on the window ledge. She smiled, then turned back to her room, where the **THEA SISTERS** had gathered to spend the cold winter afternoon.



“Sisters, when we leave for



ARE WE EVEN GOING?

our **Malaysian adventure**,” Colette was squeaking, “I **promise** to take only a backpack! Mouse’s honor!”

Nicky looked down at the mug of tea she was holding between her paws and muttered, “We still don’t know **if we will actually be able to go . . .**”

Paulina **SQUEEZED** her roommate’s paw.

“I know you’ve dreamed about taking this





exciting trip for a long time,” she squeaked. “I’m sure that before long, we’ll all be packing our **BAGS** with smiles on our snouts!”

The invitation to go to Malaysia had come a few weeks earlier from two Malaysian friends of the Thea Sisters, **Latifah** and **Ramlee**. They were famous on the Internet for their blog, **Two Friends and a Suitcase**, where they wrote about their travels around the world.





The Thea Sisters had emailed back as **FAST** as the mouse ran up the clock.



They'd never been to Malaysia, and they could go during their **Vacation!** On their last video call, their blogger friends said: "Focus on

your exams for now. When you're all done, we'll send you **TRAVEL** details!"

But the Thea Sisters had finished all their exams and still hadn't heard a squeak from **Latifah** and **Ramlee**.

"Sisters, I have an idea!" Pamela squeaked, trying to get the mouselets back into a good mood. "While we wait to hear from our **friends**, we could still take a little walk through the **JUNGLE!**"



She held up a
F L Y E R from
the Whale Island
movie theater.

“**MY LIFE IN THE
JUNGLE,**” Violet read
aloud from the flyer.
“What’s that?”

Pam smiled. “It’s about
an explorer who spends ten years in
the rainforest studying the **animals**
that live there. How about it? It might be a
fun way to get in the jungle mood!”

They all loved Pam’s idea. Soon, the Thea
Sisters sat in the **DARKNESS** of the
movie theater, watching the film. Halfway
through, while the explorer on the **SCREEN**
was watching a group of flying squirrels,
Paulina felt her bag **vibrate**.

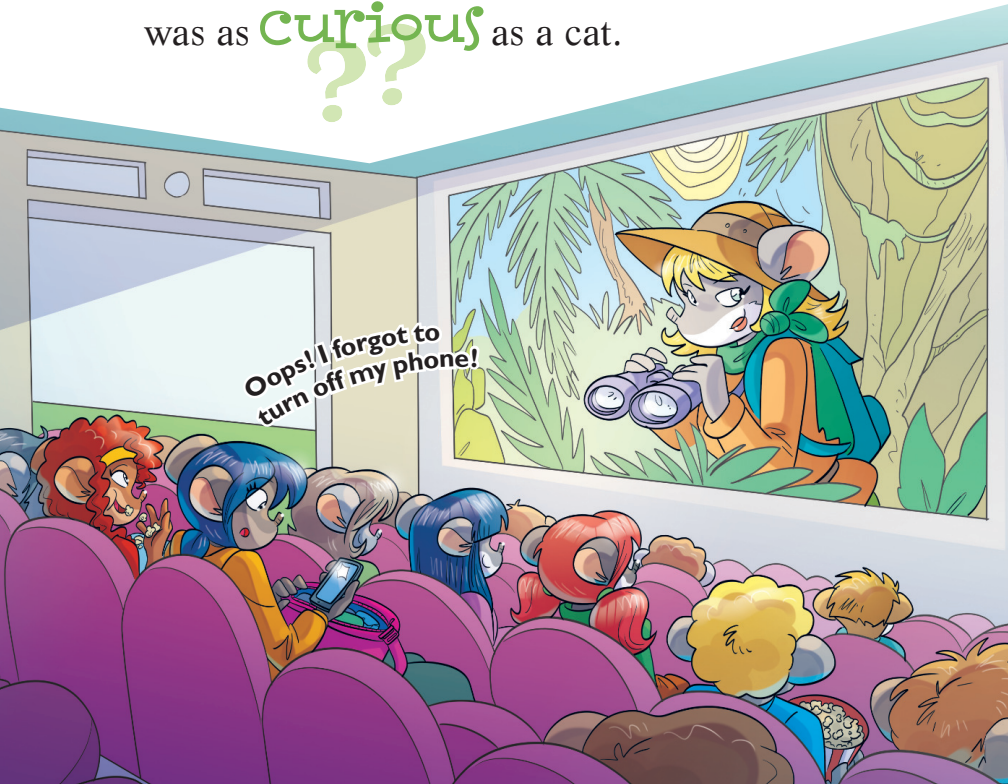




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Oops! I think I forgot to turn off my MousePhone for the movie! she thought. *Good thing the **sound** is off!*

Paulina turned her attention back to the film but was distracted by a thought: Did her phone vibrate because an important **email** arrived? Normally, she would never check her phone while at the movies, but today, she was as **curious** as a cat.



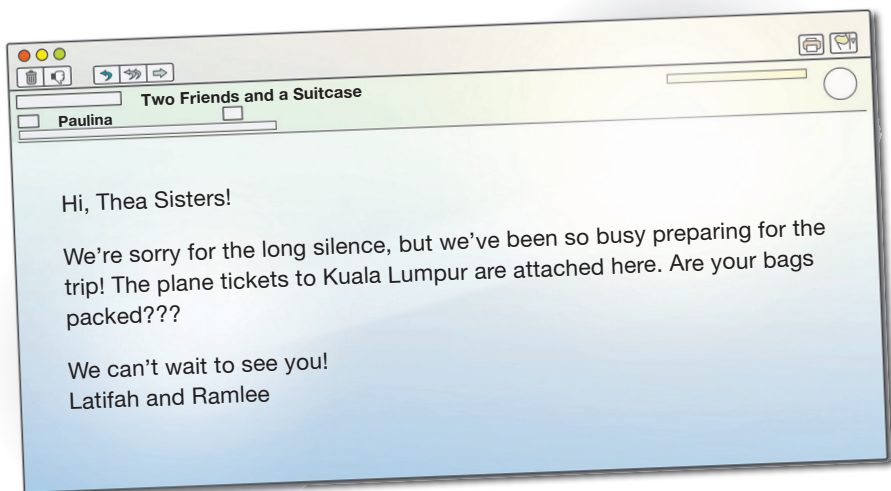


She quietly pulled out her **phone** and looked at the screen. Latifah and Ramlee had sent her an email! Paulina opened it and broke into a big **smile**.

“Mouselets, take a look!” she whispered, passing the phone to her friends. They each read the email, eyes **SHINING** with happiness.

The **friends** didn’t need to discuss it — they all got up and **silently** scurried out of the theater.

“What happened?” asked the mouse at the





ticket booth when he saw them *hurrying* through the exit. “Didn’t you like the movie?”

“Oh, it was *fabumouse!*” Paulina said, smiling. “We’ll finish seeing it another time. Right now, a real **JUNGLE** adventure is waiting for us!”