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HIRO'S MOUNTAIN

EXT. HALF WAY UP A MOUNTAIN - EARLY AFTERNOON

A glorious day, with a breath taking cartoon like landscape somewhere in the glorious countryside of Japan. An eagle soars through the sky, the sun shines brightly, we follow the eagle as it flys around the mountain. From the eagles P.O.V we glide through the sky, getting a tremendous look at the stunning terrain, beautiful flowers grow around old thick twisted trees. Numerous colored butterflies flutter all around. A zig zagged rocky path leads to the top of the mountain. The eagle soars around the mountain and from it's P.O.V we see that there is something moving up the mountain. As the eagle gets closer we can make out that it is indeed human the person gets bigger as the great bird soars closer, and we see that it is a young boy. Hiro is his name, he is 12, he is wearing boots and long dark trousers that don't go past his ankles his white shirt that is now dirty from his mountain hike. A stick is slung over his shoulder at the end of which is a cloth tied up enclosing his possessions.

Floating above Hiro's head is a mysterious bubble with many different colors inside, a little bigger than his head, following down the bubble is a thin translucent tube that is connected to the back of Hiro's neck where his spinal cord starts. The eagle flies by him, on the second pass the eagle heads straight for the bubble getting closer and closer, Hiro ducks down. With the help of visual effects the eagle flies directly into the bubble, which takes us magically back to a different day in Hiro's life.

EXT. PARK. AFTERNOON.

The eagle soars through the sky, below there is a park, a stream runs by it. A young boy about 7 years old walks through the park along the pathway, bubble free. A stream flows to one side of him. Large trees rise high above him, on the other side there are some trees that grow close by the stream that arch into the water. Along with the branches that now float on the waters surface. Hiro walks alone wearing his school uniform, with a shoulder bag over his a shoulder.

In the distance someone shouts.

VOICE
(Calling)

Hey...

Hiro stops and looks behind him, not seeing who's calling. He continues to walk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE (CONT'D)

(closer)

Hey...

Hiro looks back behind him again, only this time not stopping. He doesn't recognize the voices. As Hiro continues to walk at a good pace, a rock is thrown hitting one of the nearby trees, frightening him. Hiro speeds up again, much faster this time, then he hears something up ahead, he stops in his tracks, unsure of what to do next, at that moment an older looking boy appears from behind a tree in front of him. The boy grins and slowly walks towards him, Hiro is scared. Then from behind another boy appears swinging from a tree. And another directly behind him throwing up a rock and catching it repeatedly in his hand. Hiro is frozen. The Boy swinging on the tree drops down and begins to slowly walk toward him. All three boys are about 15 years old and all wearing the same black trousers and white shirt, black tie, black shoes, their school Uniform. And each have backpacks on their backs. They approach him in his frozen like manor.

MEAN BOY 1

Hey kid, where do you think your going?

Hiro says nothing.

MEAN BOY 2

What's your problem kid?

Hiro shakes his head, motioning nothing.

Boy 1 has the rock in his hand and is still throwing it up and down in a menacing way.

MEAN BOY 1

What's wrong with you kid are you stupid or something.

Hiro begins to shiver he is clearly scared to death.

MEAN BOY 2

Hey kid can you swim?

Boy 3 starts laughing, Hiro looks around him trying to figure out how to get away.

MEAN BOY 1

Where do you think your going boy?

There is a gap on the stream side between boy 2 and boy 3 where a tree droops over into the water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hiro doesn't wait for another question because he knows he doesn't have long, he darts for the tree.

MEAN BOY 1 (CONT'D)

Get him.

Hiro jumps up grabs for a branch and manages to pull himself up with everything he's got, right before boy 2 grabs him, Hiro carefully walks out on one of the branches as far as he can before the branch becomes too narrow for him to go any further, he holds on tight to another branch to keep his balance. The branch he is on starts to sink into the stream, The boys begin to laugh. As Hiro begins to cry.

MEAN BOY 1 (CONT'D)

Don't cry little boy, Mommy's not here to wipe your tears.

MEAN BOY 3

(laughing)

Look at him, he's so scared of us, and we didn't even do anything.....yet.

Boy 1 is still playing catch with the rock in his hand.

MEAN BOY 1

Lets see if you can catch shall we. I'm gonna throw this rock at you boy and if you don't catch it there's gonna be trouble, got it?

