

# The Enchanted Flute

## from a Native American Legend



adapted by Dina McClellan

Once there was a widow who had a son. They lived a simple life. In the evenings they would sit and look at the mountains far away.

As the son grew older, he felt the need to roam. He wondered what life was like on the other side of the mountains.

But the boy's mother warned him: *Never go across the mountains.*

And the boy never did.

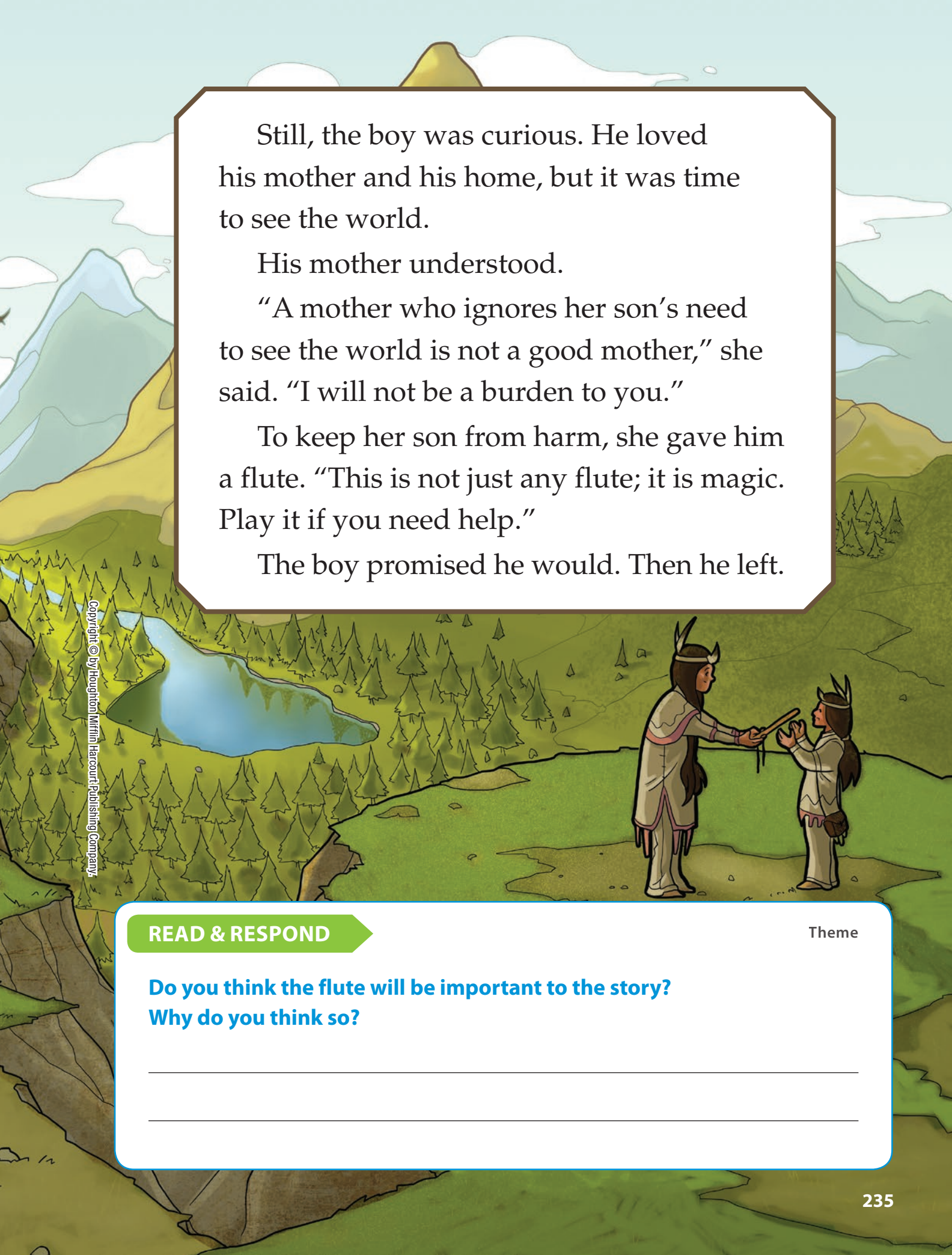
### READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

**Where does this story take place? Do you think the setting will be important to the story?**

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Still, the boy was curious. He loved his mother and his home, but it was time to see the world.

