

Comprehension

Genre

Historical Fiction is set in a real time and place in the past. It may include real people and incidents that actually happened along with fictional characters and events.



Story Structure

Character, Setting, Plot

As you read, use your Character, Setting, Plot Chart.

| Character | Setting | Plot |
|-----------|---------|------|
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Read to Find Out

Why did Hiram Bingham embark on such a risky adventure?

A gold starburst badge with a blue ribbon at the bottom, containing the text "Award Winning Author and Illustrator".

Award Winning
Author
and
Illustrator

Lost City

The Discovery of Machu Picchu

written and illustrated
by Ted Lewin

In his first journey to South America, Yale professor Hiram Bingham longed to explore the hidden lands that lay beyond the snowcapped peaks of the Andes. Legend had it that the lost city of the Inca, Vilcapampa, lay there. Bingham was determined to discover it. So in 1910 the Yale Peruvian Expedition was organized. Finally, in July 1911, Bingham and his fellow adventurers arrived in Cusco, the first capital city of the Inca. What lay ahead for them was far from what they had expected. And more amazing. Our story begins high in the mountains of Peru



The boy looked out at the cloud-covered peaks all around him. Already his papa was working in the terraced fields. But last night he had dreamed of a tall stranger carrying a small black box. He could not get the dream out of his mind.

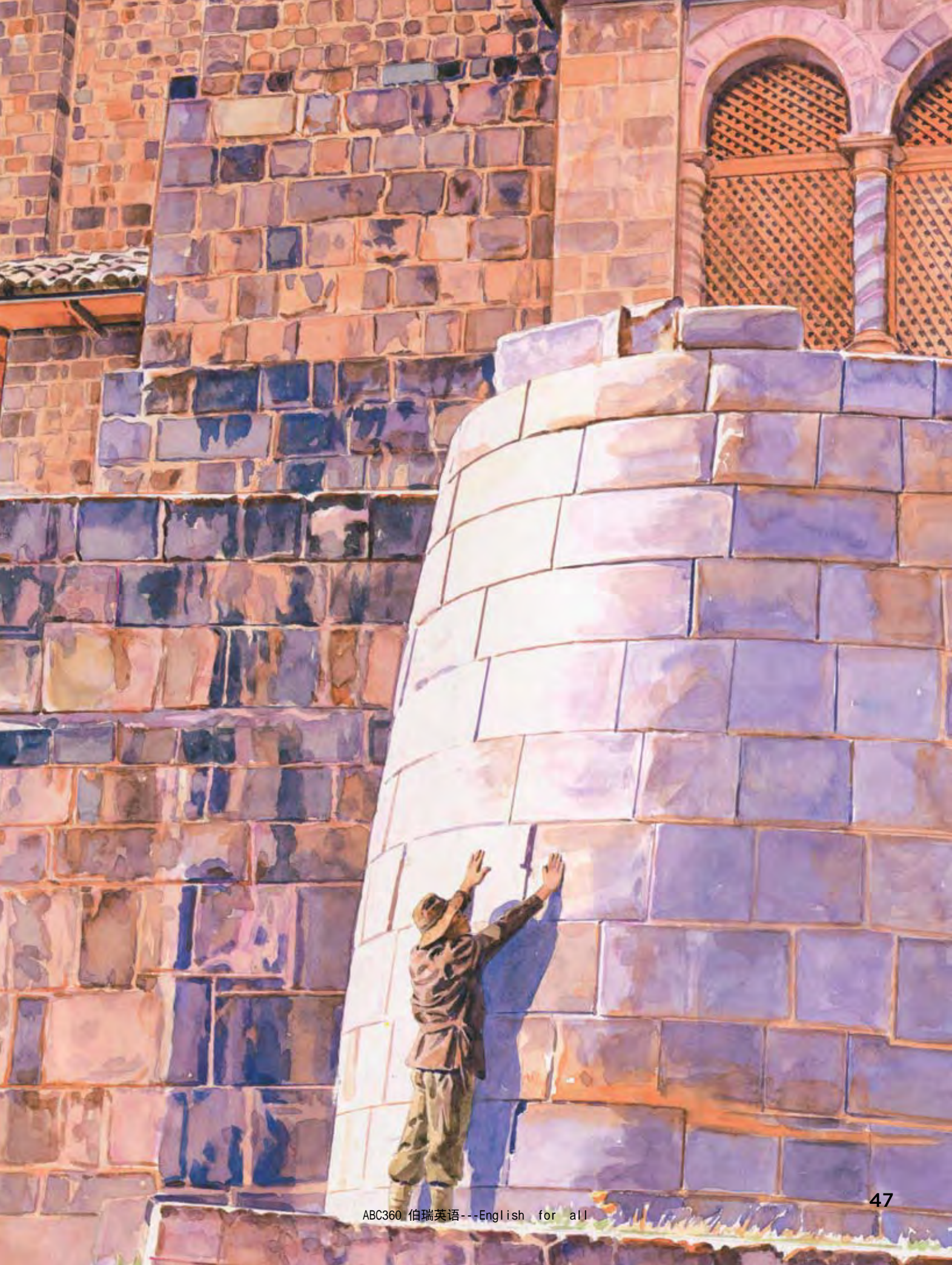
Suddenly, the clouds burned off and the mountains were bathed in glorious light. The dream **foretold** of something wonderful, he was sure.

