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Dear Mr. Simon,

We have all safely arrived in Surabaya. We have had a wonderful and memorable time in Borneo. The purpose of this letter is to thank you and the Fieldskills team on behalf of the SES Borneo Expedition group for arranging an awesome trip.

There were a lot of incredible things that we all loved doing and was a once in a lifetime experience. The rock climbing was awesome, and I wouldn't have ever imagined myself climbing a real rock face before. It felt victorious when I arrived at the top of the rope and I had a great feeling of achievement afterwards. The rafting was also amazing with the exciting rapids and the fun rafting competition at the end. I really enjoyed spinning around in the raft while we were going through some rapids and jumping into the fresh river after paddling under the hot sun.

The Gayana Marine Centre and the snorkelling was also a great experience I had. Planting the coral was a memorable and special task that we got to do and I will definitely remember it. I also got to touch other sea creatures that I would have never thought I would touch before. I had no idea that starfish would be hard and rubbery or what sea cucumbers felt like. It was also the first and probably last time I will touch a shark, and that was cool too. I learnt a lot at the Marine Centre, and will probably never eat shark's fin soup again. The snorkelling was also fun, and I got to see a lot of fish and corals all around me, including a school of small fish that passed by. It was really cool seeing the groupers up close and feeding them the dead fish. It was all a wonderful experience which I will never forget.

There were also some challenging parts of the trip which I didn't enjoy too much, but were memorable and not too bad. Trekking with big backpacks was a challenging part of the trip for me – I got tired, sweaty and muddy: but I felt like I achieved something after I did it – and that felt great. Sleeping and staying in the jungle for a day was also pretty challenging since it's not something I'm used to, and bugs are creatures that I have never liked: but it was pretty peaceful listening to the animals at night and looking at the gorgeous and mostly untouched trees.

I also learned a lot of things in the trip that were interesting and new things that I didn't know about. I found out a lot about the jungle, and that if you take out just one little thing, like the fungi that grows under the soil and stretches out giving nutrients to the trees, it could make a huge difference and wreck a lot: for example, if the micro riser fungi were taken out of the forest, all the trees and plants would start collapsing. I also learnt that people who live in the jungle make nearly everything out of things they find, and that the jackfruit leaf can be used as a fan or sandpaper. I learnt that rivers don't always have the same pH, and that some forests can be more acidic than others: and that you can basically tell a forest is a rainforest by seeing if it has rain for more than 200 days in the year. I found out about a couple of clams and fishes in the Gayana Marine Centre. I learned that the grouper fish don't chew their food, but suck the dead fish in, and that they prefer to eat dead fish instead of hunting for their own food. I also learned that if you put your finger inside a clam, it damages it and doesn't really hurt your finger when it closes in.

Thank you for the great trip!

Yours sincerely,

Grace Margaretha