



Level 2

# Rainforest Boy



OXFORD





# Rainforest Boy

*Retold by Rachel Bladon*  
*Illustrated by Lorena Alvarez*



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These children live near the rainforest. They want to play. They want to play with their friend Curupira, the Rainforest Boy. 'Curupira!' they say. 'Curupira!'





Here's Curupira! Curupira is the Rainforest Boy. He lives in the rainforest and he loves the animals and the trees. Curupira has red hair and strange feet. His feet are backwards! He is strong and very fast, and he can whistle very loud. The rainforest is very big. But the children are safe with Curupira. The animals and trees are safe too. Curupira is their friend.



‘Come with me!’ says Curupira to the children. ‘Come and see something.’

The children go into the rainforest with Curupira. They walk next to the river, and up a hill. Then they come to a big tree.



Come with me!



‘Look!’ says Curupira quietly. ‘Look at the jaguar with her cubs!’

And there, under the tree, are three little cubs, with their mother.

‘Oh!’ say the children. ‘Look at them!’







‘Sometimes bad men come and they kill the jaguars,’ says Curupira. ‘They want their beautiful coats. We must stop the bad men. We must help the jaguars, so they are safe. Then the cubs can get big and strong. One day they can have cubs too.’

‘Please help them, Curupira,’ says a little girl.



The children follow Curupira out of the rainforest. Then they say goodbye, and run home.

‘Goodbye!’ Curupira says. ‘Come back tomorrow! Come and see the jaguars tomorrow!’

But a man is listening.  
A man with a gun.  
A hunter.



Come back tomorrow!



‘I can kill those jaguars and get their coats,’ thinks the hunter. ‘I can come back tomorrow with my friends, and we can follow that boy. He can take us to the jaguars.’

But Curupira sees the hunter.



I can kill those jaguars.



The next day the children come back.  
The hunter comes back too. He comes  
back with his friends.

‘Curupira!’ the children say. ‘Let’s go and  
see the jaguars!’

‘Not today, my friends,’ says Curupira.  
‘The jaguars are tired. You cannot come  
with me today. But come back tomorrow.’



Let’s go and see the jaguars!

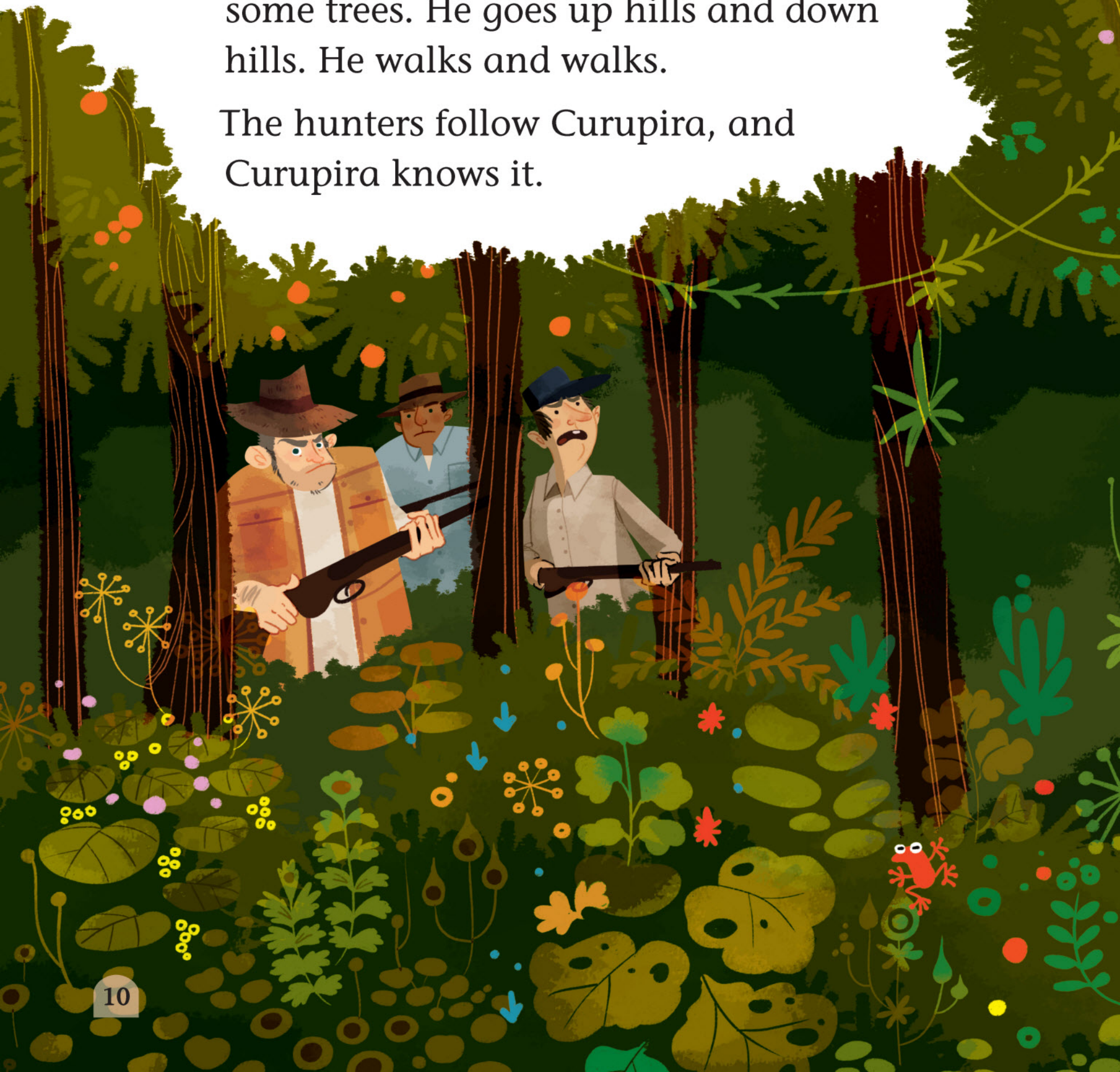
Not today, my friends.



