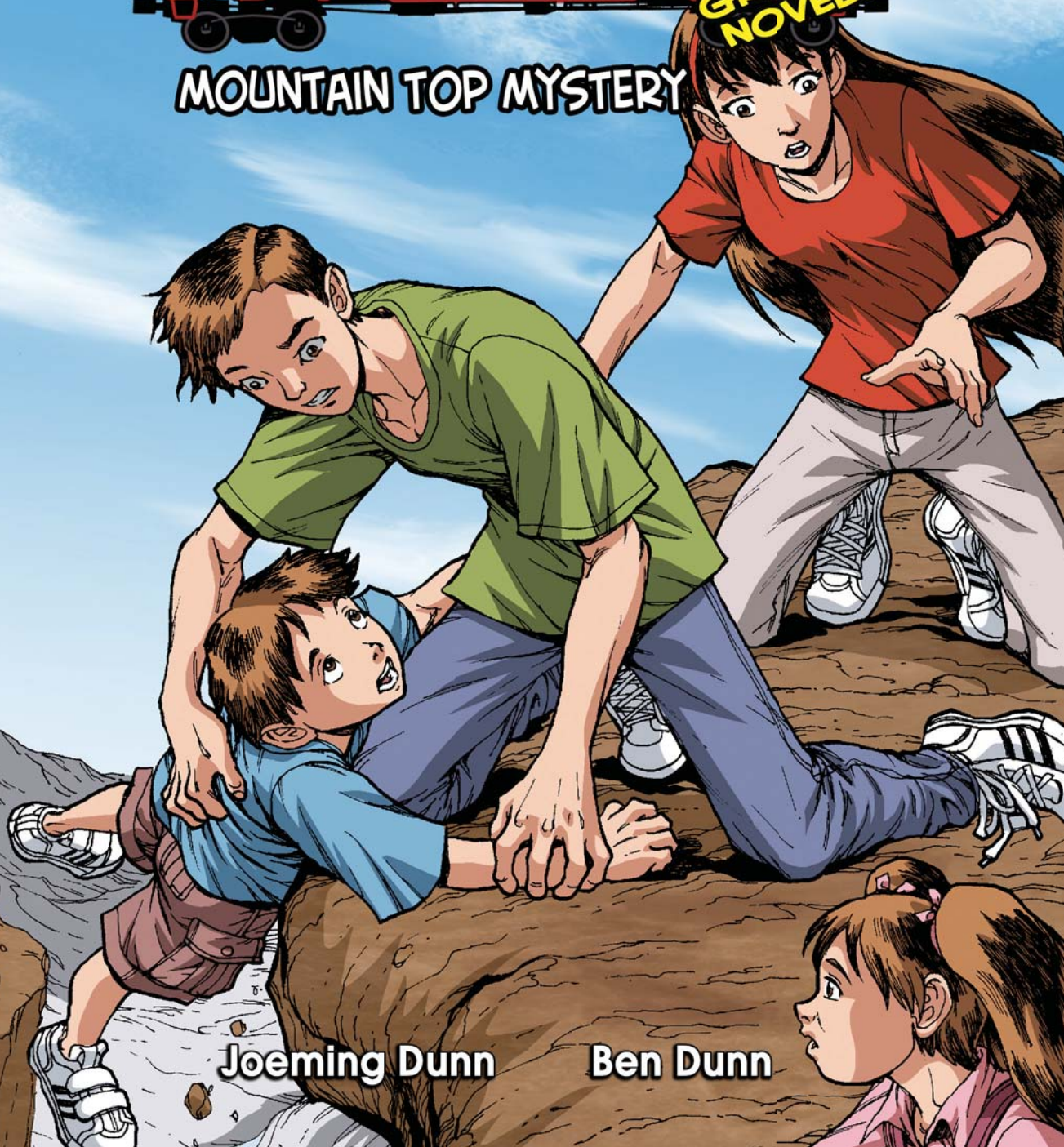


Gertrude Chandler Warner's

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

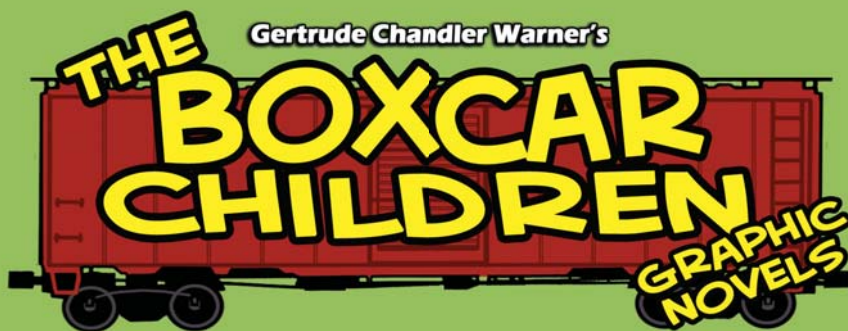
GRAPHIC NOVELS

MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY



Joeming Dunn

Ben Dunn



BOOK FIFTEEN MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden are going to climb a mountain! The hike up Old Flat Top is only supposed to take a day, but a dangerous rockslide changes everything. The rockslide reveals a hidden cave that just may hold a legendary treasure. Can the Boxcar Children solve the mystery of what's on top of the mountain?

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

GRAPHIC NOVELS

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11. **THE PIZZA MYSTERY**
12. **THE CASTLE MYSTERY**
13. **THE WOODSHED MYSTERY**
14. **THE Lighthouse MYSTERY**
15. **MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY**
16. **HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY**
17. **BICYCLE MYSTERY**
18. **MYSTERY IN THE SAND**

Gertrude Chandler Warner's
THE BOXCAR CHILDREN
MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY

Adapted by Joeming Dunn
Illustrated by Ben Dunn



Henry Alden



Jessie Alden



Watch



Violet Alden



Benny Alden



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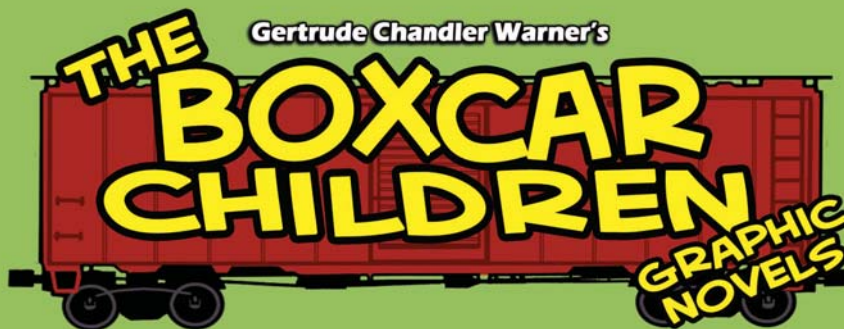
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BOOK FIFTEEN
MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY

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HOLD ON, BENNY!

It was a fine, warm day in early summer. The Aldens were just finishing lunch...

Grandfather, do you remember when we wanted to go mountain climbing?

Yes, I remember.

