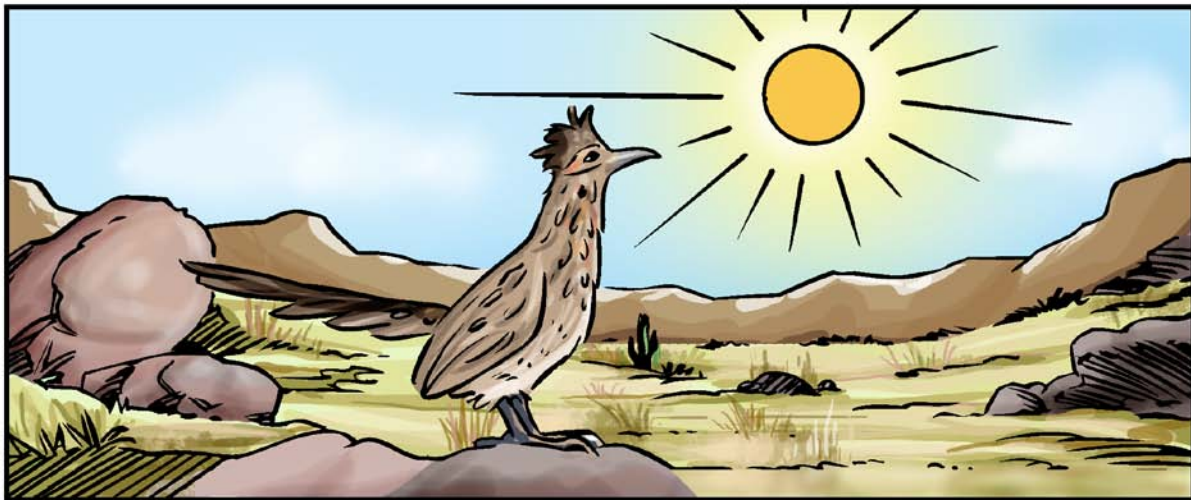


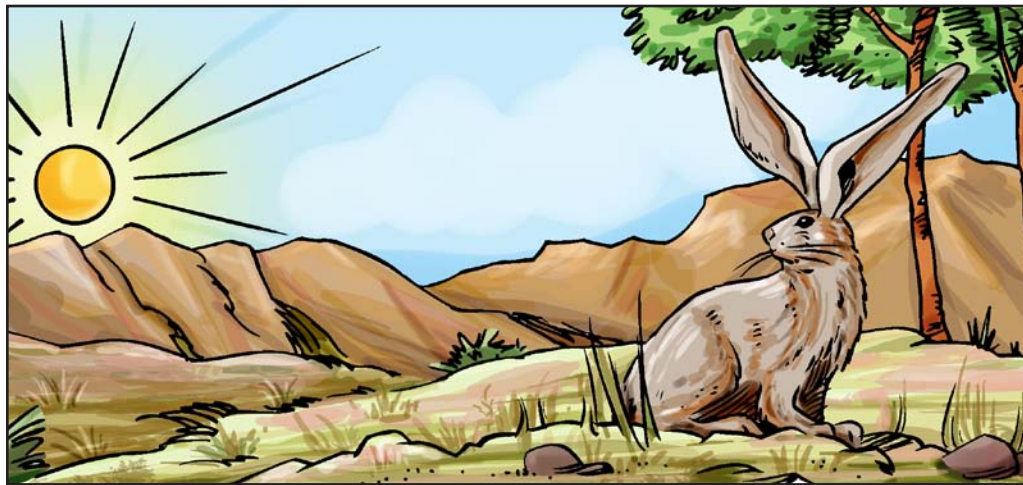
BENCHMARK • M

Go Away, Sun!