The children go home, and Curupira goes into the rainforest. He doesn't walk next to the river. He doesn't walk up the hill. He doesn't go to the jaguars.

Curupira goes up some rocks and behind some trees. He goes up hills and down hills. He walks and walks.

The hunters follow Curupira, and Curupira knows it.





All morning Curupira walks. He walks,  
and the men follow. The men are  
tired. They are hot and hungry.  
'Where are the jaguars?' they think.







Where is he?

Suddenly Curupira runs. He runs very, very fast, and the hunters can't follow him.

'Where is he?' they say.  
'We can't see him!'






The hunters come to a big tree. They cannot see Curupira. They are hot and tired, and hungry, too. They want to find the jaguars.

Then one of the hunters says, 'Look! His footprints! We can follow his footprints. They can take us to the jaguars.'

An illustration of three hunters in a lush jungle. On the left, a large tree trunk with thick, reddish-brown roots dominates the foreground. Three hunters are in the center. One hunter, wearing a blue cap and a light-colored shirt, is pointing towards the ground. Another hunter, wearing a brown hat and a blue shirt, stands behind him, holding a long rifle. A third hunter, wearing a brown hat and a red vest over a white shirt, is crouching down, looking at the ground. The ground is covered with various plants, including large green leaves and small pink flowers. In the background, there are more trees and foliage, creating a dense jungle atmosphere. A speech bubble from the hunter in the blue cap says, "Look! His footprints!".

Look! His footprints!





Curupira is up the tree. He  
laughs quietly. They are  
his footprints, but they are  
backwards footprints. They  
don't go to the jaguars.

They go down hills and up  
hills. Then they go out of  
the rainforest!



The hunters follow the footprints. They are tired and hungry.

‘Where are these footprints going?’ they ask. ‘Where is that boy? And where are the jaguars?’

An illustration of three hunters in a lush jungle. The hunters are wearing hats and carrying rifles. One hunter is looking through binoculars. The jungle is filled with green foliage, trees, and colorful birds. A speech bubble from one of the hunters says, "Where are these footprints going?".

Where are these footprints going?





What's that?

Is it an animal?

Then the hunters hear a whistle – a loud, loud whistle.

‘What’s that?’ they say. ‘Is it an animal?’

Now they are afraid, too. They are tired, hungry, and afraid.

‘Where are we?’ they say. But they don’t know, so they follow the footprints.





All afternoon, the hunters follow the footprints. They hear another whistle, and they are afraid.

‘There are strange things in this rainforest!’ they say.

It is evening now, and they want to go home.

‘These footprints aren’t taking us to the jaguars,’ they say. ‘But can they take us out of the rainforest?’