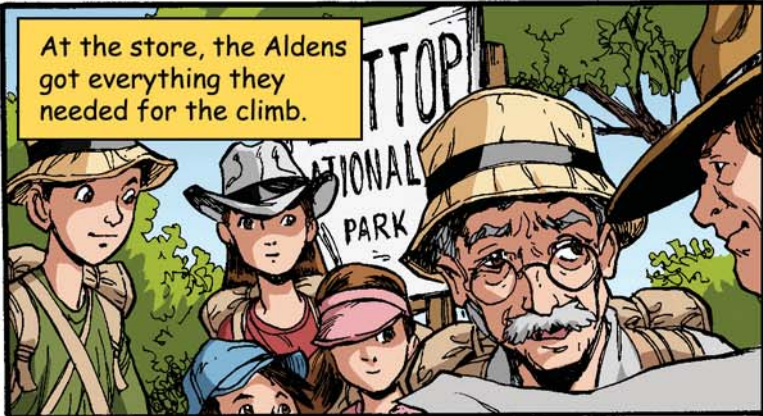
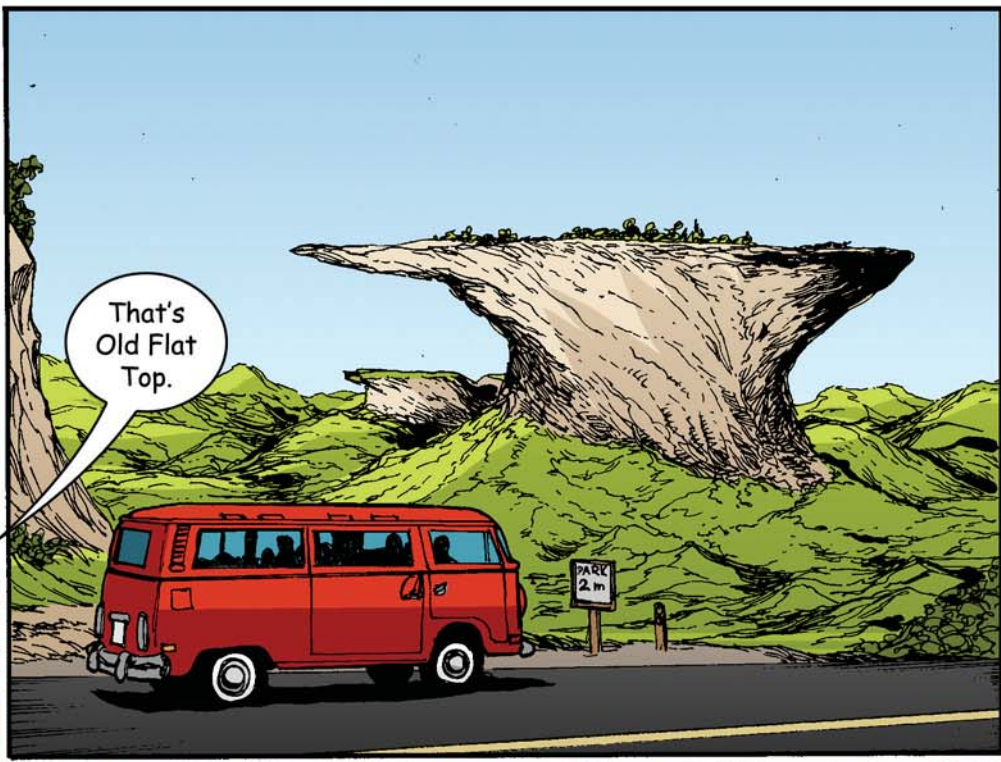
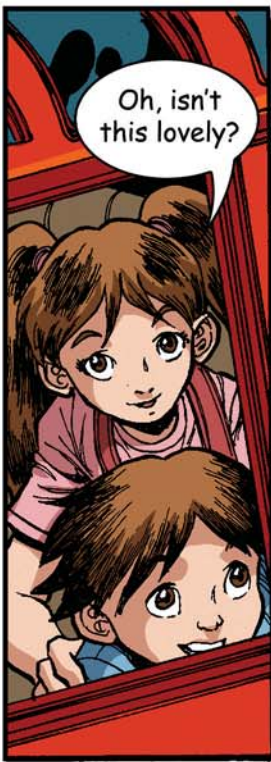
Well, do you remember we got cheated out of it?

Do you want to go mountain climbing?

Yes! I've been reading about a place called Flat Top.

Well, my answer is yes.

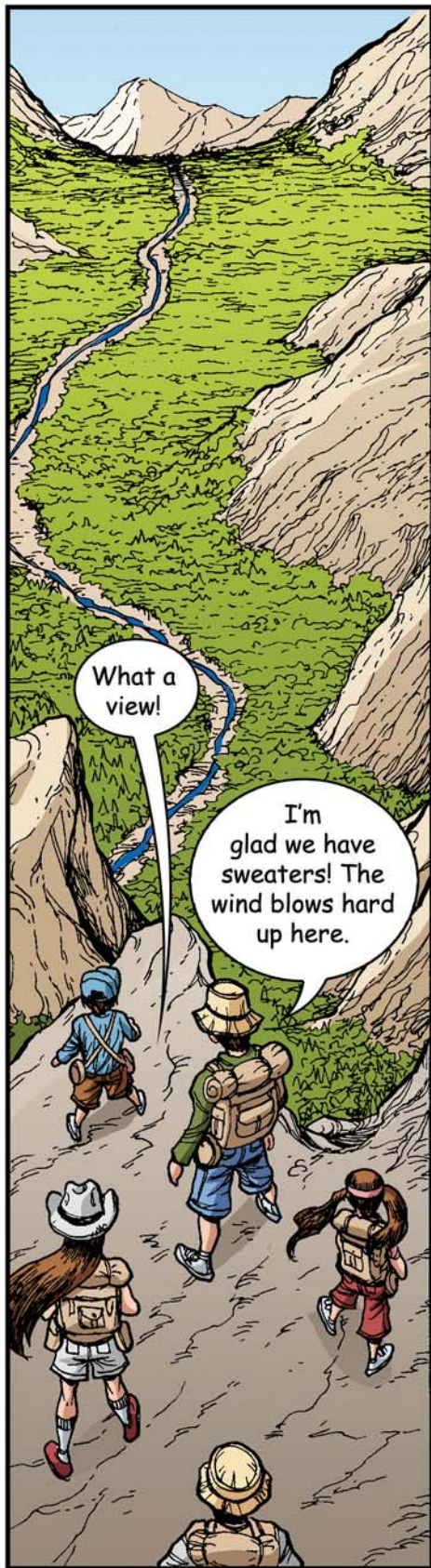
The next morning, the Aldens awoke bright and early for the two-hour drive to Flat Top.



Up and up they went. It was a little hard in some places, but the poles were a great help.

