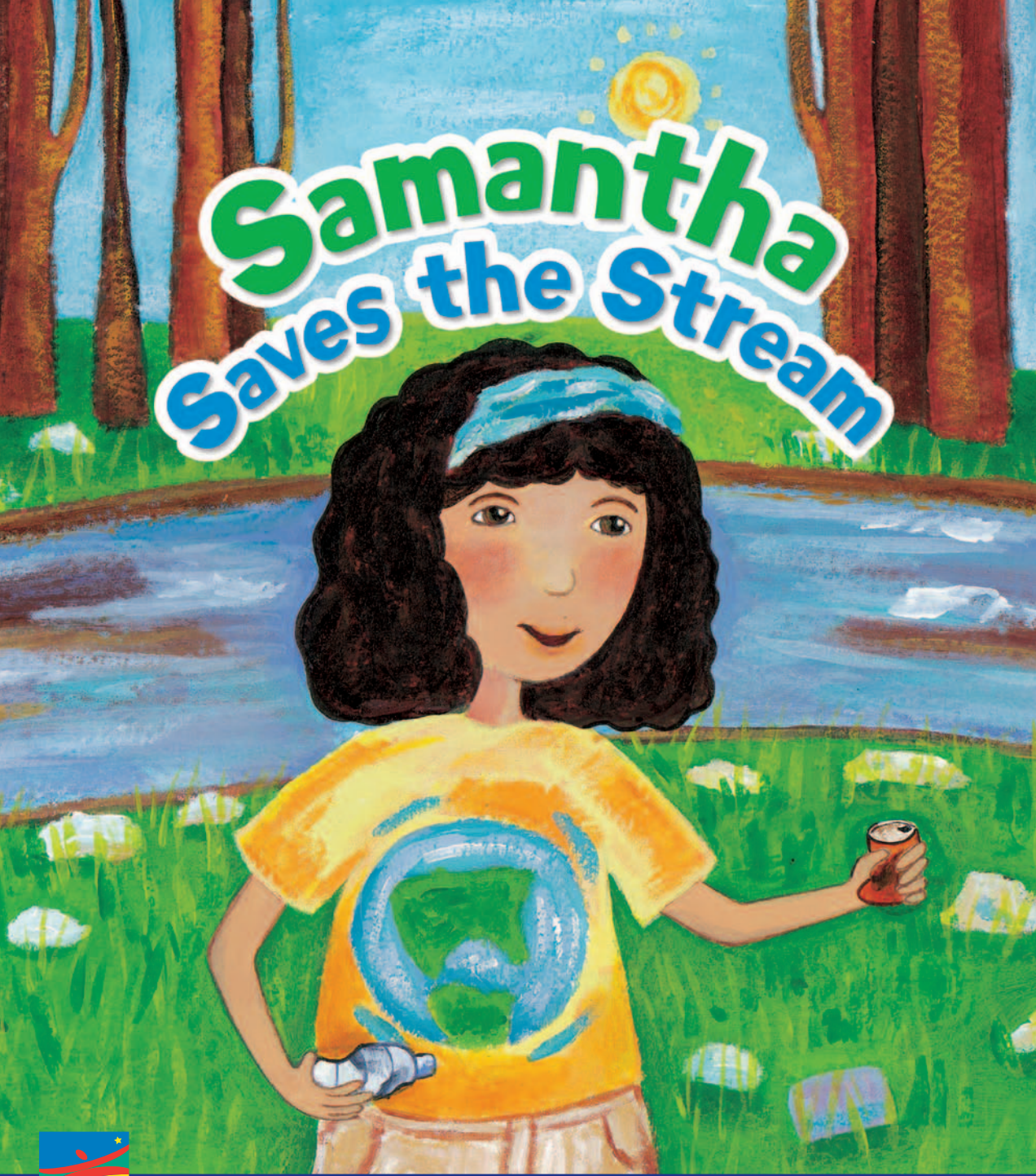


by John Manos • illustrated by Kim Gatto

Benchmark
EDUCATION

Level 28 M Word Count:790*

Summary

Earth Day takes on new meaning for Samantha when she has to clean up her favorite stream.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading
- Stop, think, and write

Comprehension
- Evaluate author's purpose

Phonics
- -ed ending

Word Study
- Adjectives

Fluency
- Read ellipses

Fiction Genre
- Mystery

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

How does Samantha save the stream?



For Review Only

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Samantha Saves the Stream

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Table of Contents

Hooray for Earth Day! 4

The Stream Is in Trouble! 8

Finding Clues. 12

Samantha Saves the Day 16

For Review Only

Meet the Characters



Samantha



The Lady

For Review Only

Neighbors



The Boy



For Review

Hooray for Earth Day!

Samantha checked her calendar. Today was April 22! Today was Earth Day. Samantha thought Earth Day was one of the best days of the year.

Samantha loved nature. Samantha wanted to help the environment when she grew up. She also loved to solve mysteries. Samantha wanted to be a detective when she grew up, too. Samantha did not know which job to choose.



For Review Only

But on Earth Day, Samantha knew just what to do. She was going to have a picnic at her favorite place. The place was near a little stream. Samantha was excited to see her special friends at her favorite place.



For Review Only

Samantha could almost hear her friends calling her now.

"Tweet," sang the birds.

"Ribbit," said the frogs.

Samantha's special friends were animals.
"I am on my way!" she laughed.



For Review Only

Samantha skipped all the way to the stream. Samantha felt the warm sun on her face. Fluffy clouds moved slowly across the bright blue sky.

"Today will be the best Earth Day ever!" she thought.

Samantha reached the stream. Samantha almost dropped her picnic basket when she saw . . . something was not right!



For Review Only

The Stream Is in Trouble!

The crows did not sound right to Samantha. The crows should have said, "Caw, caw." Instead they said, "Cough, cough!"

The red maple tree did not look right to Samantha. The tree's branches should have reached for the sky. The tree's branches hung low. The leaves were brown and dry.



For Review Only

Samantha looked down into the stream. The fish were not acting right. The fish were not zipping around. They moved slowly.

"What is going on?" Samantha wondered.



For Review Only