

Problem-solving Papri and Pascale: The lost city of Azura Titiksha
class VII
(DAY)

One day, Problem-solving Papri and her trusty sidekick and best-friend, Pascale were sitting in the huge library of mystics in their hometown Problemville. Papri was engrossed in a book of cryptography, where it was written how to read ancient texts and how to crack ancient locks and puzzles. Meanwhile Pascale was rummaging through the shelves in order to find a book that piqued his interest. Although Pascale wasn't into reading mystical books but her attention was drawn to a red book which was glowing in the mystical books section. Papri had finished reading her book. She examined her surroundings looking for Pascale, her best friend, but she was nowhere to be seen. Papri started calling for Pascale but she got no reply. But just as Papri was starting to worry about her best friend, Pascale rose up from behind a shelf rubbing her eyes as if she were sleeping. Papri asked Pascale where she had been. Pascale didn't say a word but showed Papri the mysterious book. Pascale told Papri the whole story about how her legs forced her to the book, but just as she grabbed the book a flash of yellow light flashed before her eyes, blinding her and making her fall. She gave Papri the red book. The book title read "The lost city of Azura". Papri examined the book and declared that it was an ancient book. It was covered in dust as if no one had touched it in centuries. They decided to ask Ms Ravenna Blackwood the librarian of Problemville. People in Problemville call her Ms Raven. She is an expert researcher able to solve even the most complicated and complex sources. She has long curly black hair and piercing green eyes. She wears a pair of round, wired-framed glasses perched on the end of her nose. Her fashion taste is unique with a mix of modern and vintage attires. She always wears a stunning black dress adorned with shiny silver accessories. She is also well-versed in various subjects including cryptography, history, science and literature. Everyone in Problemville

knows and respects her. Ms Raven was sitting at the front desk of the library deep in thought, murmuring something beneath her breath. Papi and Pascale approached her "Hello! Mr Raven". "Oh! Hello dear. How can I help you?" asked Ms Raven, a big smile on her face. They then showed the book. Ms Raven's eyes widened in shock as she saw the book. She asked them where they found the book. They told how Pascale discovered the book. Ms Raven checked in the library's system yet she found nothing. She noticed that the book was ancient and she had never seen it in the library before. She read the book's title and tried to recall something. Suddenly, she said "This book contains information about the city of Azura. Although I would love to help but my knowledge is limited in this area. This book is the holy book of Azura. It's written in their language." Papi and Pascale looked closely at the book, they saw some weird markings on the ~~book~~ sides of the book. They opened the book but the pages were blank. "Just as I thought" said Ms Raven. Papi and Pascale looked at Ms Raven with confusion. Looking at their faces, Ms Raven smiled and continued. "The city of Azura was once one of the most richest prosperous city in the world. It had a very strong army because of which many invaders dare not go there for it would be their own death." She continued. "But, one day the king mysteriously fell ill and died. From then on, the city of Azura vanished in thin air. Nobody knows how or where the people of Azura went. Legend has it that Azura is hidden deep within a dense jungle filled with mysterious artifacts and hidden dangers. I can only help you this much. Sorry!" exclaimed Ms Raven feeling upset because she couldn't help them further. "That's okay Ms Raven! We are happy you could help us even this much." exclaimed Papi. Papi and Pascale went out for some fresh air. For the next few days, they pondered through each and every book on ancient text in the library and did many research. Finally they found a map "The Map of Azura." Problem-solving Papi known for exceptional thinking skills and

her best friend Pascale, a skilled engineer had gone on a mission to find out about the lost city of Azura. As they ventured deeper into the jungle, the air grew thick with humidity and the sounds of exotic ~~birds~~ ~~filled~~ birds and small animals filled their ears. Papri and Pascale had been preparing for this adventure for a long time pouring over ancient texts, studying maps and gathering supplies. Their first challenge came in the form of an old bridge suspended high above a fierce river. The bridge creaked and swayed in the gentle breeze. Pascale examined the bridge take note of materials used in the construction of the bridge. Meanwhile Papri analysed the surroundings searching for any clues that might lead to a safer route. Papri noticed a series of subtle markings on the bridge support beams, partially hidden with dense foliage. "I think I see some patterns," Papri said, pointing at the markings. "These markings indicates some hidden mechanism as long as we put the correct stone in the correct way the bridge will stabilize." Papri said. Pascale nodded impressed, "You're a genius Papri, let's get to work." Together they went through the markings using Papri's analytical mind and Pascale's knowledge of engineering. After several minutes of careful examination, they finally discovered the correct sequence. Papri and Pascale carefully pressed the stones in the correct order. The bridge creaked and groaned, but it held firm, allowing them to cross safely to the other side. As they went forward, they saw some old ruins of ancient artifacts. Pascale and Papri were captivated by it. Soon they reached a gate. The gate was huge. There were some markings on the gate that showed that someone tried to break the gate to forced their way in but failed miserably. Papri analysed the gate and gasped with excitement "This is the hardest puzzle, we have ever come across". Pascale nodded. Papri was very excited. There were some things written all over the gate maybe riddles but it was all smudged. Papri looked at the lock of the gate. "Seems like it has something to do with the surroundings and nature," remarked Papri. "Whoever came up with this

lock is a genius!" Pascale exclaimed, impressed. Papri nodded in agreement. Suddenly she noticed something. "It all makes sense now." Papri quickly went near the gate, took some coloured stones which were lying around and started putting them one by one in the holes of the lock. Pascale seemed confused but as Papri fitted the stones in the correct order, it all started making sense. The stones represented the five elements of nature: The blue stone was for water, the red stone was for fire, the green stone was for earth, the white stone was for Air and the purple stone was for space. As soon as all the stones were fitted at the gate, the stones glowed. The ~~gate~~ gate slowly creaked and groaned and opened. As soon as the gate opened, there was a path that seemed to be leading to the very dense part of the jungle. Papri and Pascale followed the path. They saw drains near the road that suggested that the people of Azura were advanced at that time.

There were some scratch marks that suggested that some kind of war had happened there. They followed the path that led them to the very inside of the forest. The Kingdom of Azura was huge and vast. There it was the Kingdom of Azura! Papri and Pascale's eyes lit with excitement as they explored the kingdom. There was a chamber near the palace where there was a pond and a sitting area. The chamber was beautiful. There was a path that led to the palace. The path was decorated with flowers which were now withered. It seems that the city of Azura was once a very beautiful kingdom but now, it was a deserted kingdom which was in ruins. There were ruins of houses and temples etc. There were ruins of drainage system and sewage systems which were well ahead of its time. "The city of Azura was once a prosperous city but now it is deserted." Pascale said feeling sad for the people who had to abandon their beautiful homes. "Come on, let's check out the palace." Papri said. They went to the palace. The palace walls were filled with beautiful intricate patterns and carvings. They found inscriptions about the lives of people in Azura. They found a lot of important information. They went back to Problemville feeling satisfied with what they had collected.