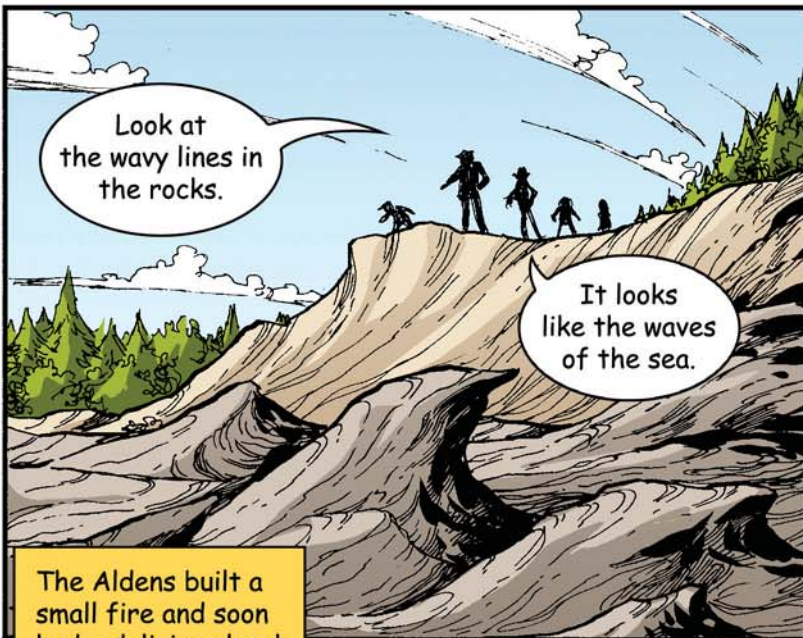


It took the Aldens several hours to reach the top.



What a view!

I'm glad we have sweaters! The wind blows hard up here.



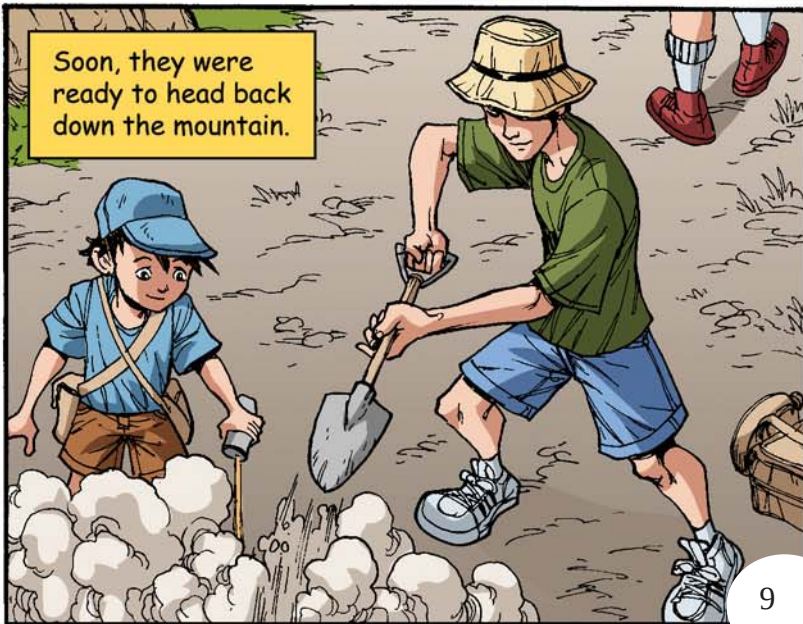
Look at the wavy lines in the rocks.

It looks like the waves of the sea.

The Aldens built a small fire and soon had a delicious lunch of hamburgers.



Soon, they were ready to head back down the mountain.



Benny was going to lead the way.

I'll help you down this first big step. Let me take your hand.

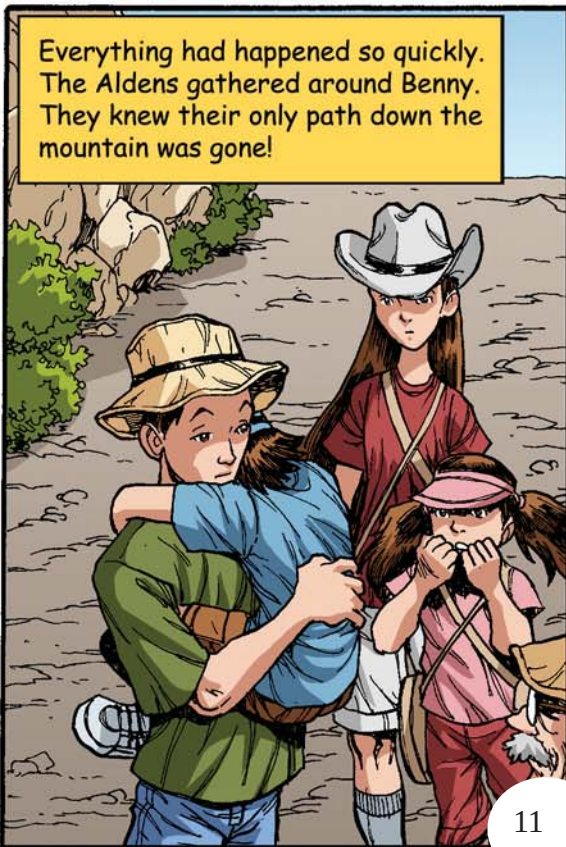


The rock ledge that led to the path had broken off!





Grandfather and Henry quickly pulled Benny to safety.



WAITING FOR RESCUE

After the sun had gone down, they all heard a strange sound.

It sounds like an airplane.

WUP... WUP... WUP...

We'll have to spend the night up here. I don't think we need to worry, but perhaps we'd better build a fire.

The f-fire f-f-feels good.

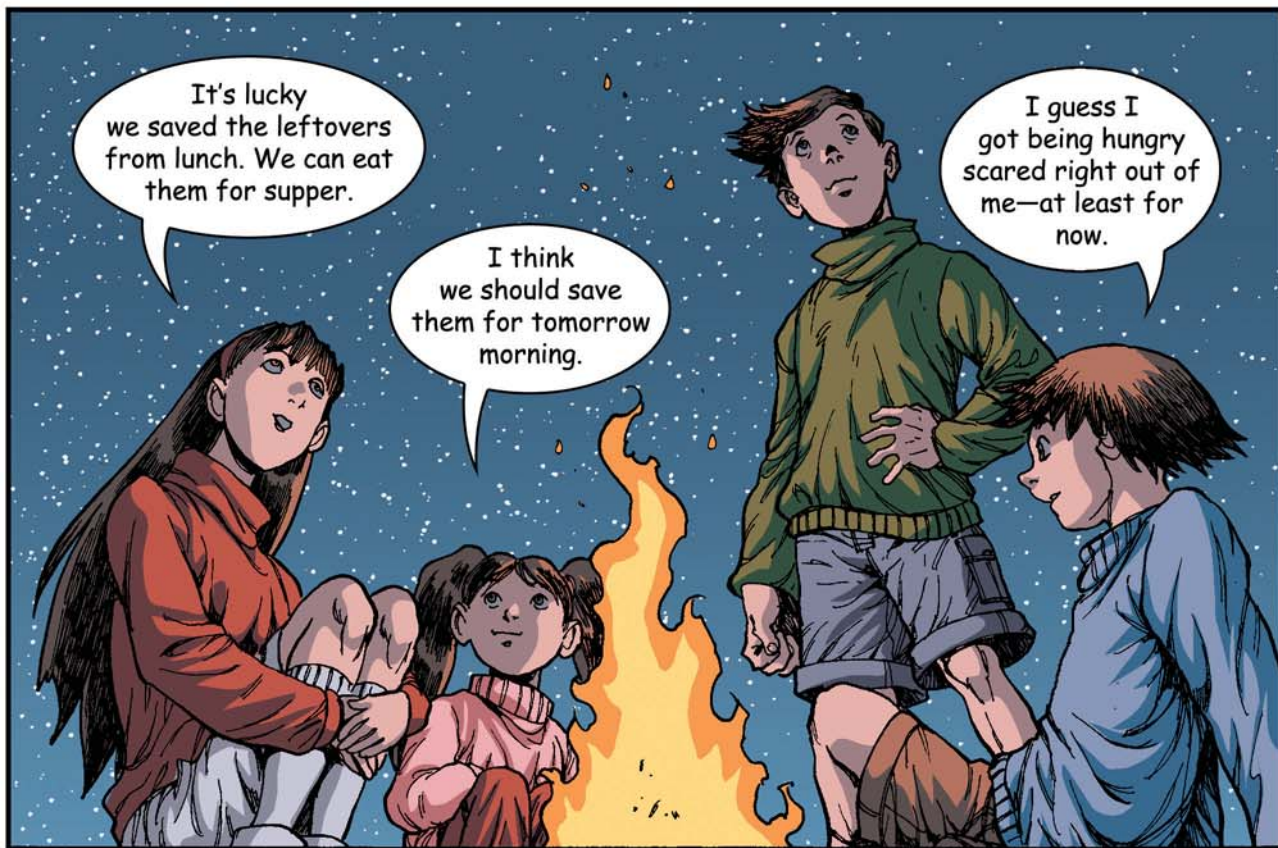
WUP!