Hiro doesn't answer he is too scared he just shakes his head NO.

MEAN BOY 3

You better catch it kid.

Boys 3 starts to shake the branch that Hiro is standing on. Hiro holds on to the branch tighter.

MEAN BOY 1

Ready Kid? 1....2.....3

Boy 1 throws the rock quite hard hitting Hiro in the shoulder, Hiro lets out a scream, as he is thrown off balance, letting go of the branch, loses his footing and plummets into the water making a big splash, The water is shallow, Hiro lands face down in the it. He pulls himself out to a sitting position. Hiro bursts into tears uncontrollable. The Boys all laugh hard, walk to the edge of the water and start to splash him using their hands, Hiro moves a little deeper out, then the boys turn around and run off howling at the sky.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Hiro is left alone, soaked with his hands over his eyes. He begins to wipe the water out of his face, and slowly stands, water gushes out of his shoulder bag. He makes his way out of the water, and flops himself onto the grass, still crying hard, he manages to calm himself down a little as he looks out at the Beautiful landscape beyond the stream, His shoulders going up and down as he still snuffles. As he sits looking out, something bizare starts happening a narrow see through tube appear from the back of his neck where his spinal cord begins, it starts to grow in an uprightly motion, no higher than his arm can reach, it stops growing and very slowly (like a new born baby) out pops a small bubble no bigger than a tennis ball. The ball is filled with magnificent colors, Hiro watches in fascination, he feels the back of his neck where the tube has now appeared. Reaching up the cord with his hands, he pokes at the bubble making it move, he feels behind him where the cord is attached giving it a gentle tug, it seems like it's there to stay, and that's that. This makes him begin crying harder again.

TRANSITION

EXT. PARK. MORNING

Hiro is walking down the path the same way he was going still soaking wet and sniffing.

TRANSITION

EXT. BRIDGE. MORNING

Hiro Walks over an old wooden Bridge with the stream flowing fast below him, thousands of beautiful flowers growing all around with a breathtaking mountain in the distance, birds and butterflies fly all around, Hiro still wet and dripping. Passes a sign that says "Welcome to Mountain Valley Village"

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL. MORNING

A beautiful old wooden school sits on a hill. Trees and flowers surround a well kept garden. Leading up the pathway is a small bridge with a small pond beneath it, fish are jumping all around, it is quite peaceful and not with a soul in site. Hiro walks over the bridge dripping wet.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL . MORNING

Many shoes are scattered neatly on the floor up against the wall all along the hall way. Hiro slips his off too, as he does water pours out from his shoes and socks. He slowly walks down the corridor leaving wet foot steps behind him. He approaches a sliding door, slides it open and steps in.

INT. CLASSROOM. MORNING

As he steps in everyone's head turns except the teacher, (48), wearing her summer kimono, as she is too busy writing something on the Board, The teacher has a noticeably bigger bubble floating above her head. The children start to giggle and point the teacher hushes the children but they keep on giggling and begin to chatter, the teacher spins around to see what all the commotion is all about, She looks a little stern. The Teacher turns to the doorway way where Hiro stands dripping, the children begin to laugh. Hiro begins to cry again. The teacher hushes the children and walks over to Hiro. The Children listen this time as the teacher gives them a more serious look.

TEACHER

Hiro!!

Hiro is frozen once again, tears run down his cheeks as the children silently gape at him. At that moment the bubble floating above him begins to grow just a tiny bit bigger.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Hiro!! Oh Dear, what has happened to you?.

Hiro doesn't answer, the teacher takes him by the hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

(addressing the children)

I want everyone to carry on with there work while I leave the room, and it doesn't mean you can talk either, Come on Hiro, lets get you dried off and out of those wet clothes. The teacher and Hiro leave the classroom with there bubbles floating along behind them.

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CONTINUED:

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Oh dear Hiro now we are going to have to get your parents to get you a new bag to put your bubble in aren't we.

Hiro shakes his sad little head up and down acknowledging her.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

We'll get you some clothes from our lost and found and we'll dry you off with my towel, OK.

Hiro Nods his head.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Do you want to tell me what happened?

Hiro nods his head no.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM. MORNING

Hiro is sat at his desk with his bubble floating above him, as he doesn't have his own backpack yet. Some of the other kids have backpacks on their backs and some don't.