Written by Pam Bull • Illustrated by David Cockcroft

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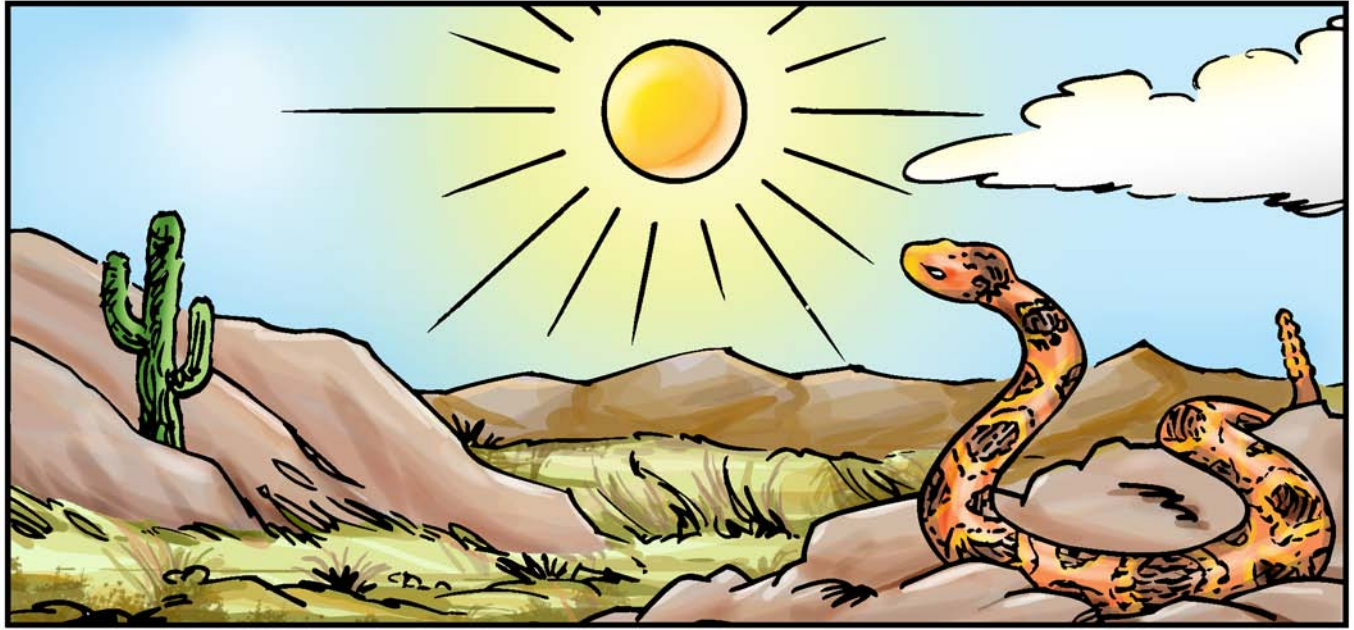


“Go away, Sun!” said Jackrabbit. “You’re too bright, and I can’t find any shade to rest in.”

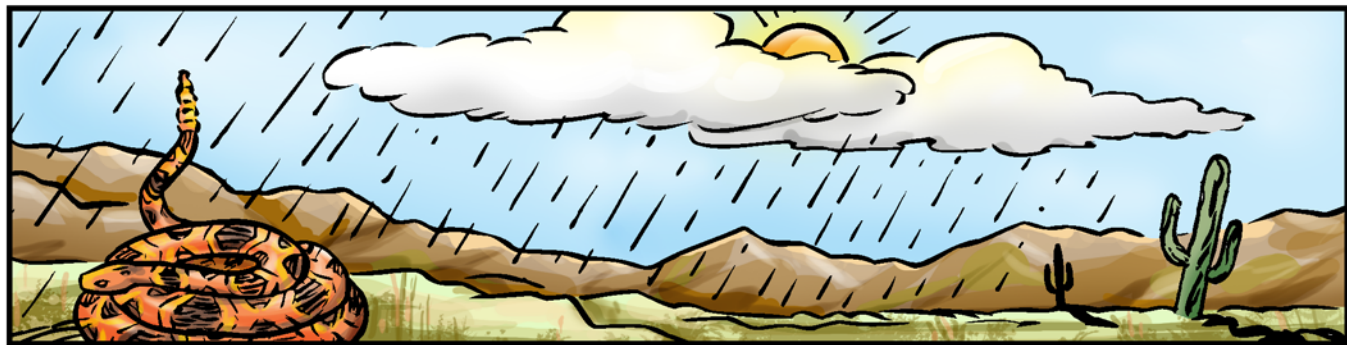


Sun's feelings were hurt. He moved west in the sky.
As he moved above the cottonwood trees, he created
shade in the grass below.

"Much better," said Jackrabbit. She flattened her ears
against her back and lay down to rest.