The men follow the footprints ... and  
at last they come out of the rainforest.


'I'm afraid!' says one of the hunters.

'I don't want to come back here.'

'No!' say the others. 'Let's go home!'

And they run home.

Curupira is in a tree. He sees the men,  
and he laughs and laughs.



I don't want to  
come back here!





The next day the children come back.

‘Can we see the jaguars today, Curupira?’ they ask.

‘Yes, you can see the jaguars today!’ he says. ‘The jaguars are not tired today.’

‘Are you helping them, Curupira?’ asks the little girl.

‘Yes,’ says Curupira. ‘I always help the jaguars. I help the rainforest and all the rainforest animals, so they are safe.’

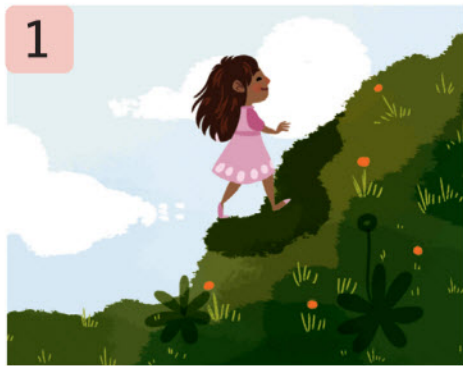




# Exercises

## 1 Write the words.

under down out of next to ~~up~~ behind



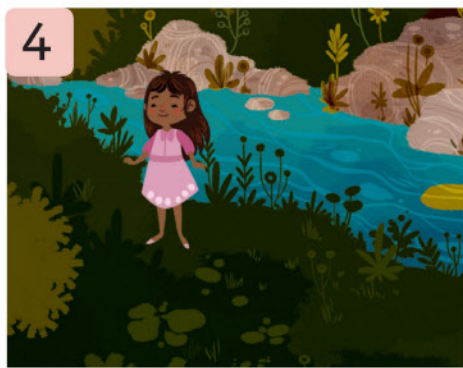
up the hill



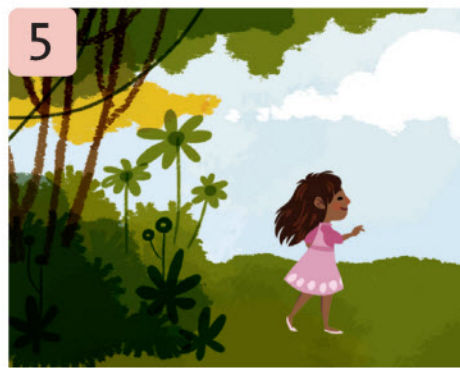
\_\_\_\_\_ the tree



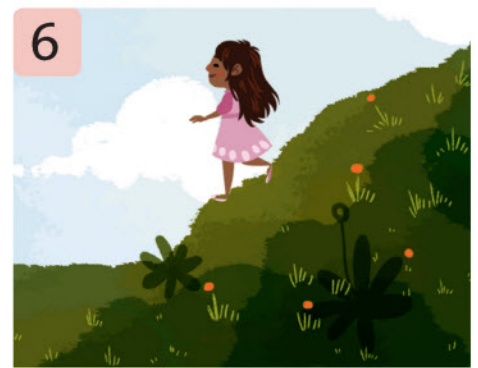
