



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.

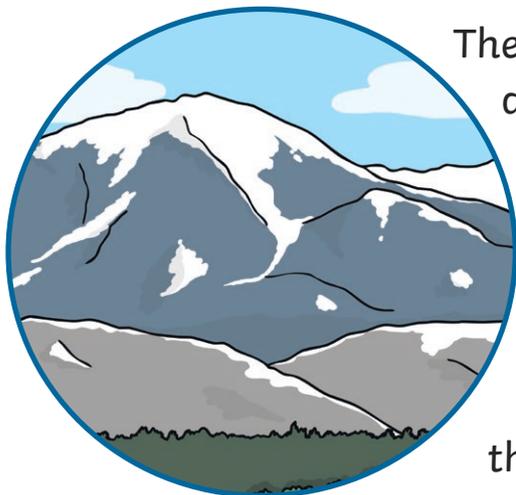
Q1: What is the name of the storyteller?

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!"

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?

Yes

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.





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Answers

Q1: What is the name of the storyteller?
Accept the name 'Elan' only.

Q2: What were the children waiting for?

Accept any answer which pertains to the children waiting to be told a story by Elan, e.g.

- **They were waiting for Elan to tell them a bedtime story.**
- **They were waiting for a story to be told.**

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

Accept answers which discuss that the children thought that Elan had forgotten them because he still did not speak and they had waited for a while, such as:

- **They thought this because Elan wasn't speaking and he normally did.**

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

Accept the adjectives 'wise' and 'old' only, in any order.

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

Accept answers which state that the children were feeling happy, enthusiastic or excited provided that a relevant justification is given in support of the answer, e.g

- **I think that the children were excited because they really wanted to hear Elan's story.**
- **The children were happy that they would be hearing a new story from Elan.**

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

Accept the following answers:

- **a long time ago**
- **when the world was made**
- **at the same time as the world**

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



Yes



No

How do you know?

Accept explanations which mention the following themes:

- **They had lots of fun playing in the grass with the rabbits.**
- **They liked paddling in the river with the beavers.**
- **All of the animals and people were friends.**
- **It was a nice place for them to live.**
- **They went on adventures.**

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

Accept any sensible prediction based on the situation that the little boy and girl are in, such as:

- **I think that they will shout down from the rock and someone will notice them.**
- **I think that they will make a rope out of moss and lower themselves down.**
- **I think that the little boy will climb down from the rock and get help for his sister.**
- **Their mum and dad might come looking for them.**

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.**
- ① **The old storyteller was sat by the fire.**
- ⑤ **When the boy and girl awoke, they were in the clouds.**
- ③ **The children listened as Elan began to tell the story.**
- ② **The children thought that Elan had forgotten them.**