

Climbing the Slopes

by Mia Lewis



It is a sunny day in the Green Mountains. A group of students arrive at a lodge. The landscape is beautiful.

“Hi!” says a young man. “I’m Javier. This is Karen. We are going to teach you about rock climbing. We’ll also teach you how to find your way in the forest. You’ll have a lot of fun this week!”

READ & RESPOND

Point of View

Who is telling this story? How do you know?

The group meets inside a building. It has a climbing wall. The wall looks like a rock. The wall has different textures.

“There’s a lot to learn,” says Karen. “We’re going to practice first.”

“That wall is too steep,” says Teo.

“You’ll do fine,” says Javier.

“You just have to practice.”



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READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

What is the group learning how to do?

The kids go outside. They hike along a trail. They eat their lunch in a clearing. They are hungry. The food tastes great! Karen puts a stick in the ground.

“What are you doing?” asks Maya.

“I’m going to find out where north, east, south, and west are,” she says.

“My cell phone is better. It can show where we are. It has maps,” says Teo.

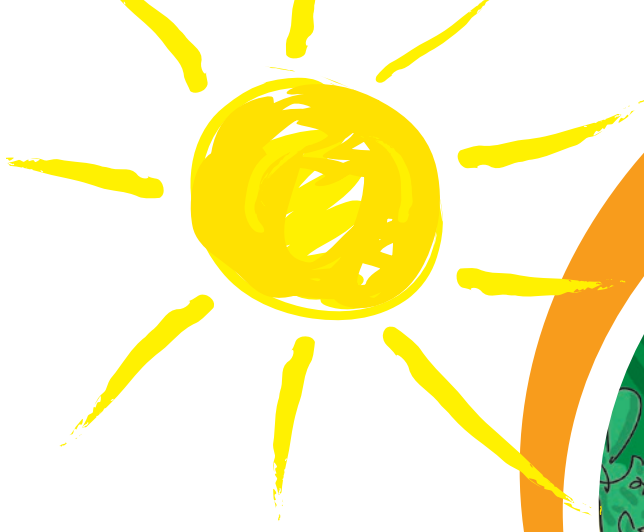


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READ & RESPOND

Point of View

What pronouns do you see on this page? What do they tell you about the point of view?



“A cell phone could lose power,” says Latoya. “Then it can’t help at all.”

“We can use the sun to tell directions,” says Karen. “See the shadow of the stick? Let’s mark the tip of the shadow with a pebble. Now we wait awhile.”



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READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

What is the problem with depending on Teo’s cell phone to tell directions?



They check after ten minutes. The shadow has moved. Karen puts a pebble where the tip of the shadow is now. She draws a line between the two pebbles.