His mother understood.

“A mother who ignores her son’s need to see the world is not a good mother,” she said. “I will not be a burden to you.”

To keep her son from harm, she gave him a flute. “This is not just any flute; it is magic. Play it if you need help.”

The boy promised he would. Then he left.

**READ & RESPOND**

Theme

**Do you think the flute will be important to the story?  
Why do you think so?**

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After days of traveling, the boy finally reached the place over the mountains.

It was another world! A world of lush, green pastures, sparkling lakes, and fast-flowing rivers. And animals! They flew and crawled and scampered and burrowed and slithered. It was a wonder!

This is where he wanted to be. He knew he would never be happy anywhere else.

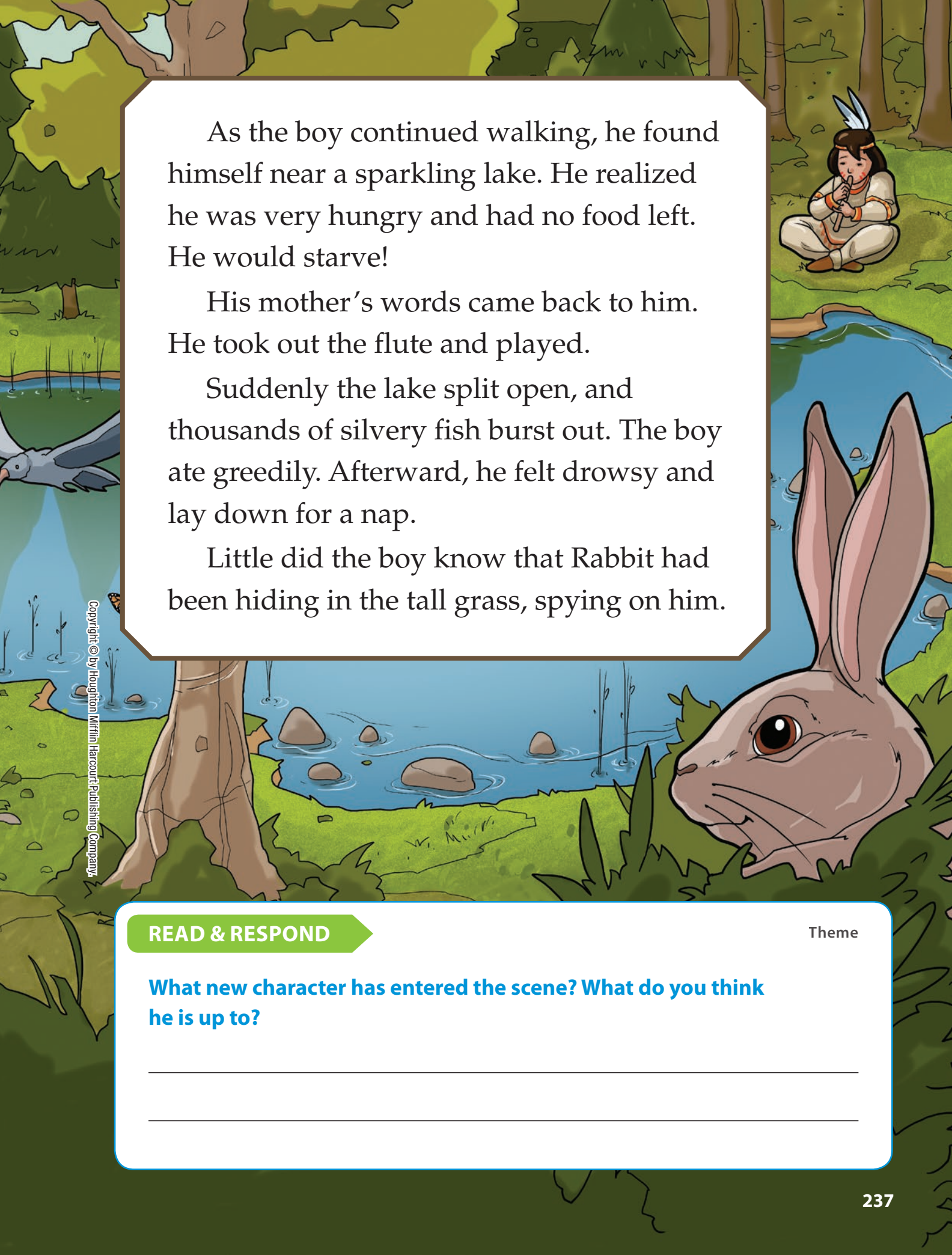
### READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

