

Arom Story Quest Ch. 1 – The Trees Share Their Pain...

As you fly over the dense thicket of forest, you look to the south and west where you spot this truly enormous tree. Boy, does that thing look menacing... You hope you never have to go there. To the east you see a truly breathtaking chain of mountains. But, then you see a sight that saddens your heart: a large portion of the forest has been cleared of trees. All you see are stumps. The contrast of lush greens and barren browns is unsettling.

You look below you and find a quaint little village with a living fence; the wall surrounding the village is made of some of the strongest and largest trees you've seen so far, though none match the might of that one you saw far to southwest.

You land in the village and are immediately greeted by the weirdest looking creatures you've ever laid eyes on; they look like plants, but move like animals. They have faces, but they look so plant-like that it's odd to see them move and speak. The strangest feature is the eyes; instead of eyelashes, they have flower petals. And, when they blink, the flowers close and open again. It's quite an amazing sight to see.

These creatures are called the Aromi. They have named their village Arom and besides their odd looks, they are incredibly kind. After getting to meet many of them, you realize that there is no leader. They all work together perfectly. They also have this ability to know everything that is going on in the forest without even having to be there. You don't fully understand how this skill works, but you think it is because the Aromi are connected to the forest and to each other. In a way, they remind you of an intelligent ant colony because they work together so well.

One of the younger ones, Timberre, walks up to you and tells you that it's in terrible pain. You ask it where the pain is, expecting it to show you somewhere on its body, but then it points east. You don't understand, but then more of the children join in, begging for the pain to stop while pointing toward the east. Then, suddenly, the elders start congregating, too. It's a remarkable and heart-rending thing to witness. Like watching a school of fish move in unison only to be consumed by the sharks preying on them. Suddenly, like a ray of sunlight peeking through an overcast, rainy day, you remember the clearing in the forest to the east, near the mountains. That must be the pain they are speaking about. If the Aromi and the forest are connected, like one body, then losing that many trees must feel, to them, like losing an arm or leg would feel to us.

It's at that precise moment that you decide to help them...

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As you get closer to the clearing, you hear machinery working very hard to cut down more trees. Your blood boils as you imagine the stabbing pain that each Aromi experiences every time a tree is cut down. So, you leap out of the trees and attack the creatures roaming around, picking up the trunks...

Anyone who has never attacked a Rubite before should consider himself or herself very lucky because they are like stone. In fact, stone feels soft, like bread, when compared

to these brutes. You almost break your right hand and left foot attacking it and it doesn't even notice... Perhaps violence isn't the right idea. It's time to try something else.



You greet the Rubite worker and he (or she, it's hard to tell) greets you back. You ask him what is going on and he says that they are logging. When you try to tell him that they are hurting the Aromi, he just shrugs his shoulders and says that it is necessary. Furious, you begin to scream at the Rubite, who merely says that you need to talk with the bosses. You ask where they are and he points you toward the gaping hole in the side of the mountain.

"Down hole. Go forward. Take fourth right. Take next left. Then... oh, sorry, can't remember. Too hungry."

You sigh a little, your anger slowly dissipating. Then, you trudge over to the mouth of the cave, a bit annoyed, frustrated, and tired. Not to mention that your hand and foot still hurt.

When you reach the mouth of the cave, you peer into the darkness and wonder how you're going to make it through there and what you'll find once inside...

Task: Make your way through the cave system into the heart of the Rubite mine. In order to do this, you must answer the questions below and then use the answers to find a safe passage through the cave. Start where the arrow points into the maze and move to the arrow pointing away from the maze. You may only travel North (up), South (down), East (right), or West (left), not diagonally.

$\frac{2}{9}$	0.01	$7\frac{2}{3}$	5	7.12	24 m^2	65.4	$\frac{1}{4}$	8	1	
8.25	14	>	90°	3 h	50 min	4	217.88	$2\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	
9 mL	10 cm.	99 cm	16	10.8	12	63 m^2	1.23	0	56 m	
35°	$\frac{12}{15}$	=	128	2.5	97 m	$3\frac{2}{7}$	60 min	114°	2 km	
16.1 mL	165	156	40 min	100 cm	1000 cm	$\frac{8}{20}$	3.14	212.9	$\frac{1}{6}$	

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| 1) 13×12 | 9) 0.5 in fraction form |
| 2) 1.2×9 | 10) $456.7 - 238.82$ |
| 3) $10 / 4$ in decimal form | 11) $\frac{2}{3}$ of 1 hour is how many minutes? |
| 4) LCM of 2 and 4 | 12) Number of cm in 1 m |
| 5) $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ | 13) LCM of 4 and 6 |
| 6) Equivalent fraction of $\frac{4}{5}$ | 14) $17/7$ as a Mixed Number |
| 7) Example of an acute angle | 15) Area of Rectangle with $l = 9\text{m}$, $w = 7\text{m}$ |
| 8) The "equals" symbol | |