Sixty miles south, in Cusco, Hiram Bingham gazed thoughtfully at the old Incan stone wall. He had come to Peru in search of Vilcapampa, the lost city of the Inca. But right here was the most beautiful stonework he had ever seen—huge stones cut so perfectly that not even a razor blade could be slipped between them.

The Inca had no iron tools to carve them, no wheel or draft animals to move them. The wall had **withstood** time and earthquakes. How had the Inca built them!

It was a mystery.

He walked through the cobbled streets of the old capital. The Spanish had come to this city, conquered the Inca, taken their gold, and built churches over their temples. Suddenly, he stopped. Before him was the famous Temple of the Sun. He placed his hands on the sun-warmed stones so beautifully carved, as if they had grown together.



Hidden in the mountains, the lost city would be built of stones like these. Would it hold gold and fabulous riches like the Spanish had found in Cusco?

More than ever he was determined to find that city.

The next day Bingham began his search. He would look for ruins—that might be the key.

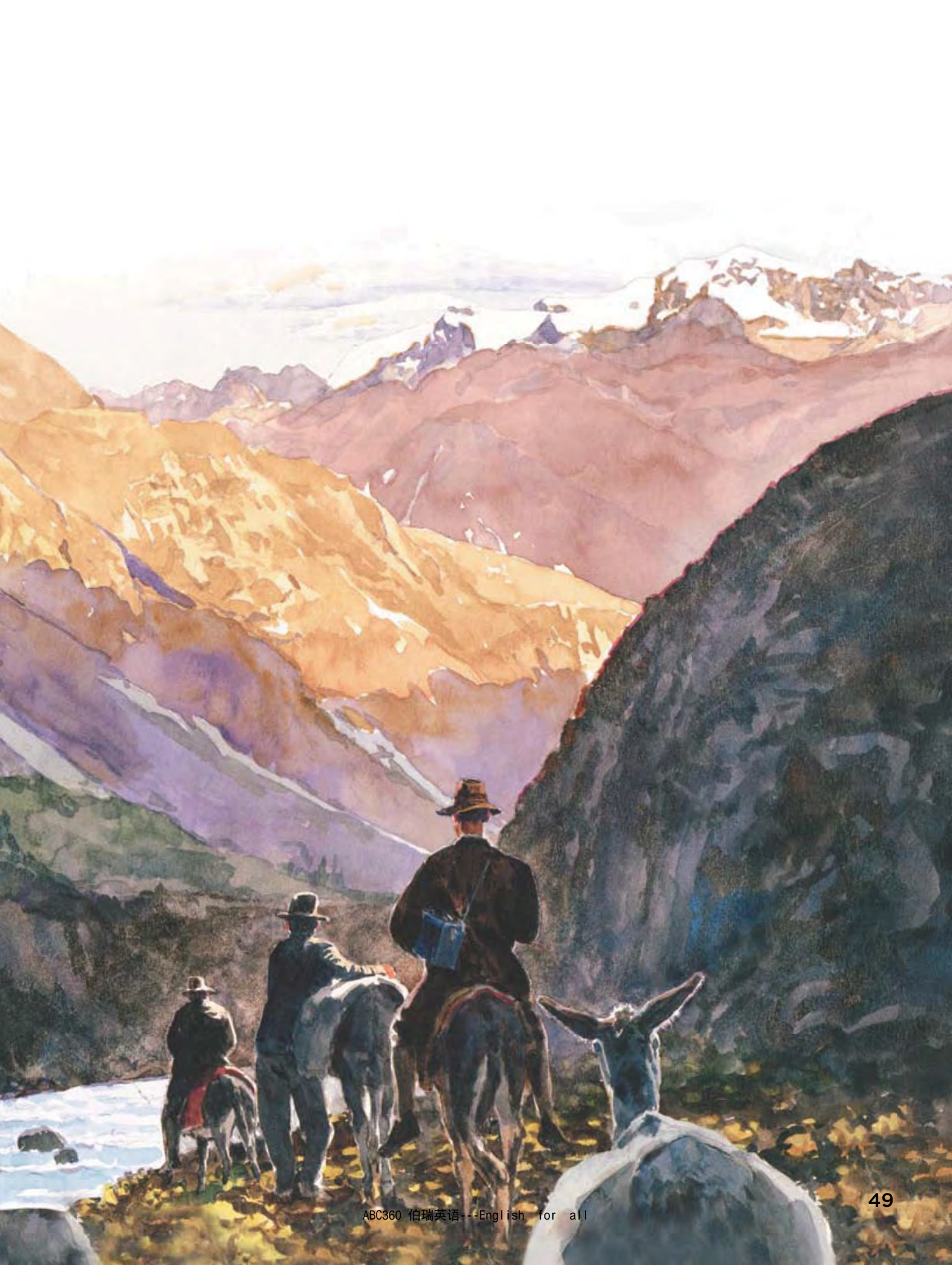
He and his party, accompanied by military **escort** Sergeant Carrasco, left by mule train for the sacred valley of the Urubamba River.