**How is the place over the mountains different from the boy's childhood home? What details tell you?**

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As the boy continued walking, he found himself near a sparkling lake. He realized he was very hungry and had no food left. He would starve!

His mother's words came back to him. He took out the flute and played.

Suddenly the lake split open, and thousands of silvery fish burst out. The boy ate greedily. Afterward, he felt drowsy and lay down for a nap.

Little did the boy know that Rabbit had been hiding in the tall grass, spying on him.

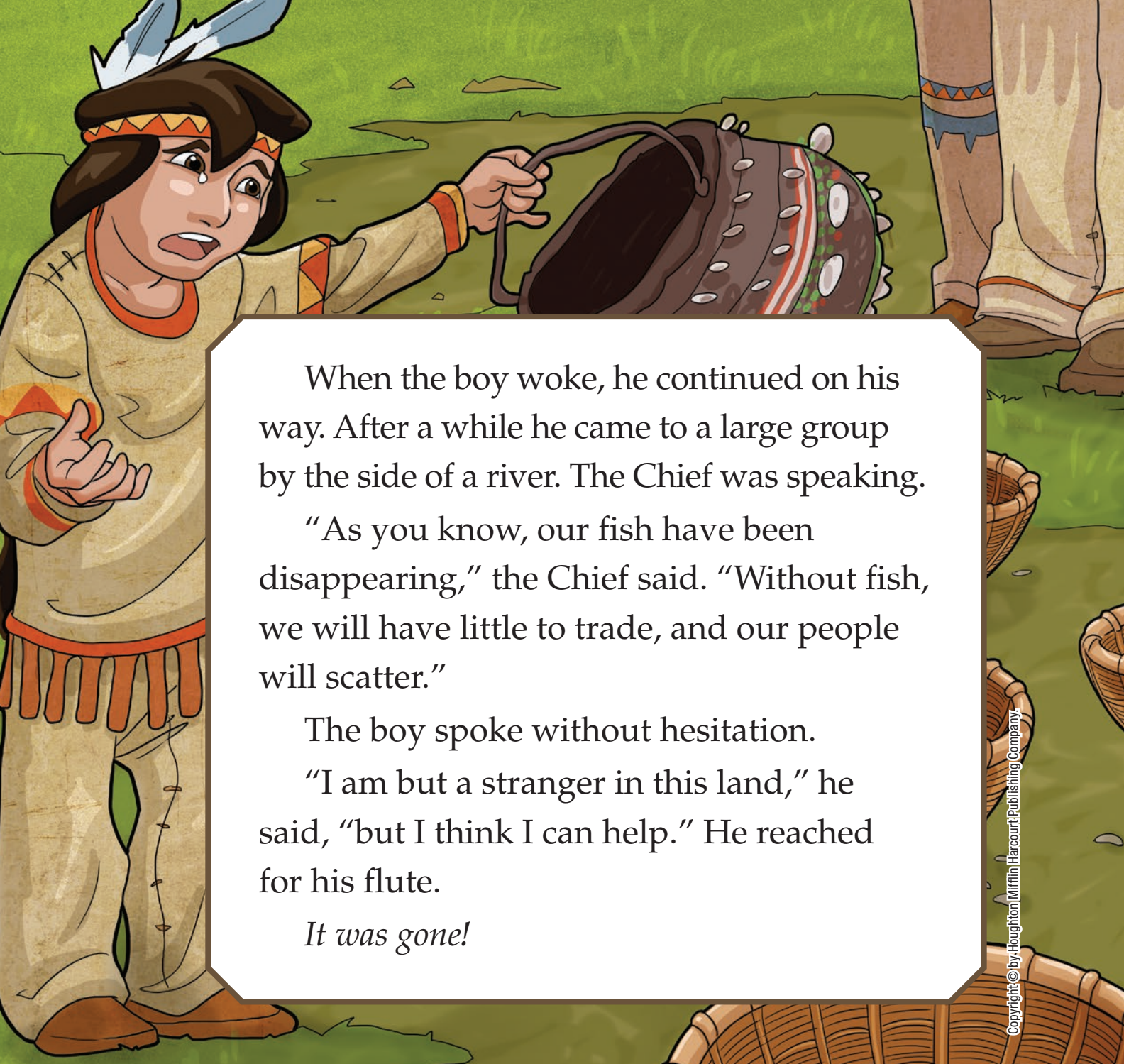
**READ & RESPOND**

Theme

**What new character has entered the scene? What do you think he is up to?**

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When the boy woke, he continued on his way. After a while he came to a large group by the side of a river. The Chief was speaking.

“As you know, our fish have been disappearing,” the Chief said. “Without fish, we will have little to trade, and our people will scatter.”

The boy spoke without hesitation.

“I am but a stranger in this land,” he said, “but I think I can help.” He reached for his flute.

