

swam swiftly away to tell its friends that it was not safe to venture near the shore, as there were enemies about.

11. In his rage that the prize should have been lost to him in this manner, the old man threw his spear away; and, turning to where the children were at play, he cried, "Ye mountain gods, close up yonder cleft in the rocks, that those tiresome children may be made prisoners and so interfere with my sport no more!"

12. The Great Man of the Mountains heard and answered the old man's cry. There was a clap of thunder, so loud that it made the earth tremble and rocks fall from their places, and the cleft between the two great rocks was very nearly closed together, only a small space being left at the top. In this way the children were shut into a great cavern underneath, lighted only from the narrow opening above.

13. As you hardly need telling, no laughter was heard from the children now. In a terrible fright they ran round and round, trying to find some way by which they might escape.

14. They sought to climb up to that little opening above, through which they could see a tiny patch of the sky; but the walls of the cavern were too steep, and there was no foothold by which they might mount. When but a few steps up, down they would come again, sliding and slithering to the bottom.