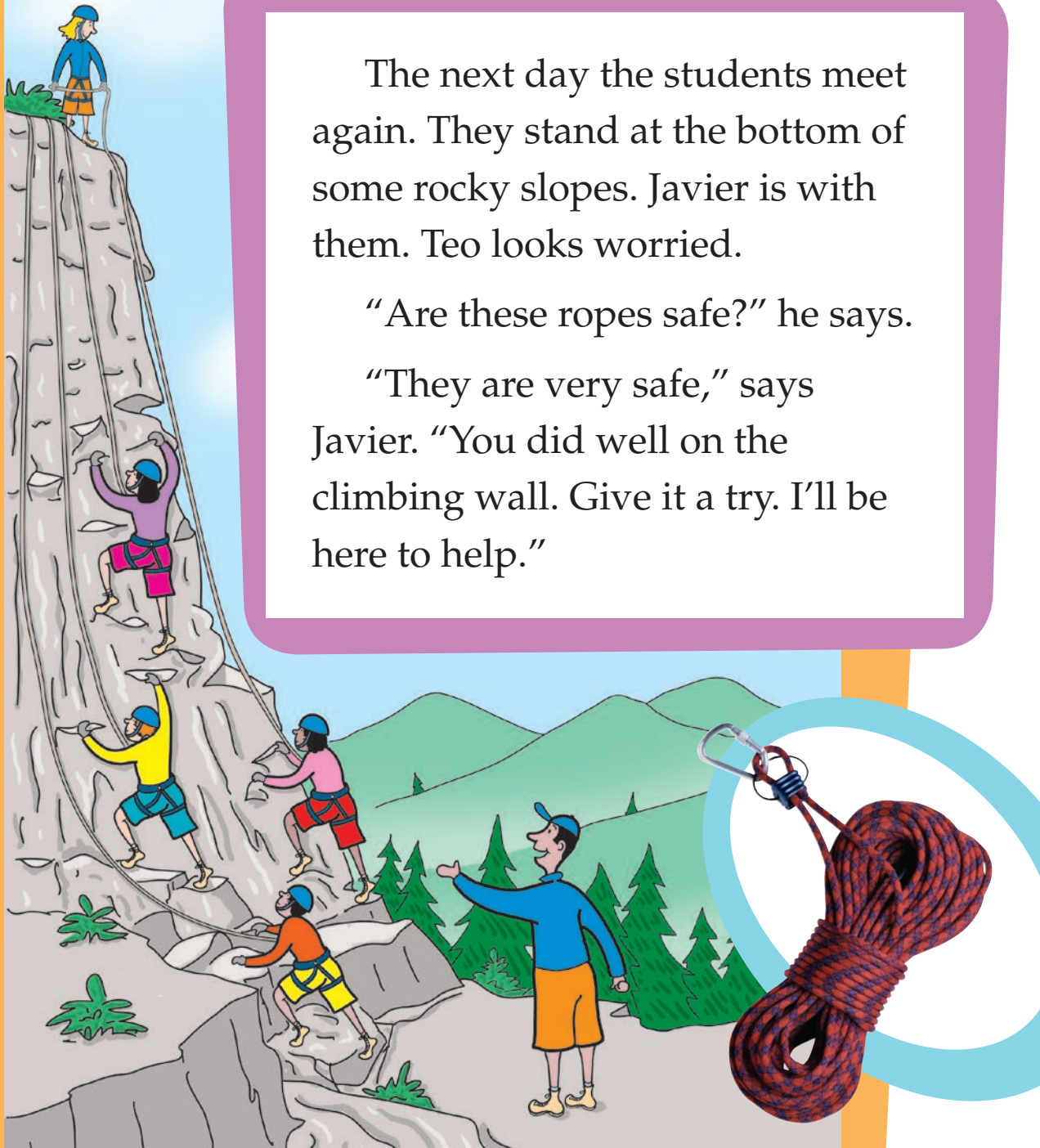
“The shadow moved because the sun moved,” she says. “The sun moves west. Shadows move east. We know which way the shadow moved. So we know which way is east. Now we can follow any directions we have!”



READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

Why does the stick's shadow move?



The next day the students meet again. They stand at the bottom of some rocky slopes. Javier is with them. Teo looks worried.

“Are these ropes safe?” he says.

“They are very safe,” says Javier. “You did well on the climbing wall. Give it a try. I’ll be here to help.”

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READ & RESPOND

Point of View

How does the narrator know that Teo is worried?



A few days later, it is time to go home! Time has passed too quickly.

“I learned so much!” says Maya. “I am going to miss this camp.”

“We will miss you, too,” says Karen.

“I wish I had time for one last climb,” says Teo. “I feel as if I could reach the peak of the mountain!”

“You’ll just have to come back soon,” says Javier.

READ & RESPOND

Point of View

Is the story told in first-person or third-person point of view? How do you know?

Reread and Respond



1 How do you think the story would be different if Teo were the narrator?

Hint

Reread and find what Teo said and did in the story.

2 Do you think the students had fun at camp? Why do you think so?

Hint

For clues, see page 152

3 Pretend you are Javier. How would you retell the story?

Hint

Reread the story to help you. Remember to think about Javier's point of view.