

between two great rocks, a group of little girls was at play. Each little girl carried a baby in the hood of her fur coat—a little brother or sister, whom she had been told to mind, while the mother was busy with the work in the house.

7. But this did not seem in any way to hinder the children in their games. They laughed and sang, and leapt from rock to rock, and chased each other, as if they carried no burden at all. Busy with their play, they scarcely took notice of the old man standing so still upon the ice before them; nor had he given any thought to them.

8. He, too, was busy; for a fine, large seal had just popped up its head above the ice, through a hole only a few feet from where he stood. Very slowly and quietly the old man bent forward, the spear poised in his hand, and ready for the blow. The seal was puffing and snorting, as it filled its lungs with the keen fresh air, and had no idea that an enemy was so near.

9. The old man was delighted, for once in his life. Here was indeed a prize. "The finest I have seen for many a long day, and all ready to my hand!" thought the seal-hunter, as he shot the spear forth.

10. But, at that very moment, the children in their play gave a loud shout, which caused the seal to turn its head towards the shore. Then, seeing an enemy close by, it dived quick as a flash of lightning, down into the icy water, and