WUP!

WUP!

That's Grandfather for you! I'll bet he planned that in case of trouble.

We can't pick you up in the dark. We'll have to wait until morning. I'm going to drop five sleeping bags.



It's lucky we saved the leftovers from lunch. We can eat them for supper.

I think we should save them for tomorrow morning.

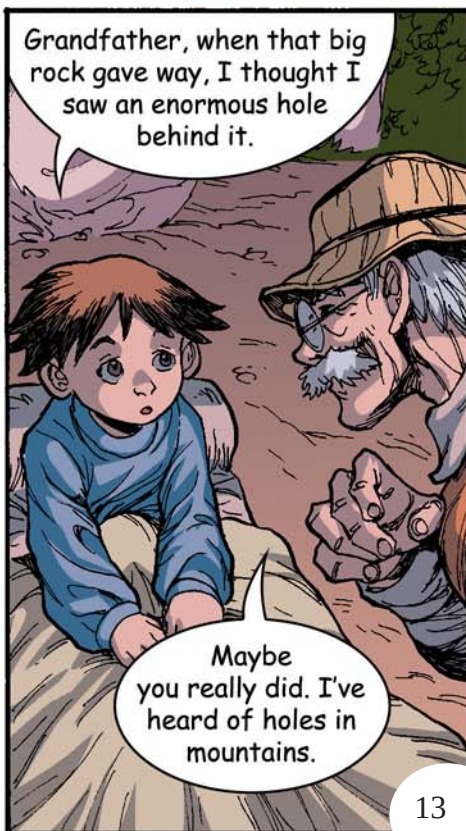
I guess I got being hungry scared right out of me—at least for now.



I think I see a faint light in the woods. You don't suppose anyone is in trouble, do you?



It's very faint. When we get down, we will find out what the light is. Now all of us to bed.



Grandfather, when that big rock gave way, I thought I saw an enormous hole behind it.

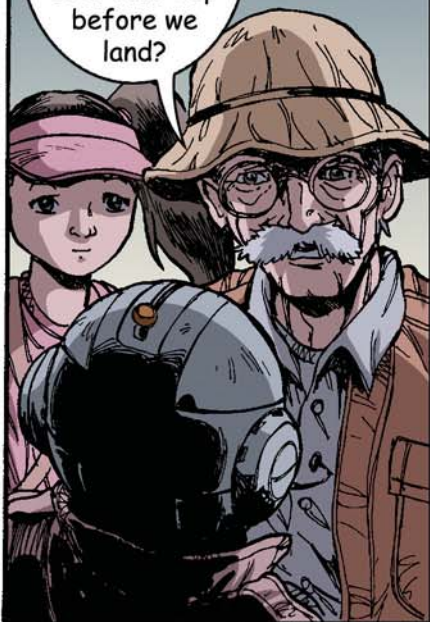
Maybe you really did. I've heard of holes in mountains.

When the morning fog lifted from the mountain, the helicopter returned.



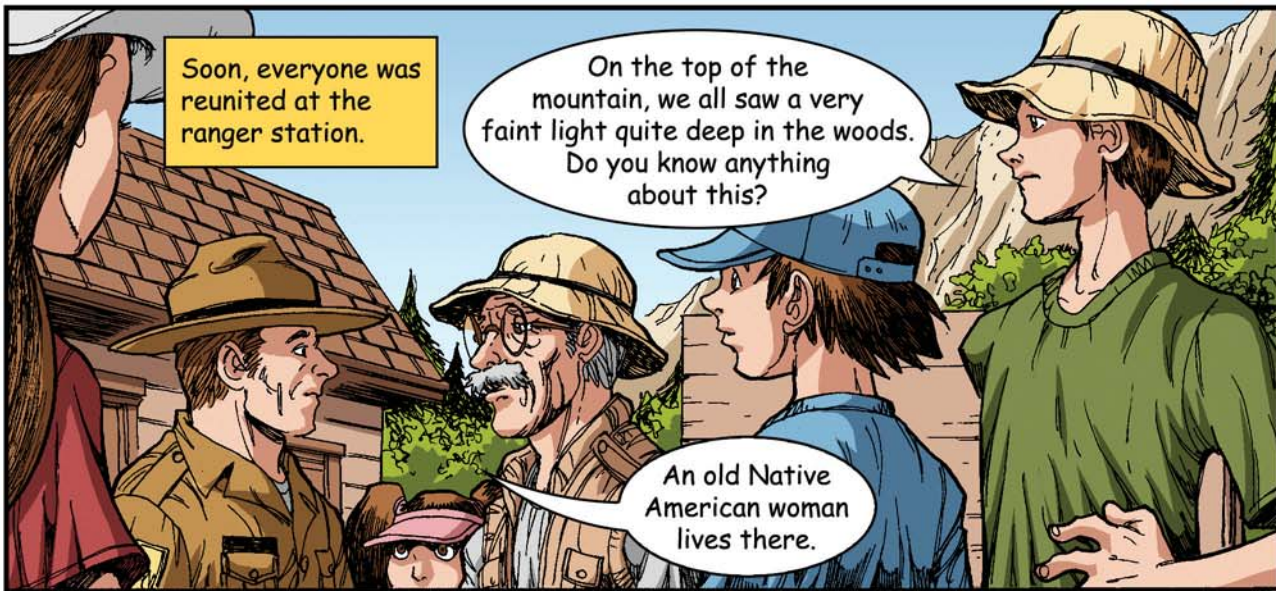
The helicopter took the first set of passengers down. Then, it returned for Violet and Grandfather.

