



The Little Boy and Girl in the Clouds

A Native American Fairy Tale

One evening, the old storyteller was sat by the fire in his favourite corner, watching the burning logs on the campfire. The children sat and waited. They knew that if they did not disturb him, the storyteller would tell them a bedtime story.

But today was different. Even though they waited for a long time, the storyteller did not speak. He sat as still as a stone. The children thought that he had forgotten them and they would have to go to bed without a story. For the first time in her life, the little girl dared to ask the storyteller a question.



"Elan, were the mountains always here?" she asked.

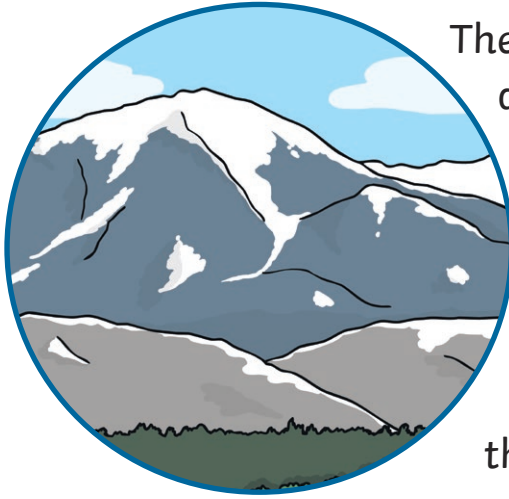
Q1: What is the name of the storyteller?

Q2: What were the children waiting for?



Q3: Why did the children think that the storyteller had forgotten them?





The wise, old storyteller nodded his head. He was always happy to answer the children's questions.

"I often ask myself the same thing," replied Elan.

"Yes, I think the mountains were always here. I think that they were made when the world was made a long time ago," he said. "But there is one high hill that was not always there – a hill that grew all of a sudden, as if by magic. Have I ever told you the story of the rock that got higher and higher and carried a little boy and girl up into the clouds?"

"No, you've never told us that one!" shouted the children. "Please tell it to us now!"

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The children listened as Elan began to tell the story.

Q4: Find and copy **two** words which describe the storyteller.



Q5: How do you think the children are feeling at the end of this part of the text?

Explain your answer.



Q6: When did Elan think that the mountains were made?



"In the days when all animals and men were friends, there lived a little boy and little girl in a valley. The boy and girl would play in the grass with the rabbits and paddle in the river with the beavers.

One day, the little boy had an idea. "Let's climb up onto that big, flat rock with the moss on it," he said to his sister. "We've never done it before, it will be lots of fun."

His sister agreed so the children climbed up onto the rock. They lay down in the sun and, without meaning to, they both fell asleep. Nobody knows how it happened but the rock began to rise high into the sky. It grew higher and higher until, by the next day, it was taller than the tallest trees. When the little boy and girl awoke, they realised that they were in the clouds and they did not know how to get down."



Q7: Do you think the boy and girl liked living the valley?

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Yes

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No

Explain your answer.



Q8: What do you think the boy and girl will do next?



Q9: Number the sentences below to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☒ 4 One day, the little boy had an idea.
- ☐ The old storyteller was sat by the fire.
- ☐ When the boy and girl awoke, they were in the clouds.
- ☐ The children listened as Elan began to tell the story.
- ☐ The children thought that Elan had forgotten them.