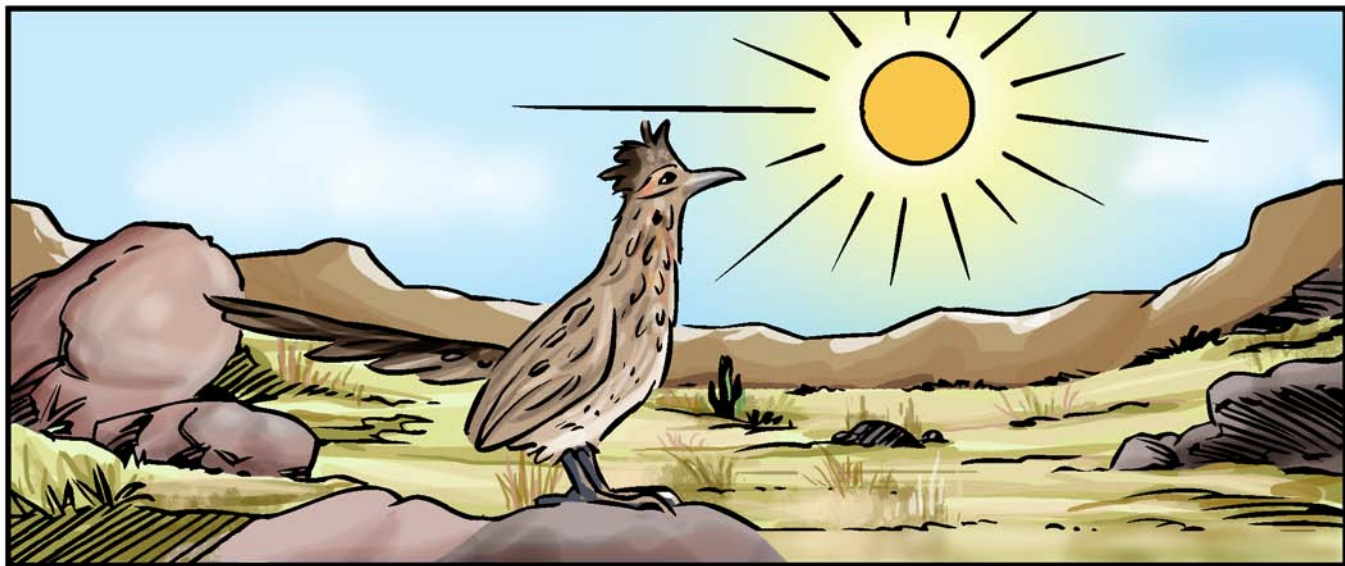


“Go away, Sun!” said Rattlesnake. “Your strong rays have made this rock too hot to lie on.”



Sun began to feel gloomy. He hid his face in the clouds and began to cry. Tears of sadness fell from the sky, cooling the desert floor.

“Much better,” said Rattlesnake. He curled himself up in the sand and shook his rattles to warn others not to bother him.



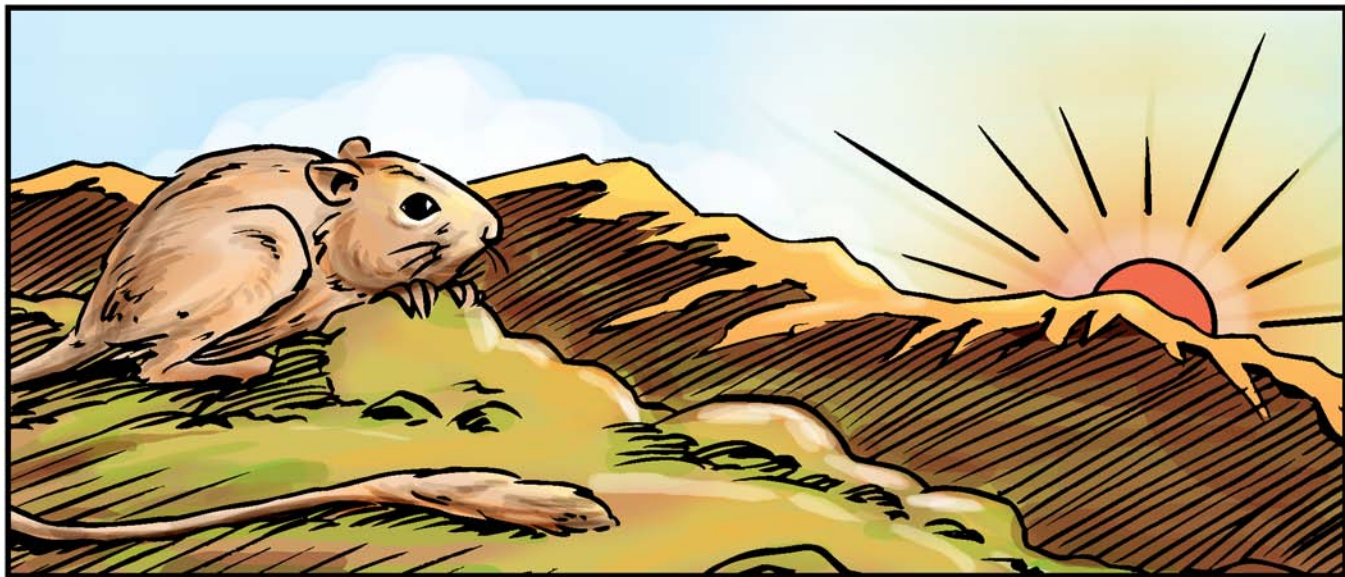
“Go away, Sun!” said Roadrunner.