They came to the sleepy old village of Ollantaytambo, long ago an important city. Its ancient stone terraces stepped up into the clouds.

“Are there any ruins nearby?” Bingham asked. He went door to door. He sat for hours in the cantina. “Are there any ruins near here?” he asked anyone who came in. “Do you know of the lost city of Vilcapampa?” No one knew of it.

Traveling north, the adventurers came upon a **remote** and wild canyon. Granite cliffs rose thousands of feet above the roaring rapids of the Urubamba River. In the distance were snowcapped mountains over three miles high. Bingham’s determination to find the lost city grew with each turn of the increasingly wild trail.







Meanwhile, high on one of these granite ridges, the boy tried to help his papa on the terraces. But he couldn't shake the dream from his mind. Who was this stranger with the black box? When would he come? What was in the black box? Anxiously, he searched the mountains for a sign.

Far below in the valley, Bingham's party camped on a sandy beach alongside the thundering rapids of the Urubamba. Days had gone by. He was tired and discouraged. No one knew of any ruins.

But now the travelers aroused the curiosity of a local farmer named Arteaga.

"Are there ruins nearby?" Bingham asked when Arteaga ventured into camp.

This time, through the **interpreter**, the farmer said, "Yes. There are very good ruins on top of the mountain called Machu Picchu."

The farmer pointed straight up.

"Can you take us there?" Bingham asked.

"No," said Arteaga. "It is a very hard climb and there are many snakes." Bingham offered him coins. Arteaga nodded—he would show them the way.

Arteaga led them down the river trail. Suddenly, he plunged into the jungle. Bingham and the sergeant followed Arteaga through dense **undergrowth** down to the very edge of the river to a flimsy bridge made of slim logs. What was he getting himself into!

Sergeant Carrasco and Arteaga took off their shoes and crossed easily, gripping with their bare feet. Bingham was terrified—he crept across the bridge on hands and knees. One slip and he would be dashed to pieces in the roaring torrent below.



Setting and Plot

How does the dangerous setting contribute to the story's suspense?









They climbed the bank into dense jungle. Now the slopes were slippery and the heat terrible. Arteaga had warned them of the fer-de-lance, a very **venomous** snake. Bingham's eyes searched the jungle.

Up and up they climbed. The wide river was now but a silver thread, far below. Arteaga could think of nothing but the fer-de-lance; Sergeant Carrasco thought about his good, sturdy shoes; Bingham thought of nothing but the lost city. They cut their way through tangled thickets. Up and up they climbed.

