

Lizard Seeks the Sun



by M. M. Eboch
Illustrations by Carl Pearce

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One day, long ago, the Sun didn't rise. Darkness covered the entire world. All the people and animals were cold and frightened.

“We must search for the Sun and ask it to return,” the animals said. Fish and Turtle swam through the lakes and rivers. Jaguar hunted across the jungle. Eagle soared to the mountaintops. None could find the Sun.

The animals gave up. They were sure the Sun was lost forever. Only Lizard continued her journey. She searched high and low, over rocks and under leaves, day after day.

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Level L

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Finally, Lizard needed to rest. She spotted a large rock that shone like a lantern. When she lay on it, it warmed her as the Sun once had.

“Wait,” she thought. “The Sun must be asleep beneath this rock!”

Lizard raced to the city to tell the Emperor. She scrambled across the throne room and lay down by the Emperor’s golden sandals. “I have found a glowing rock,” Lizard said. “The Sun sleeps beneath it!”

“Then move the rock and release the light,” said the Emperor.

“I cannot move it alone,” Lizard replied.

“I will come with you,” said the Emperor.

But even the Emperor could not move the rock. He called to Woodpecker.

“Woodpecker,” he said. “Please break open this rock.”

Woodpecker cracked the rock with its beak, revealing the sleeping Sun.

The Emperor said, “Sun, please return to the sky and share your light with the world again.” But the Sun remained in a deep, deep sleep.



The Emperor called for music and dancers. The musicians played loudly. The dancers twirled and swayed. Finally, the Sun woke, laughing merrily at the celebration. It sped back to the sky, and once again, its light warmed the earth.

Little Lizard felt proud. To this day, she still enjoys resting on warm rocks, remembering how she once found the missing Sun.



Level L

Literary

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