“This desert heat is far too hot. All of the animals that I’d like to eat are hiding.”



Sun was very sad because of Roadrunner's remark. He decided to hide behind the mountains. As he slowly began to sink, beautiful shadows appeared along the horizon. All of the desert animals came out to see them.

"Much better," said Roadrunner. She dashed after a small lizard that had come out to see the shadows.



“Go away, Sun!” said Kangaroo Rat.

“You’re still shining on the tops of the mountains! I’m hungry, and I’d like to gather my food without you around.”



Kangaroo Rat's cold words made Sun disappear over the horizon. As he went, he created a dusty rose and orange sunset.

"Much better," said Kangaroo Rat. She left her burrow in search of food.



Night fell, and the desert air and sand began to cool.

Jackrabbit fed on grasses while keeping a watch out for enemies. Rattlesnake stayed close to his den, searching for small rodents to eat. Roadrunner dined on tasty lizards. Kangaroo Rat gathered seeds.



The animals noticed that it had been dark for quite some time. Sun had not appeared as usual. They began to wonder what had happened to him.

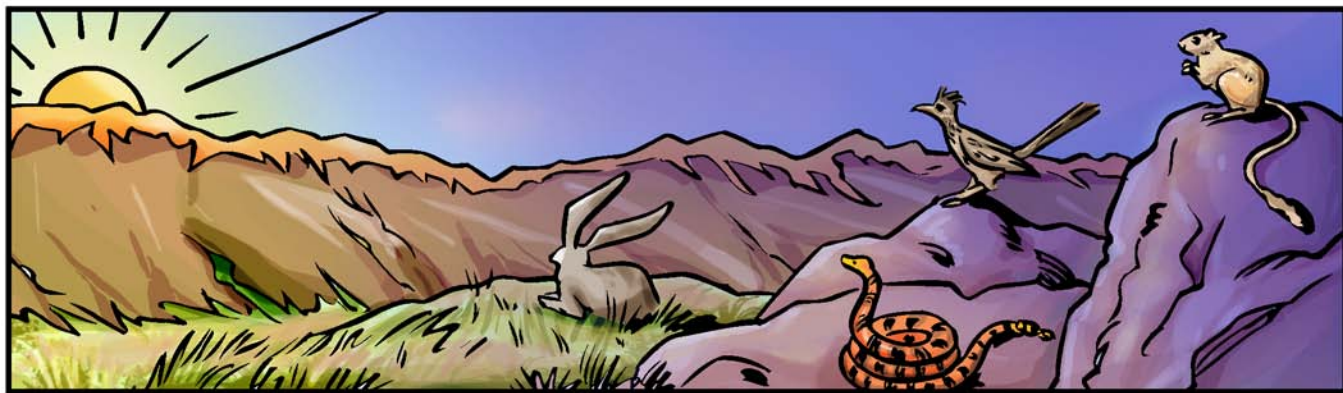
“Come back, Sun!” said Jackrabbit. “How am I supposed to rest in total darkness?”

“Come back, Sun!” said Rattlesnake. “How am I supposed to sun myself on the rocks?”



“Come back, Sun!” said Roadrunner. “How am I supposed to warm myself from this cool night air? I haven’t had a chance to build my nest of sticks.”

“Come back, Sun!” said Kangaroo Rat. “How am I supposed to dry the seeds that I’ve spent all night collecting?”



Sun brightened as he heard the animals asking him to return. Suddenly, he had a warm feeling inside.

The animals looked to the east and saw a faint glow in the sky. There, along the horizon, they saw a radiant Sun peeking up over the mountains.

Go Away, Sun!
Level M Benchmark Book
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