Had an hour passed? Two? Three? Now they crept on all fours. They slipped and slid. In some places, they held on by their fingertips.

Finally, thirsty and exhausted, they broke through the jungle into sunlight. Above them stood a little Quechua boy beside a stone hut. What could he be doing at the top of this mountain?

"Ama llulla, ama quella, ama su'a" (Don't lie, don't be lazy, don't steal), the boy called out in the traditional Quechua greeting.

It was the tall stranger from his dream. Carrying the black box!

The boy's whole family crowded around to greet the exhausted travelers, then brought gourds of cool water and boiled sweet potatoes.

Bingham, still gasping for breath, asked, "Where are the ruins?"


The boy said, *"Amuy, amuy!"* (Come, come!)

Bingham and the sergeant left Arteaga behind and followed at the boy's urging. *"Amuy, amuy!"* he kept saying.

At first they saw only stone terraces like the ones they had seen at Ollantaytambo. They looked as if they had been recently cleared of jungle and the **vegetation** burned off in order to plant crops.

But there were no ruins. Just more jungle beyond. Bingham had climbed this mountain and found—no lost city.





“Amuy, amuy!” Still, the boy beckoned him into the jungle beyond. Weary and discouraged, Bingham followed. At first all he saw were bamboo thickets and more tangled vines. Then he looked closer. Through the vines, he saw—stones. Inca stones. Then walls, beautiful stone walls! They were covered with mosses. And trees.

“Jarway, jarway!” (See, see!) the boy whispered, pointing ahead to a curved stone wall. Bingham pushed his way to it and placed his hands on the fine granite stones. A sun temple. More beautiful even than the one in Cusco.

They came to a grand stone staircase. Where could this lead? What else was here?

“Jarway, jarway,” the boy called.

At the top of the staircase was a clearing. A small vegetable garden, and then . . . a temple built of enormous stones. Grander than any Bingham had ever seen. It stole his breath away.

Something was going on here, he could sense it. Something just beyond his eyes. What was it?

He followed the boy to another temple. As magnificent. This one had three windows. But now he looked across the countryside. He looked past the thickets, past the vines. He began to see the outlines of stone streets and stone cottages. He began to see the outlines of a city!

“Here, boy,” he said as he opened the black box that he had been carrying, extended the bellows and focused his camera.