Could you hover over Flat Top before we land?



Look, Violet. There's the hole!







BACK UP THE TRAIL

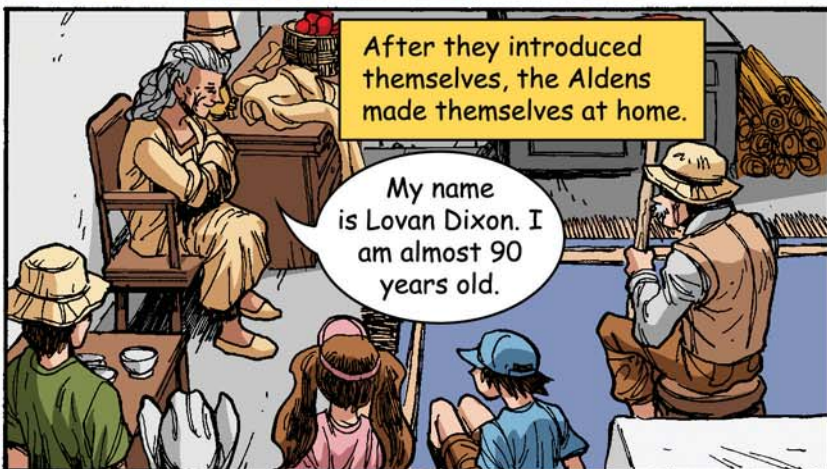
After a quick lunch, the group made their way to a small gray house.



I hope we aren't bothering you.

We saw your light from Old Flat Top and wanted to make sure you weren't in trouble.

Please come in.



After they introduced themselves, the Aldens made themselves at home.

My name is Lovan Dixon. I am almost 90 years old.



Do you really live all alone here?

Yes, child. I don't like living in town.



My people
always lived here,
and the government gave
these woods to us
long ago.

I am
the only one
who stayed here,
though.



When the
step gave way, I
saw a big hole behind it.
Do you know anything
about it?



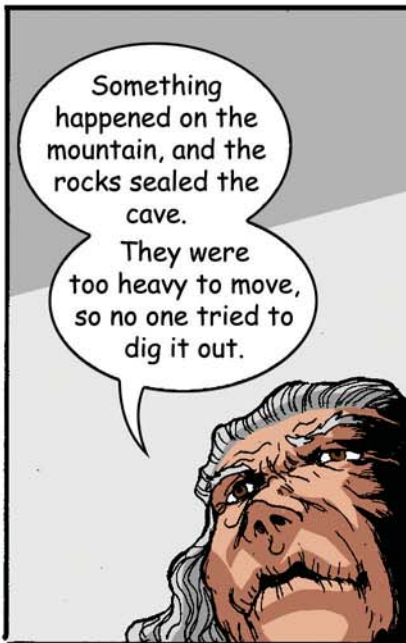
"Years ago, my
grandfather told
me a story.

"The story goes that
a friend of the king
of France ran away
to America...



"He was accidentally shot near
here. My great-grandfather,
Running Deer, hid him and
took care of him.

"Before he died, the
man gave a bag to my
great-grandfather."



The Aldens agreed they wanted to stay and solve the mystery of the cave. They spent the night at a hotel.



The next day...

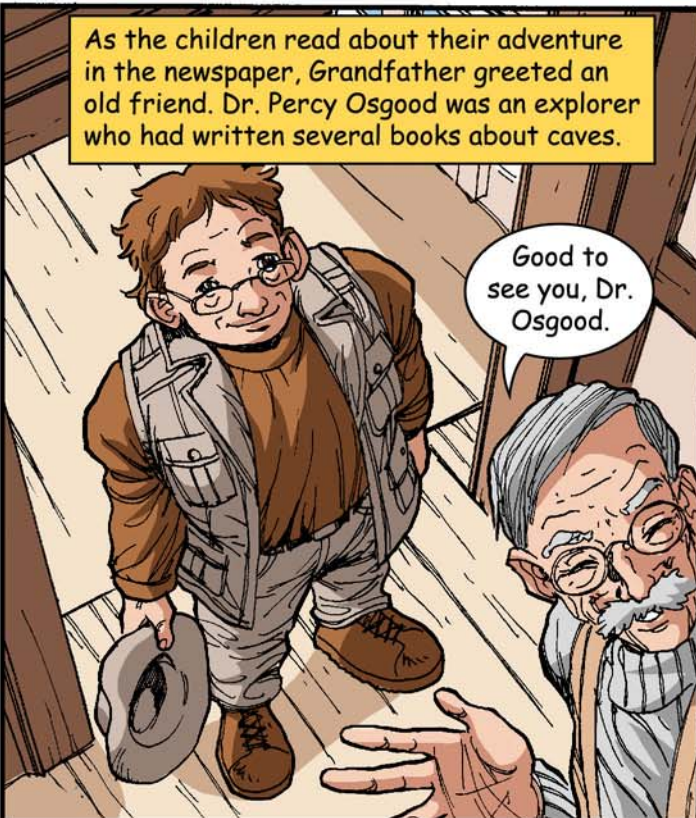
I thought you might like to see this paper.

Here we are!



As the children read about their adventure in the newspaper, Grandfather greeted an old friend. Dr. Percy Osgood was an explorer who had written several books about caves.

Good to see you, Dr. Osgood.



Have you made any plans, Dr. Osgood?

Oh yes! We are staging it now.

If you feel like climbing the mountain again, you can come watch.

Well, let's go!





THE FIRST FIND

Soon they all made their way back to Flat Top. A crowd had gathered to see the activity.



Two of your men have already gone up the trail.

Thank you.



Did you see that boy?

I thought Lohan was the only Native American around here...

The Aldens and Dr. Osgood began the long trek back up the mountain.

It's lucky nobody was on this trail when the rocks came down.

At the top, they found the workers had already begun. Dr. Osgood was inspecting the cave opening.

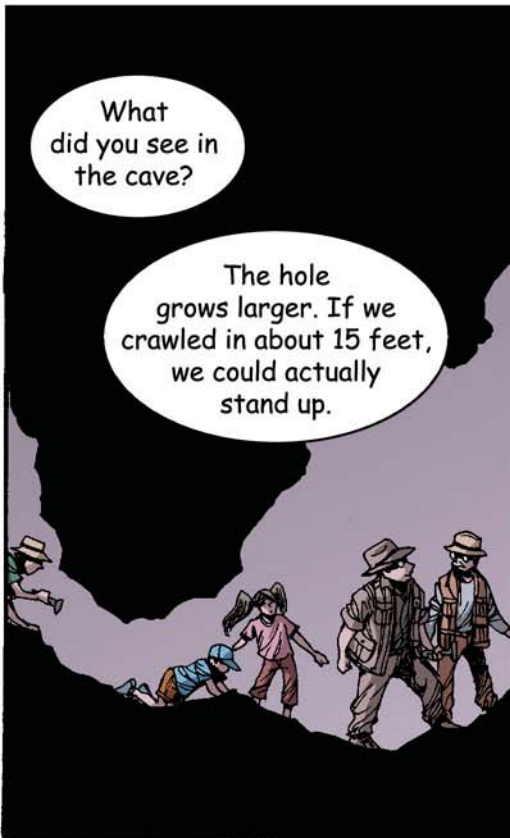


Then something happened like a small earthquake that closed up the hole. But this part of the cave was not squashed.



