Grandma's Amazing Volcano Story

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First published 2020

Published by Library For All Ltd
Email: info@libraryforall.org
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This book was made possible by the generous support of

Original illustrations by Diego Barbosa

Grandma’s Amazing Volcano Story
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ISBN: 978-1-922374-84-4
SKU00605
Vika loved to ask Grandma really hard questions. Grandma always gave amazing answers!

“Grandma, how did the volcano get there?”
“Well, what an interesting question!” Grandma began. Vika knew an interesting answer was coming soon.
“Can you picture a boat floating on the water? Now, imagine you are watching two boats bumping into each other.”

Splash! Thump! Vika could imagine the boats.

“When the boats collide, you can see water rising up between them. This is how a volcano is made. The earth is made up of huge pieces of rock that float around on a liquid called magma, just like the boats floating on the water.”
“Sometimes these large pieces of rock collide just like two boats, and the magma becomes lava. Lava flows over the top of the volcano, like water splashes up and over the boat.”
“Once the volcano has formed it can explode at any time. This is called an eruption. That’s why we are always alert and prepared in our village. Just in case!”
Vika had watched the volcano in the hills near the village for many hours. Sometimes she could see smoke going up into the air.

“An eruption happens when the heat and the gas created by the magma need to get out from under a layer of rock. They rise up through an underground vent and out through an open hole at the top of the volcano called the crater.” Vika watched her grandmother with interest. This was a lot of information to take in, but Grandma was so good at explaining things. Grandma had always enjoyed learning how things work! She read a lot of books!
“In an eruption, ash, lava, rocks and gas all fall and flow out of the crater. Sometimes volcanoes do not explode for a long time but, when they do, they can cause a lot of damage. We must be very careful when volcanoes erupt, even if they are very far away.”
“Have you ever seen a volcano erupt Grandma? What did you do?” Vika asked.

“When I was around your age the volcano near our village erupted,” Grandma began. “My father told me what to do to stay safe. I was inside when it happened.

First we closed the doors and windows to keep the dust out. Soon, we heard from our community leaders that it was time to move to a safe place.”
“What did you do then, Grandma?’ Vika asked, waiting for yet another amazing answer.

Our family walked with our neighbours to another village that was further away from the volcano, so we were safer. It was a bit scary, but the eruption did not last very long.”
Vika tried hard to imagine Grandma and her family walking to a safe village. She gazed out the window at the volcano. It looked quiet and peaceful today, but if it ever started smoking, she would follow her Grandma’s advice!
Let’s Play A Game!

Mark each square when you have completed the activity!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read an information book about volcanoes.</td>
<td>![Image of family discussing information]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you need to leave your house in an emergency, where will you go? Ask your family or teacher about your community action plan!</td>
<td>![Image of children and teacher discussing safety]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell someone three facts you’ve learned about volcanoes.</td>
<td>![Image of a girl giving a thumbs up]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you know what to do if you are inside during an eruption?</td>
<td>![Image of children making a volcano]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a volcano action plan with your community.</td>
<td>![Image of children discussing safety]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you know what to do if you are outside during an eruption?</td>
<td>![Image of children discussing safety]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.

What did you learn from this book?

Describe this book in one word. Funny? Scary? Colourful? Interesting?

How did this book make you feel when you finished reading it?

What was your favourite part of this book?

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About the contributors

Emma Spelman has worked in the education sector for over 25 years, across the fields of teaching, community engagement, educational resource development and educational policy. Her passion and belief in the power and necessity of education has led her to work in many countries and communities around the world including Indigenous Australian communities and parts of the South Pacific and Middle East.

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ISBN 978-1-922374-84-4