Character and Plot

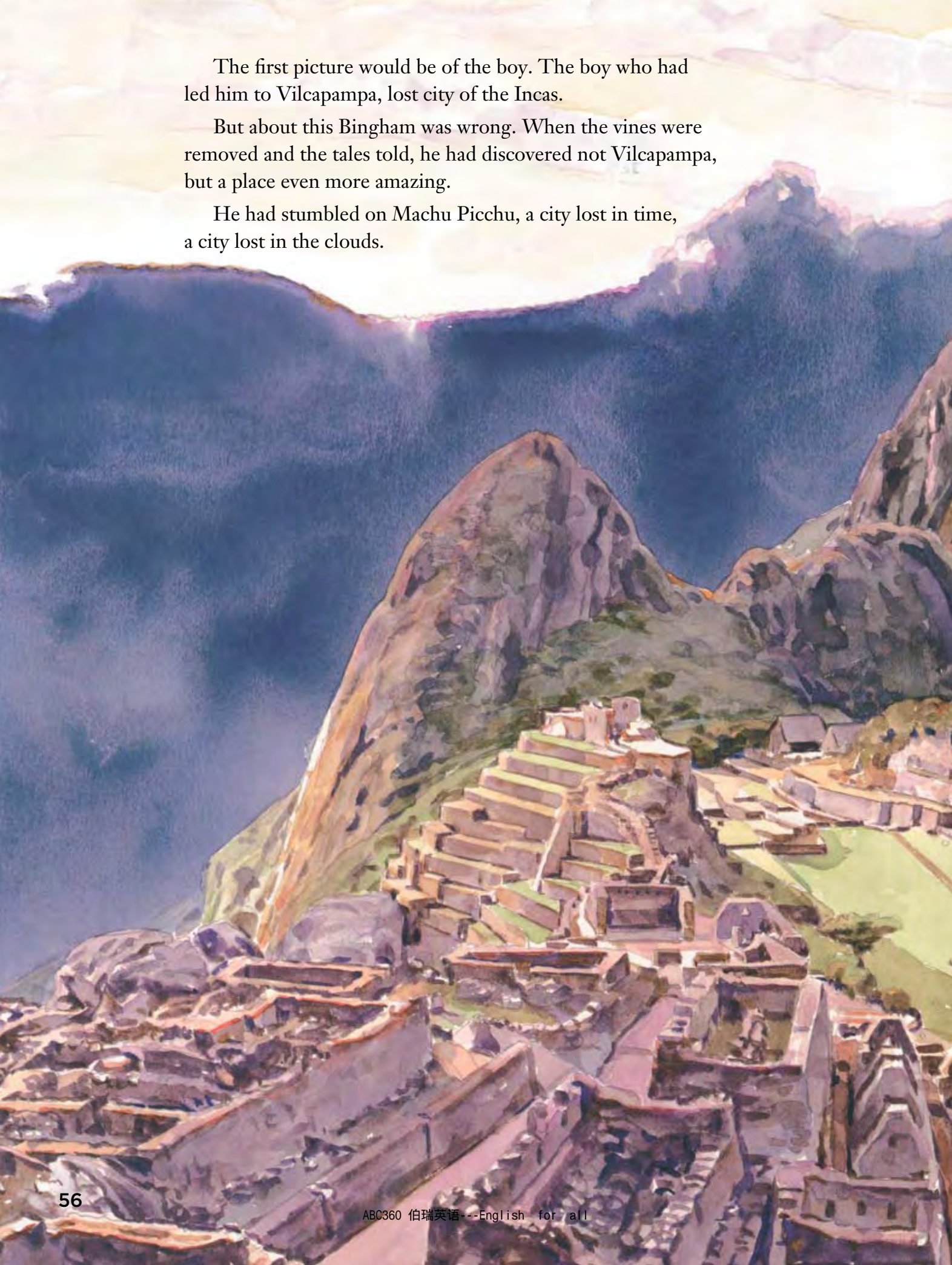
Why does Bingham decide to stop and take the picture?



The first picture would be of the boy. The boy who had led him to Vilcapampa, lost city of the Incas.

But about this Bingham was wrong. When the vines were removed and the tales told, he had discovered not Vilcapampa, but a place even more amazing.

He had stumbled on Machu Picchu, a city lost in time, a city lost in the clouds.



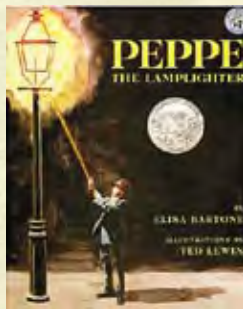


Traveling with Ted Lewin



Ted Lewin grew up with a lion, an iguana, a chimpanzee, ... oh, and a mom, a dad, a sister, and two brothers. He always wanted to be an illustrator and paid for art school by being a professional wrestler. Today he and his wife, Betsy, also an artist, travel the world finding stories. In Machu Picchu, Ted took thousands of pictures, which he used to sketch his illustrations. After that, the painting went very fast. Ted says it was more fun than anything he has ever done before.

Other books illustrated by Ted Lewin:
Peppe the Lamplighter and *Elephant Quest*



Author's Purpose

Ted Lewin's account of the discovery of Machu Picchu is both entertaining and informative. Describe three things that you enjoyed learning from this selection.



Find out more about Ted Lewin
at www.macmillanmh.com





Comprehension Check



Summarize

Use your Character, Setting, Plot Chart to help you summarize *Lost City: The Discovery of Machu Picchu*. How does Professor Bingham find the lost city?

| Character | Setting | Plot |
|-----------|---------|------|
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Think and Compare

1. Before he realizes what he has really discovered, what is Professor Bingham searching for? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. **Story Structure: Character, Setting, Plot**
2. Why is the boy's dream at the beginning of the story so important? **Analyze**
3. Think about a time when you discovered something that surprised you. What was it? Where did you find it? Why was it important to you? **Synthesize**
4. Why do you think it would be important to uncover something like these **remote** ruins? Explain your answer. **Evaluate**
5. Read Maria's letter to Li on pages 42-43. Pretend that Maria has written you a similar letter detailing her trip to Machu Picchu. Write her back and tell her about *Lost City*. Talk about a character or an event that she might find interesting. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



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