Then this front hole is really the back of the cave.

Right!



What did you see in the cave?

The hole grows larger. If we crawled in about 15 feet, we could actually stand up.



Have you found something already?



Yes. I found a fossil fish. It's millions of years old.



Yes, and this is the proof.

Does that mean that once this mountain was under water?

After showing the Aldens what he found, Dr. Osgood led them back out of the cave.



A rainstorm will soon be here. We'd better head down the mountain.



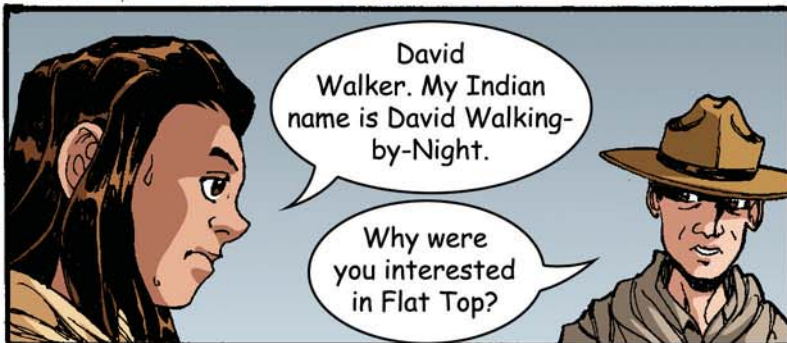
The Aldens made it back before the heavy rains started to pour.



They were looking in the store when the rangers brought in a visitor.

The boy comes from Maine. He's interested in the cave, but we don't know why.

What is your name?



David Walker. My Indian name is David Walking-by-Night.

Why were you interested in Flat Top?



My mother came from a tribe in this area. She told me stories about Flat Top.



She told me about a treasure that belongs to us. I thought I might get it.

After David told his story, the Aldens took him to their hotel. They got him cleaned up and fed him a good meal.

We hear there is a big leather bag in the cave. Have you heard this story?

Yes, sir!

Just then, Dr. Osgood arrived...

Ahem!

The staging is all done. I crawled inside for twenty-five feet.

Any bag?

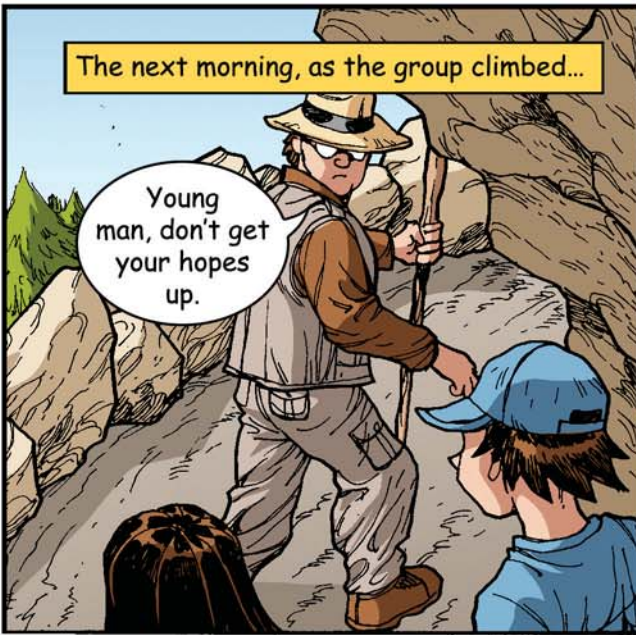
Well, no.

There must be somewhere something could be hidden.

You'll have to see for yourself. We'll go in the morning.

The next morning, as the group climbed...

Young man, don't get your hopes up.



You can all follow me. First, you have to crawl in.

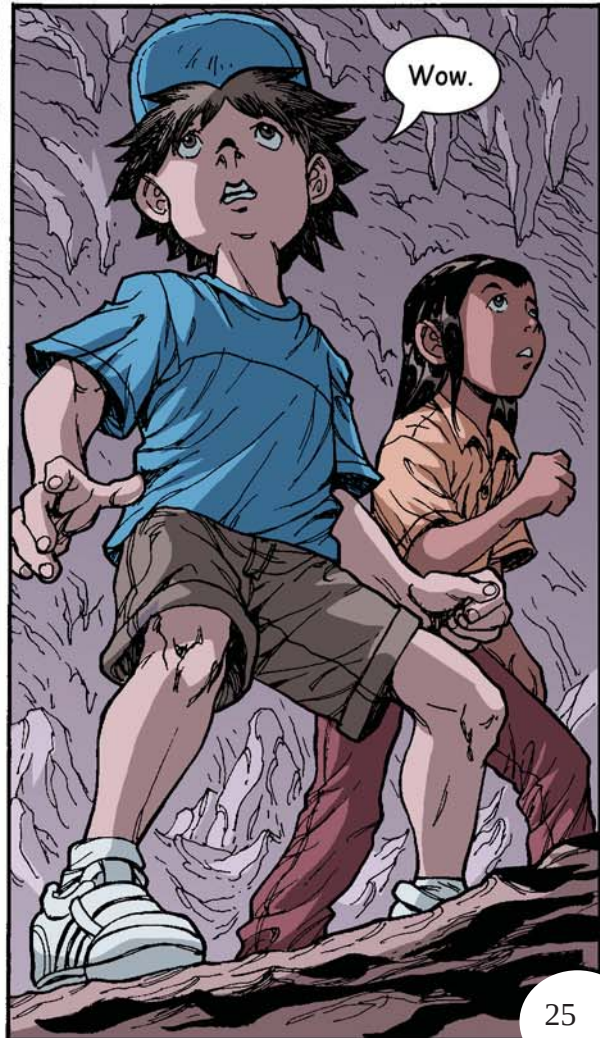


Soon, they were all in the larger part of the cave.

I also found a fern fossil. It tells me how old the cave was.



Wow.





That looks like a chimney.

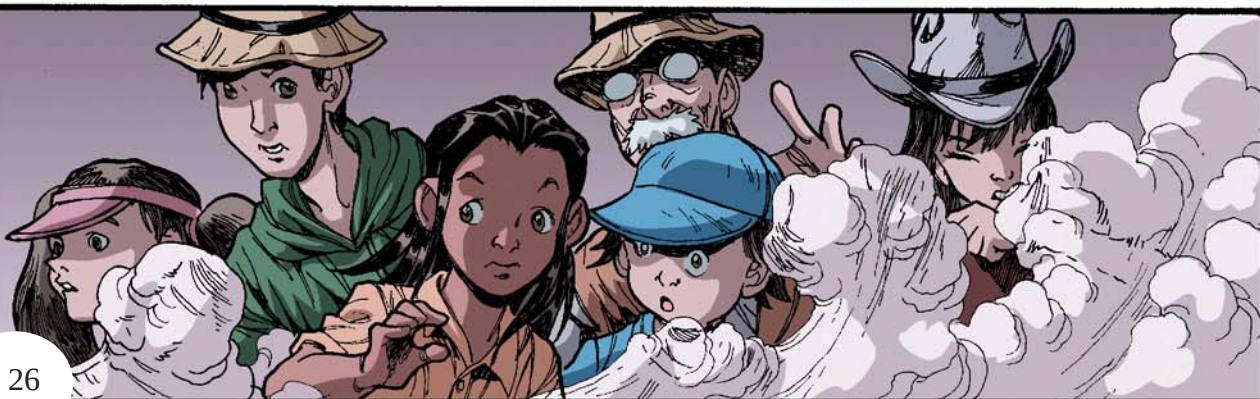
Or a closet in a corner of a room!

