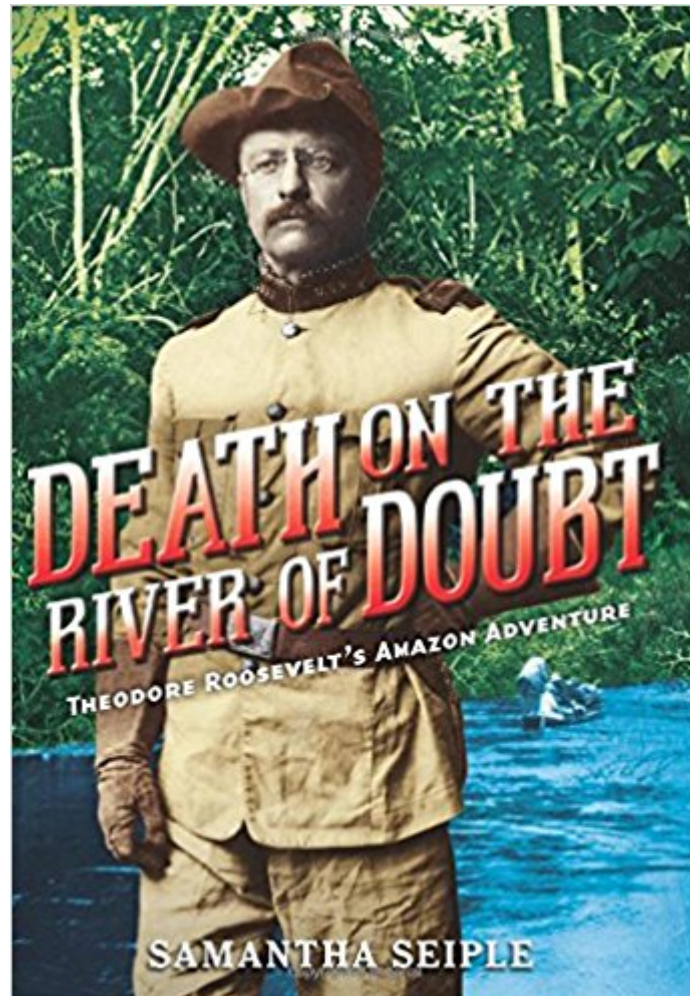




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# Death On The River Of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Adventure



## Synopsis

"I did have a murderous trip down South, but it was mighty interesting." In October 1913, Theodore Roosevelt arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a tour of South America. The thrill-seeking adventurer had no idea that he would soon receive an offer he couldn't refuse: the chance to lead an expedition deep into the jungle to chart an unmapped river with his son Kermit and renowned Brazilian explorer Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon. *Death on the River of Doubt* takes readers inside the thrilling journey that unfolds as Roosevelt, Rondon, Kermit, and their companions navigate an unpredictable river through an unforgiving jungle. With new threats at every turn, from bloodthirsty piranhas and raging rapids to starvation, disease, and a traitor in their own ranks, it seems that not everyone will make it out alive. Through it all, the indomitable Teddy Roosevelt remained determined to complete their mission and rewrite the map of the world. Or die trying.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1040 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 240 pages

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Exploration & Discovery

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up "A hardheaded outdoorsman sets out to explore the uncharted regions of the . Only one thing sets him apart from other enterprising men of his day—he used to be the president of the United States. Given the opportunity to investigate this region, Theodore Roosevelt jumped at the chance and unwittingly placed himself and his crew in great danger. Offering only the most

perfunctory of overviews of his presidency, Seiple jumps into the meat of this particular episode in Roosevelt's life, his time on the so-called River of Doubt. With black-and-white photos and descriptive language, this book is an immersive reading experience for lovers of adventure narratives. While presidential biographies for kids are common fare, it is rare to see such a detailed account of an individual's time after leaving office. Seiple also takes care to profile Roosevelt's crew, including his son Kermit and respected explorer Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon. However, the handling of Brazil's indigenous peoples leaves a lot to be desired: they are framed as existing only in the past ("Like the United States, Brazil had a population of different Indian tribes") and referred to as "hostile Indians." VERDICT While this is an action-packed work of narrative nonfiction, its occasional stereotypical depiction of indigenous peoples lessens its value. —Erinn Black Salge, Saint Peter's Prep, Jersey City, NJ

"Thrilling...crisply written, briskly paced...A stirring, suspenseful true story of dangerous adventure and remarkable survival." - Kirkus  
"Gripping...death-defying drama." - Publishers Weekly  
"Edge-of-the-seat...thrill-a-minute." Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books  
"Packed with foreshadowing, Seiple hooks readers with suspenseful drama and weaves a background summary of Roosevelt into this compelling adventure story. Young readers will be drawn to seek out more stories about this incredible figure...Highly recommended." - School Library Connection  
"Compelling...Teachers may find this slim book useful as a mentor text for writing narrative nonfiction." - VOYA

It took my 2 1/2 hours to pioneer through this riveting read. I read the full-length book a few years ago and this shortened version for young students was a great refresher and I learned much more than I did the first time. In reading this book you will be glad you weren't on this perilous journey with former President Theodore Roosevelt and his entourage. Every kind of danger imaginable is encountered on this seven week journey down The River of Doubt not knowing how long the river was or now navigable it was. In addition to having a traitor in their midst dangers galore lurk in the jungle when survival became all but impossible. As I mentioned this book was written for students but I, as an adult, was mesmerized by it as well. I would say that an individual who is reading at a good 5th grade level would be able to enjoy the book. As a parent you may want to take turns reading portions with your child one chapter at a time. I can't imagine they being uninterested in this book. I am going to purchase an additional five copies to give away as gifts as the situation arises. Do yourself a favor and buy the book. Your child will thank you for it and he may even develop an

interest in reading.

My first grader absolutely loved this book. He was so engrossed he read it every spare moment he had. The bits I read with him were exciting and well written. Highly recommend!!!!

Great! Very adventuresome! Quick read about a president I knew little about. I learned so much more about him! Students loved it too.

As advertised

Great take on Theodore Roosevelt and his adventures after he left the Presidency. As an adult I picked this book up at the library for myself because it looked interesting. It was quite riveting. The book flowed well, and the pictures interspersed throughout the text were informative and relevant. The story truly brings home what it was like for adventurers during this time period and how close Theodore Roosevelt actually came to death. The book gives some background on Roosevelt as he was growing up until he gets to the White House. He then went to South America for a visit but was offered the chance of an adventure, that of mapping a river that led into the that had not been drawn on any maps previously. The hardships are clearly stated but not in a graphic way that would be disturbing to an older child. I do agree with the 7th grade and up age level. Certainly the reading level is lower than that but the content might be upsetting for sensitive children. This is an informative book, and reading it made me want to pick up other books by Samantha Seiple. This is well worth your time for adults and older children.

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