*It was gone!*

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**READ & RESPOND**

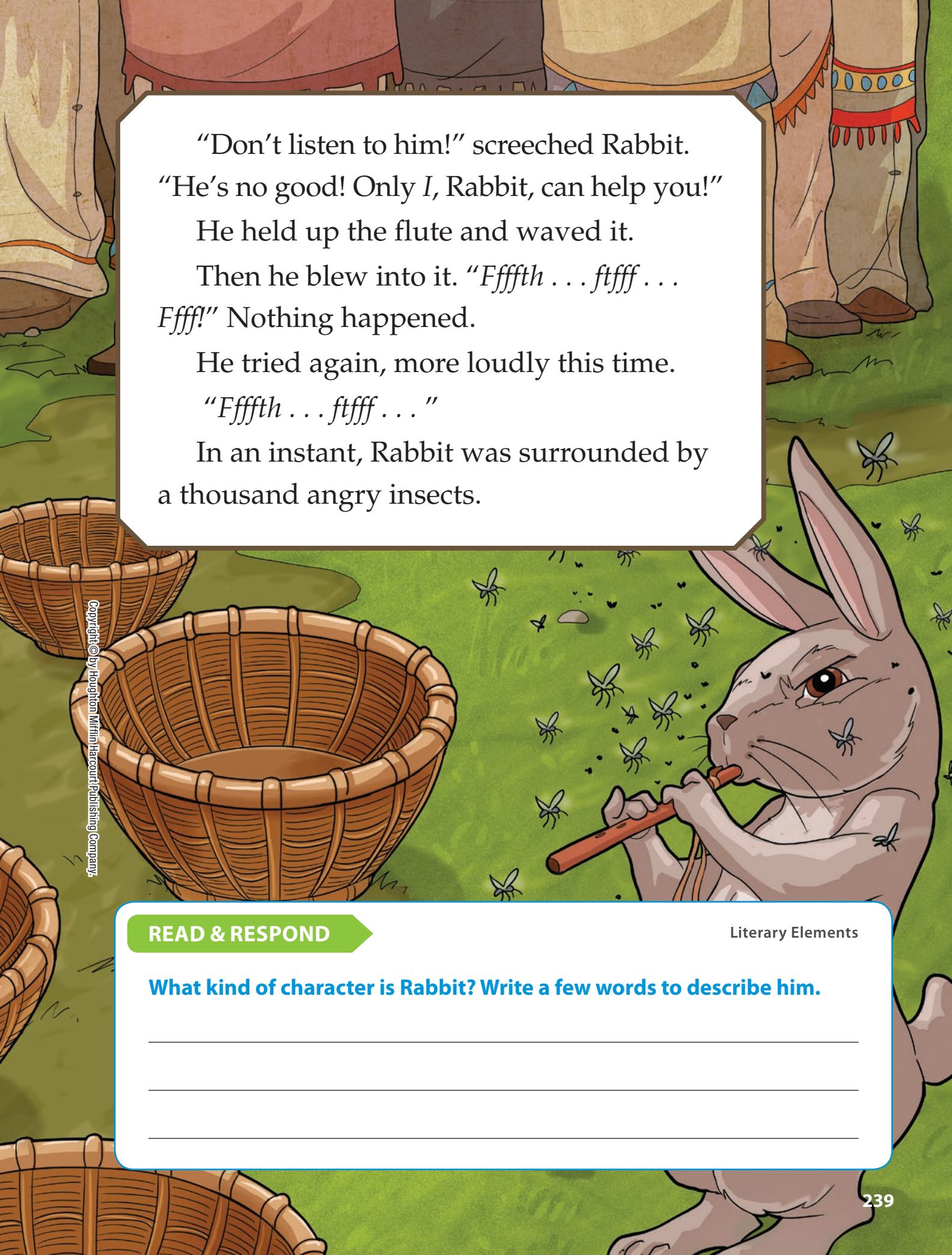
Literary Elements

**What do you think happened to the flute? Why do you think that?**

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A cartoon illustration of a grey rabbit with long ears, sitting on a green lawn. The rabbit is holding a red flute to its mouth and blowing. Numerous small, grey, fly-like insects are flying around the rabbit, some landing on its face and body. In the foreground, there are several large, round, woven wicker baskets. In the background, the lower legs and feet of people wearing traditional, patterned clothing are visible. A white text box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the scene.

“Don’t listen to him!” screeched Rabbit.  
“He’s no good! Only *I*, Rabbit, can help you!”  
He held up the flute and waved it.  
Then he blew into it. “*Fffftth . . . ftfff . . .  
Ffff!*” Nothing happened.  
He tried again, more loudly this time.  
“*Fffftth . . . ftfff . . .*”  
In an instant, Rabbit was surrounded by  
a thousand angry insects.