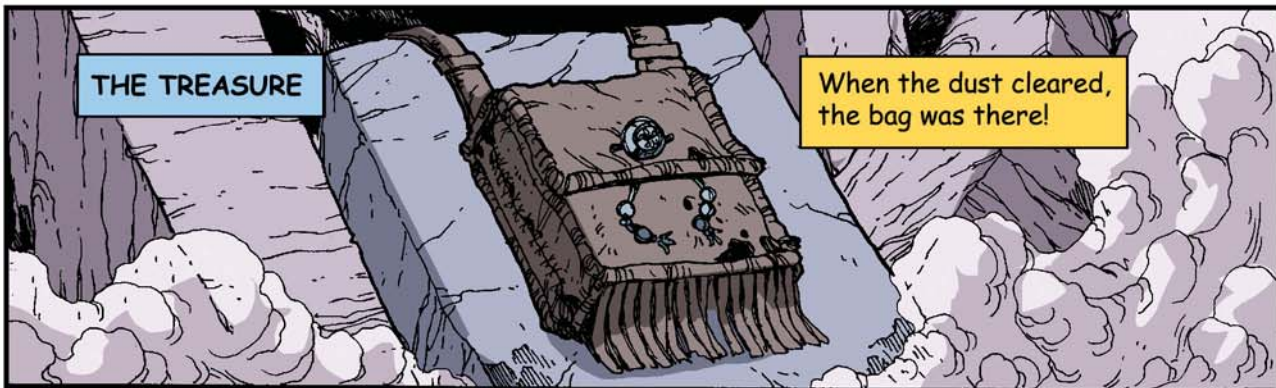


Benny asked one of the workmen if he could see if anything was hidden behind the rock.



KRASH!



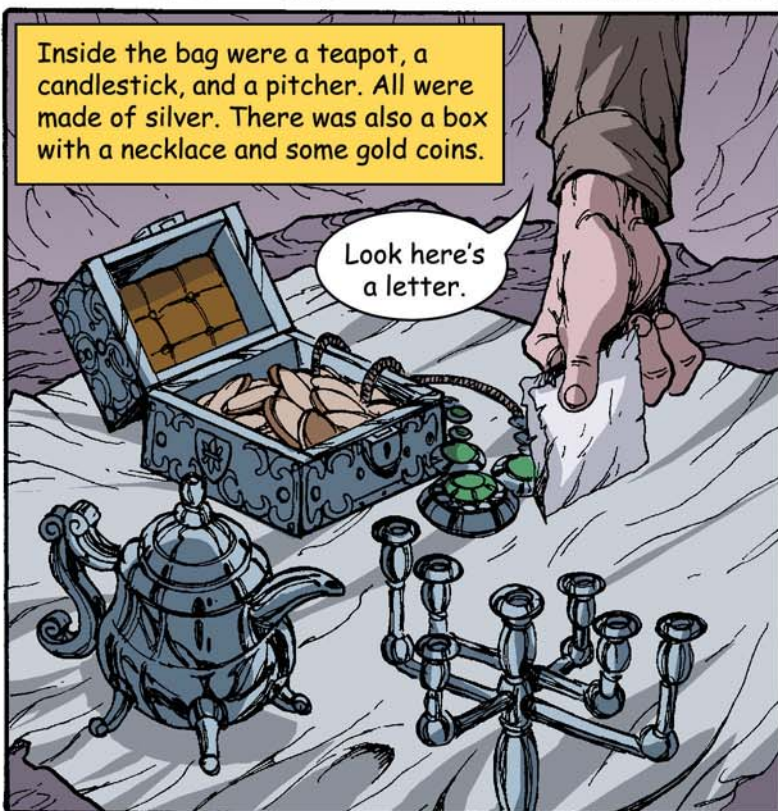


THE TREASURE

When the dust cleared, the bag was there!



Let's see what's in the bag.



Inside the bag were a teapot, a candlestick, and a pitcher. All were made of silver. There was also a box with a necklace and some gold coins.

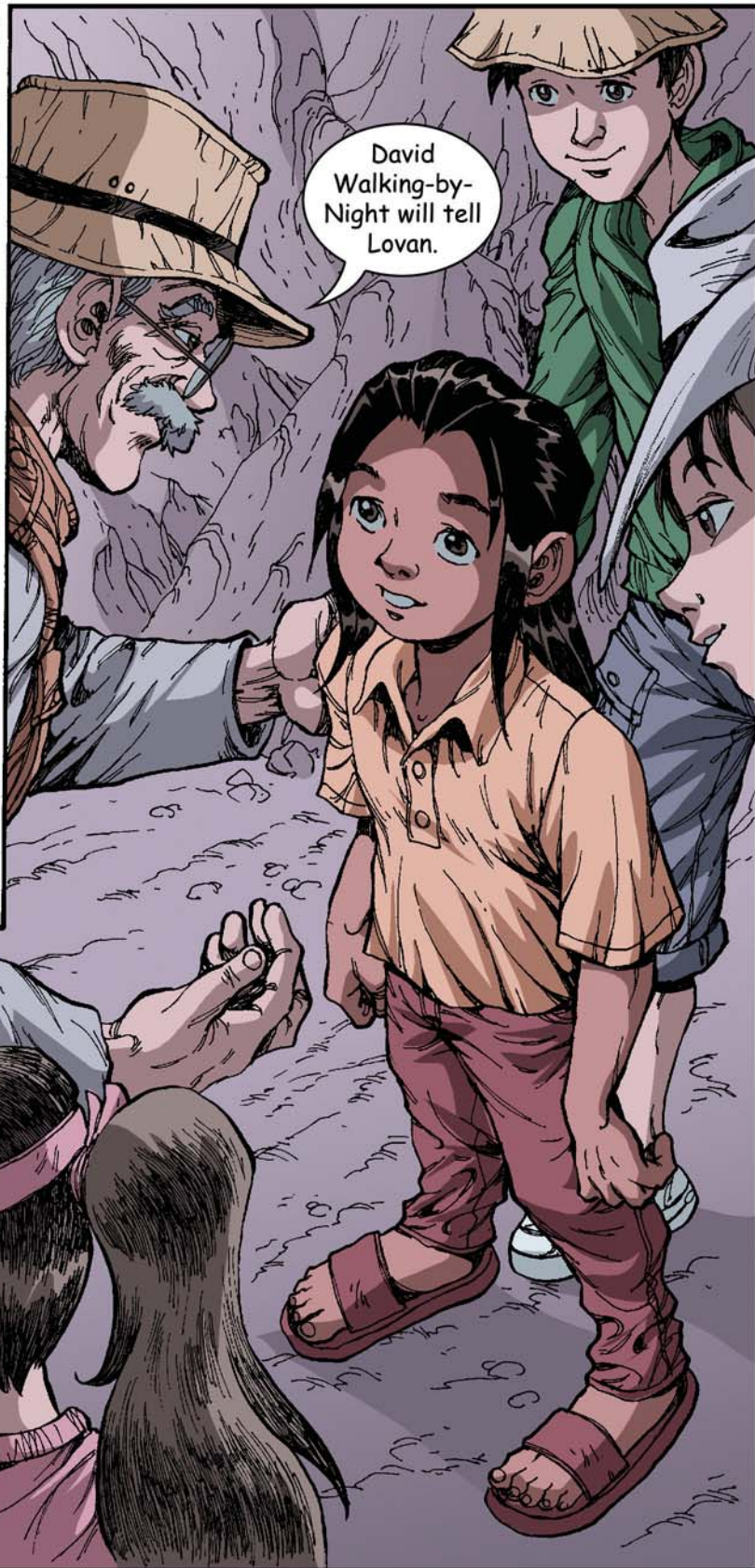
Look here's a letter.