\_\_\_\_\_ the rocks



\_\_\_\_\_ the river



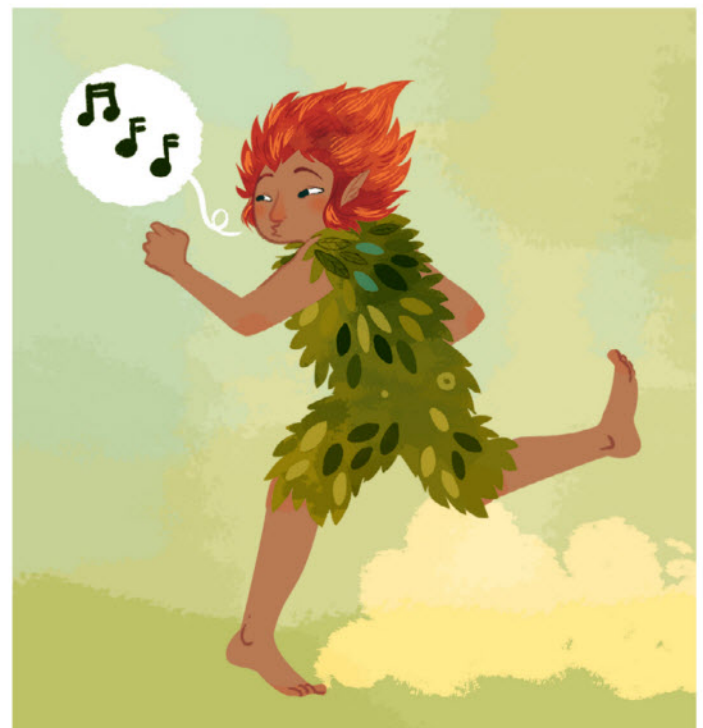
\_\_\_\_\_ the rainforest



\_\_\_\_\_ the hill

## 2 Write the words.

- 1 This is Curupira .
- 2 He has \_\_\_\_\_ hair.
- 3 His feet are \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 4 He is strong and very \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 5 He can \_\_\_\_\_ very loud.

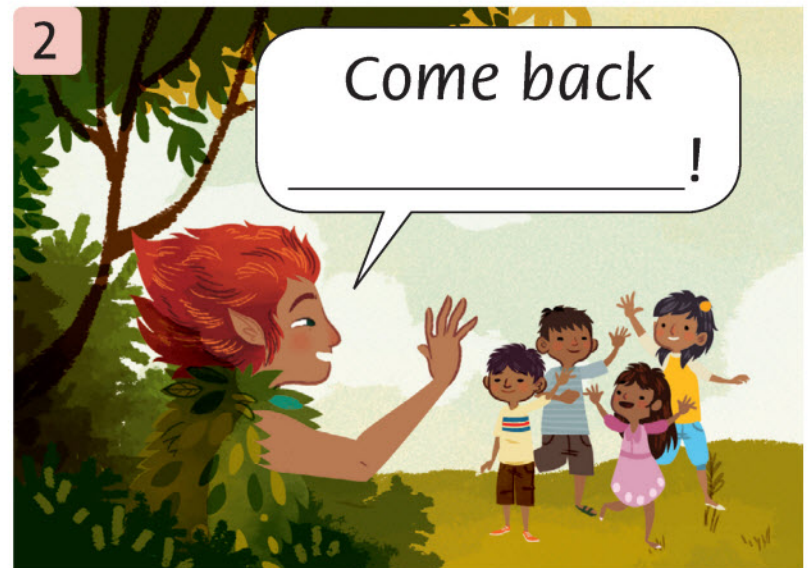




3 Number the sentences 1–7. Then write sentence 8.

- ☐ The hunters follow Curupira.
- ☒ 1 The children go and see the jaguars with Curupira.
- ☐ Curupira runs very fast, and the hunters can't follow him.
- ☐ The children come back and say, 'Can we see the jaguars today?'
- ☐ The hunters follow Curupira's footprints.
- ☐ The hunters run home.
- ☐ A hunter listens to Curupira and the children.
- ☒ 8 The next day \_\_\_\_\_

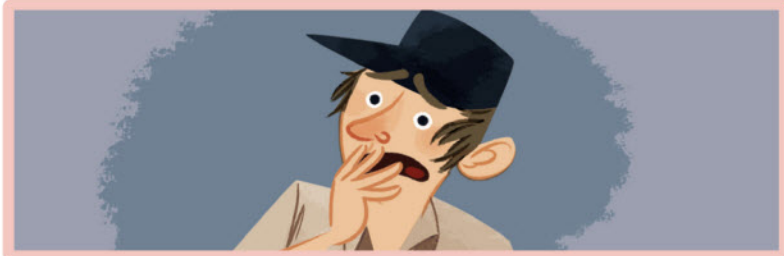
4 What do they say? Write the words.



