

Snake Story

Story

There once was a Native American boy who climbed to the top of a very tall mountain. As he stood on the summit, looking around, he heard something slithering at his feet. He jumped back, realizing it was a rattlesnake. Before he could move farther away, however, the rattlesnake spoke.

"Please, won't you carry me down the mountain? It's cold up here, and I have no food. I don't want to die."

"No," said the boy. "I know what you are. You're a rattlesnake. You're dangerous to me. If I carry you down the mountain, you'll bite me."

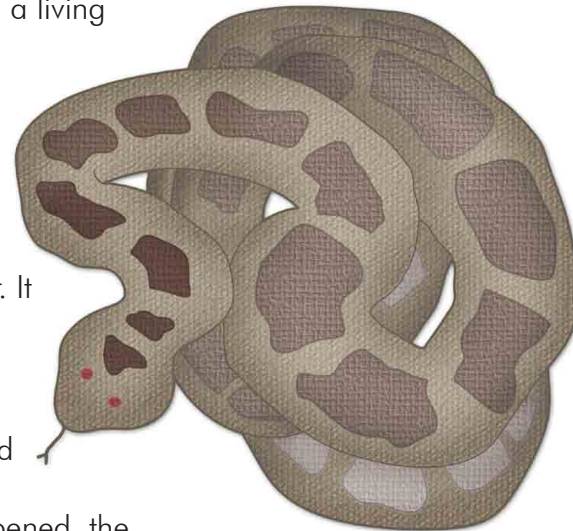
As the boy started to go down the mountain side, the snake used his sneakiness to make the boy feel sorry for him. "Please, I'm a living creature," said the snake. "You can't just let me die!"

The boy thought for a moment. He said, "Do you promise not to bite me?" The snake replied, "I promise."

"Well, then, I guess it's okay," said the boy, as he picked up the snake and put it under his shirt. As he hiked down the mountain, the boy could feel the snake getting warmer. It began moving around inside his shirt.

"Remember," said the boy, "you promised not to bite."

As they got to the bottom of the mountain, the boy reached into his shirt to put the snake down. Once on the ground, the snake suddenly coiled. Before the boy knew what happened, the snake struck forward and bit him on the leg.



“Why did you do that?” cried the boy. “You promised you would not bite me!”

As the snake slithered away, leaving the boy alone in pain, it hissed behind, “You knew what I was when you picked me up.”