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### READ & RESPOND

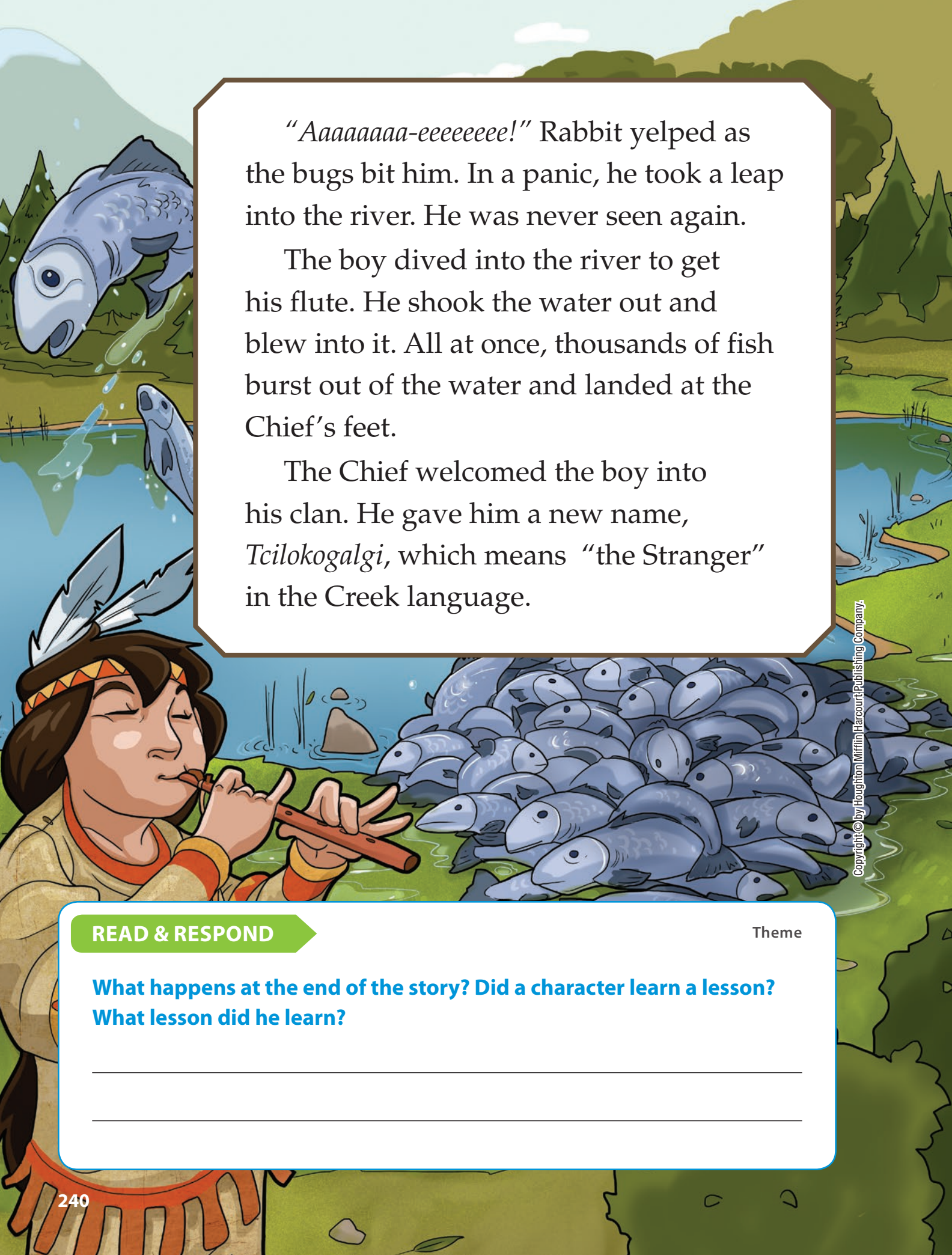
Literary Elements

**What kind of character is Rabbit? Write a few words to describe him.**

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“Aaaaaaaa-eeeeeee!” Rabbit yelled as the bugs bit him. In a panic, he took a leap into the river. He was never seen again.

The boy dived into the river to get his flute. He shook the water out and blew into it. All at once, thousands of fish burst out of the water and landed at the Chief’s feet.

The Chief welcomed the boy into his clan. He gave him a new name, *Tcilokogalgi*, which means “the Stranger” in the Creek language.

### READ & RESPOND

Theme

**What happens at the end of the story? Did a character learn a lesson? What lesson did he learn?**

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# Reread and Respond



**1** Why does the boy's mother let him go across the mountains?

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Hint

For a clue, see page 234.

**2** Why does the boy's flute disappear?

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Hint

For a clue, see page 237.

**3** Why is Rabbit "never seen again"?

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Hint

Think about the way Rabbit acts in the story.