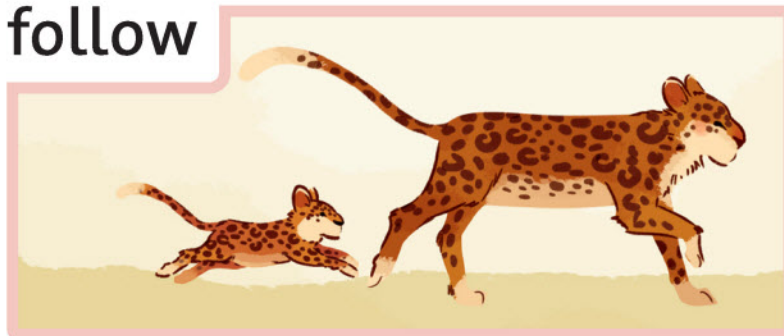


# Picture Dictionary

afraid *He's afraid.*



follow



backwards



footprints



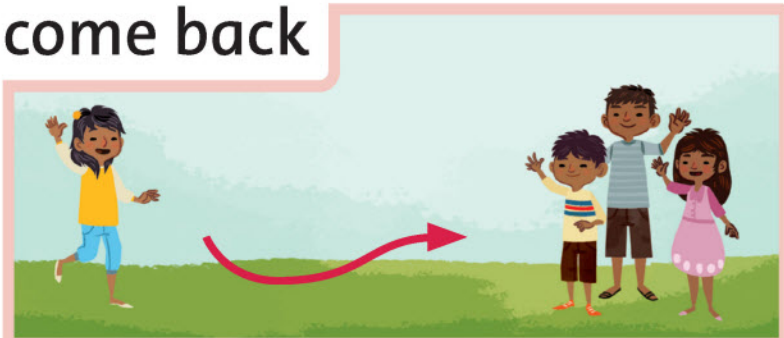
coat



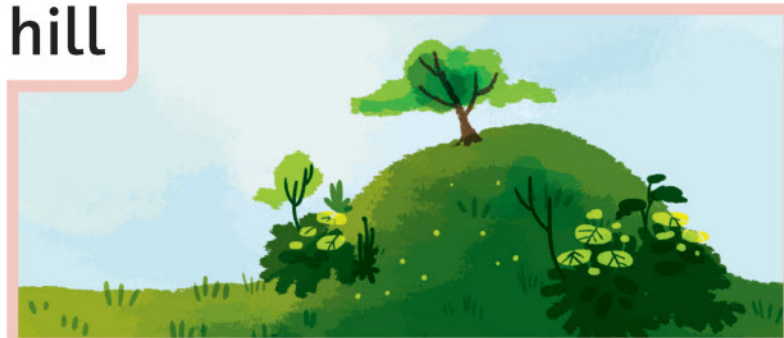
gun



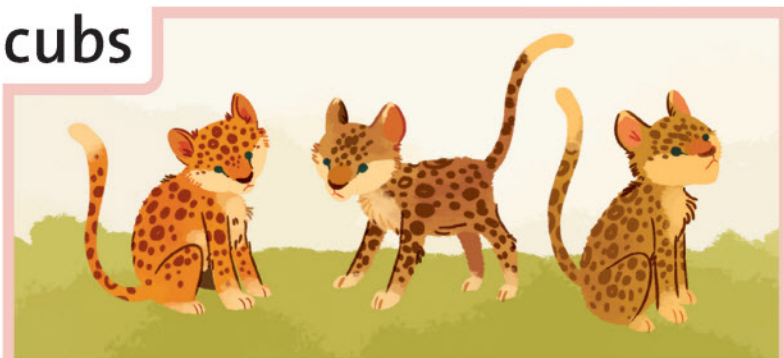
come back



hill



cubs

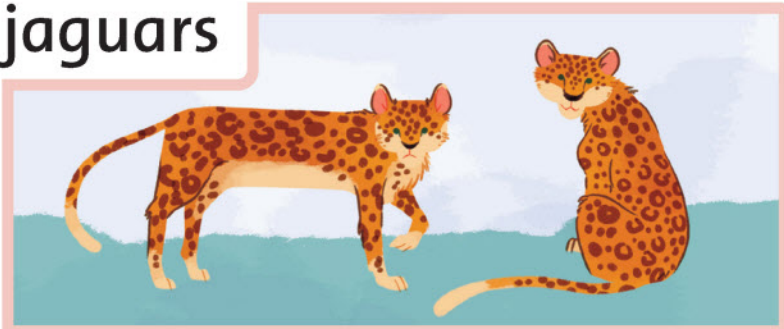


hunter

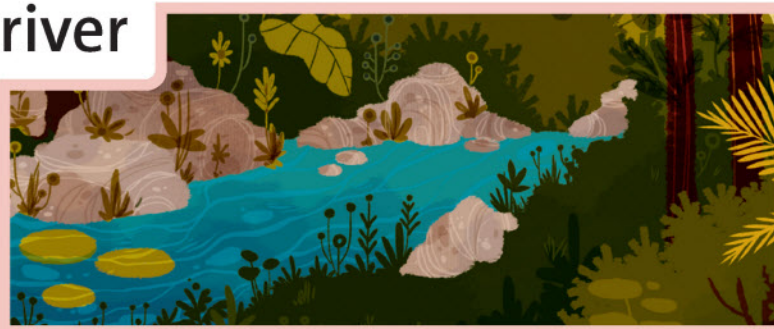




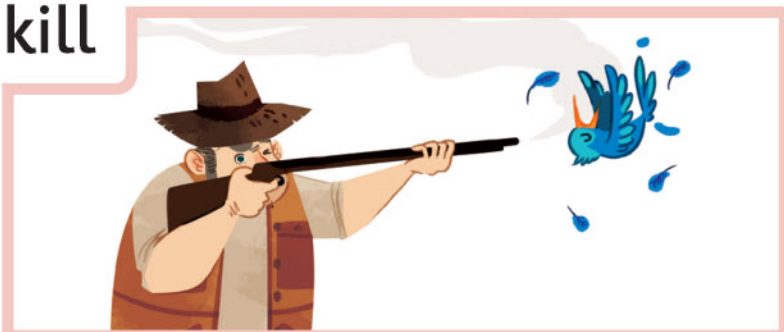
jaguars



river



kill



rocks



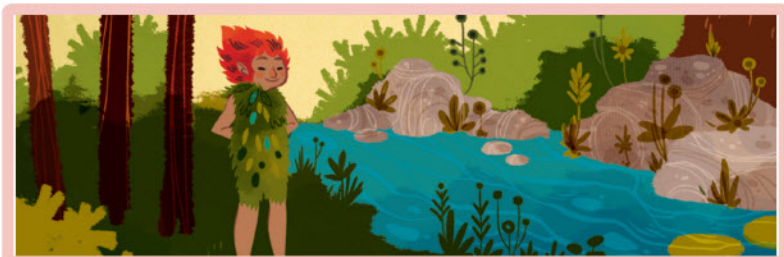
loud



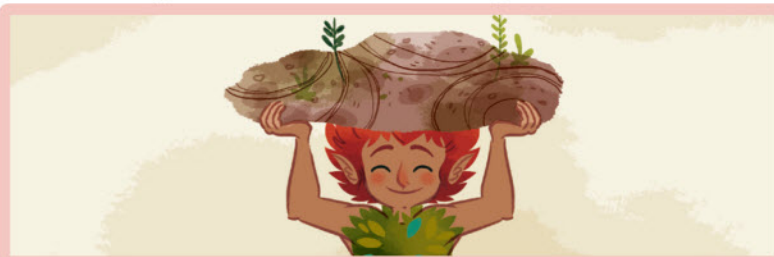
safe



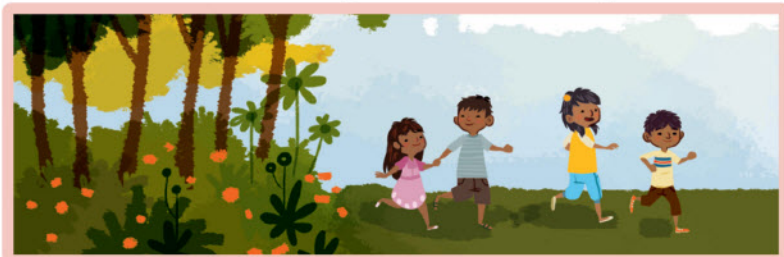
next to *next to the river*



strong *He's strong.*



out of *out of the rainforest*



tree



rainforest



whistle





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- The Lazy Grasshopper
- The Little Red Hen
- Lownu Mends the Sky
- The Magic Cooking Pot
- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

## Level 2: 150 headwords

- Amrita and the Trees
- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Rainforest Boy
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

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- The Heron and the Hummingbird
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood
- Rapunzel

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Level 2

# Rainforest Boy






Meet Curupira, the Amazon Rainforest boy with strange feet. Read this tale from Brazil to find out how he loves the forest and keeps its animals safe.

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Rachel Bladon  
Illustrated by Lorena Alvarez

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|  Level 1: 100 headwords        |  Level 4: 300 headwords |
|  <b>Level 2: 150 headwords</b> |  Level 5: 400 headwords |
|  Level 3: 200 headwords        |  |

**Word count for this story: 760**

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