This letter is in French. It says:

"This is for my Indian friend Running Deer, who saved my life. Louis Paul Deauville."

Cela pour mon ami Indien Courant Cer
Louis Paul Deauville





At first, Lovan was shocked. She didn't know she had family left.



My grandmother was named Susan. My father died first, then Grandmother. I thought I was the last of my family.



Oh, you found the leather bag?

Yes, and if you agree, I'll sell these things to a museum for you.

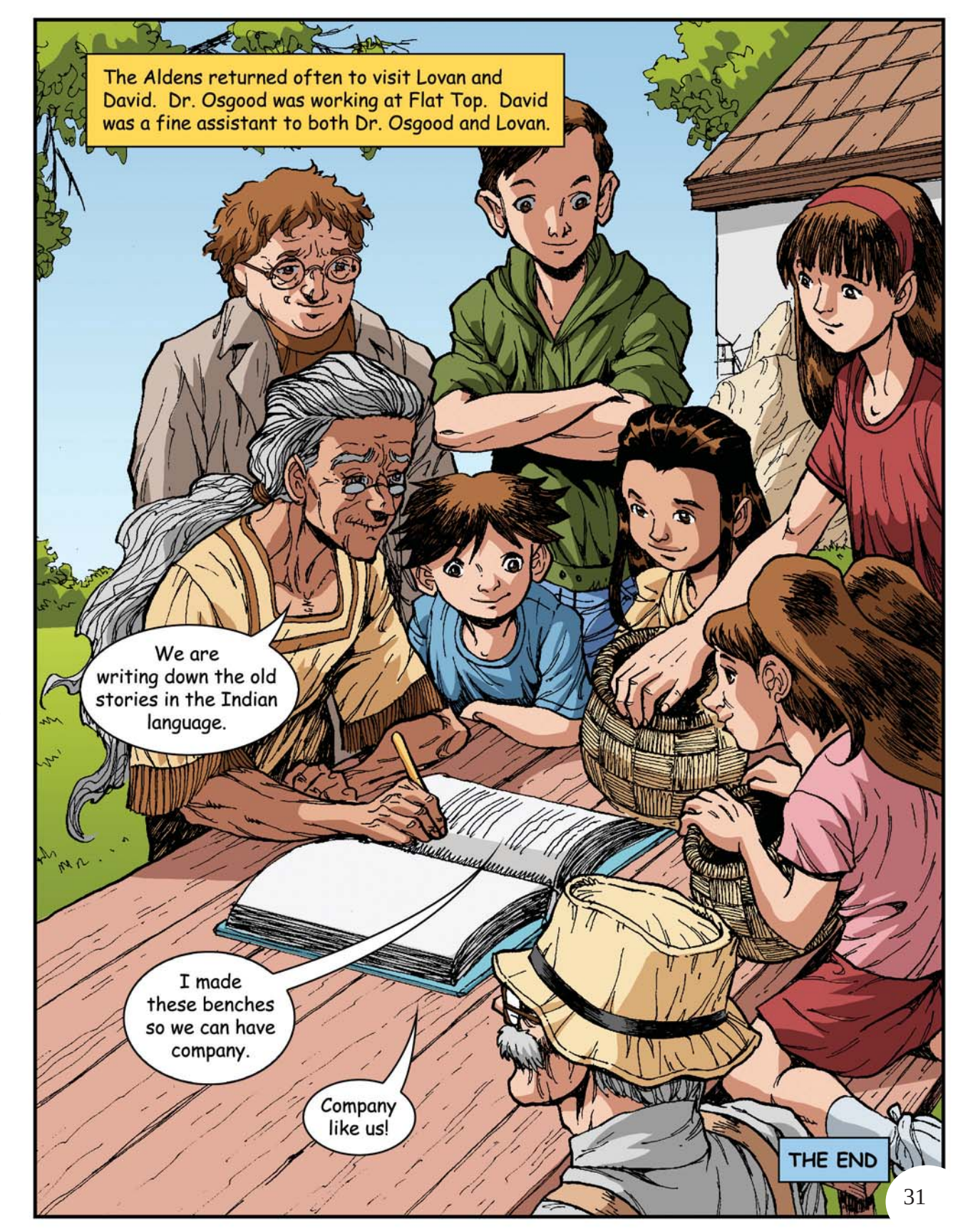


I'd like to stay here with Aunt Lovan for a little while, if you don't mind.

I don't mind at all.



Soon it was time for the Aldens to go home. They couldn't quite say good-bye to their new friends.



The Aldens returned often to visit Lovan and David. Dr. Osgood was working at Flat Top. David was a fine assistant to both Dr. Osgood and Lovan.

We are writing down the old stories in the Indian language.

I made these benches so we can have company.

Company like us!

THE END

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Gertrude Chandler Warner was born on April 16, 1890, in Putnam, Connecticut. In 1918, Warner began teaching at Israel Putnam School. As a teacher, she discovered that many readers who liked an exciting story could not find books that were both easy and fun to read. She decided to try to meet this need. In 1942, *The Boxcar Children* was published for these readers.

Warner drew on her own experience to write *The Boxcar Children*. As a child she spent hours watching trains go by on the tracks near her family home. She often dreamed about what it would be like to live in a caboose or freight car—just as the Alden children do.

When readers asked for more Alden adventures, Warner began additional stories. While the mystery element is central to each of the books, she never thought of them as strictly juvenile mysteries. She liked to stress the Aldens' independence. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny go about most of their adventures with as little adult supervision as possible—something that delights young readers.

During her lifetime, Warner received hundreds of letters from fans as she continued the Aldens' adventures, writing nineteen Boxcar Children books in all. After her death in 1979, her publisher, Albert Whitman and Company, carried on Warner's vision. Today, the Boxcar Children series has more than 100 books.