TEACHER

Now children let's get to work.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOL. DAY

Children run out of the school, the day is over. Hiro walks out the school with some of the children teasing him about his new bubble. Hiro snuffles and runs away from them, over the small bridge and down the path.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD WOODEN BRIDGE. DAY

The sun is shining bright on this beautiful summers day, a little labrador puppy walks below the bridge, all by himself and far away from anyone, he is chasing a butterfly by the steadily flowing stream.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The butterfly with it's bright colorful wings flutters around the puppy like it's playing back with him, jumping, frolicking the playful twosome seem quiet happily content. Like new best friends. Stopping for a rest the Butterfly finds a rock that juts out of the stream a few feet away from the bank. The Puppy barks at the butterfly as it is a little to far out for the young pup to reach, he lifts one of his little paws moving it in a circular motion in the air, like he's waving a wand. The pup then decides to test the water placing his little paw in it for the very first time, he licks his paw tasting the water and then licking his lips, he gives out another yelp and decides that this adventure is not going to stop him from having his fun so, he jumps right in, not expecting the water to go over his head as it does and sends him floating down the stream, he tries hard to get back but has not yet mastered his swimming techniques. His little yelping bark luckily attracts someone on the bridge, it's Hiro, Hiro takes a second to locate the little yelps that he heard and as soon as his eye's locate the little pup he jumps into action not wasting any time, running as fast as he can across the bridge to the other side, down and around to the streams edge, and racing down the stream bank as fast as he can to catch up with floating away dog. The young pup try's to catch his breath, then disappears into the stream. As the current picks up it sends him spinning around and around. Hiro catches up with him grabbing a fallen branch he holds it out for the puppy to grab onto.

HIRO

Come on puppy grab the stick.

Taking one big gulp of air the pup manages to grab some of the branch in his mouth just in time to lay his paws on it.

HIRO (CONT'D)

That's it Boy, You can do it.

Hiro carefully pulls the branch towards him, with the puppy holding on tight. Then reaching down he pulls the puppy out of the water, loosing his balance and landing on his bottom, with the puppy on his chest. The puppy still panting shakes his body sending the water spraying all over Hiro, The puppy begins to wine and just as it does the thin see through tube begins to appear out the back of it's neck and out pops the tiniest bubble.

HIRO (CONT'D)

don't worry , that happened to me today too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hiro smiles for the first time that day. The Puppy lets out a thank you Yelp and begins to lick Hiro's face. Hiro giggles, and lets the little pup, lick his face.

Suddenly a fish splashes out of the water making them both jump.

Hiro laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF WAY UP A MOUNTAIN. DAY

Hiro (12 years old) gets up brushes himself off as the eagle flies by.

Hiro turns looking back down the hill and calls out.

HIRO

Come on Yuki , lets get going we gotta make it to the top before sundown.

We see a beautiful labrador dog fully grown with a bubble flying over his head no bigger than a bowling ball strolling up the mountain, just turning a corner, and panting. Yuki barks with enthusiasm, catching up to Hiro. Hiro kneels down and gives Yuki a big warm hug, then kissing him on the head.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Yuki, we're going to be the first to the top, no villager has ever been up there, they say it's too dangerous and even though it's forbidden, We are gonna prove them all wrong, They'll see. This climb is for father, he will understand.

In the distance we can hear a drum beating. Hiro stands, looking out from where the beat is coming from.

HIRO (CONT'D)

We'll show them....hey Yuki, come on boy.

They continue onward. As they do the terrain begins to change from beautiful forest, tree's and flowers to a more harder rock like hike with only a few wild flowers growing out form the side of the mountain. Hiro climbs higher and higher.

They approach a sign, that reads.

{ DANGER WHOMEVER SHALL WALK THIS PATHS MAY

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOON MEET THEIR DOOM }

Hiro stops and looks at Yuki who is now too busy playing in the dirt, just a little further up from him. Yuki barks.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Quiet Yuki, I'm thinking, get back here, maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all.

Yuki barks again,

Hiro looks out down the mountain from which they came, taking a deep breath, Yuki returns by Hiro's side with a piece of old wood in his mouth.

HIRO (CONT'D)

No time for games now boy.

Yuki drops the piece of wood and barks up at Hiro, then moves the piece of wood with his nose.

HIRO (CONT'D)

I said no time for games boy.

Hiro picks up the piece of wood and is about to through it when he notices some old writings on it, but it's a little faded now it seems to have been there for a very long time, telling from the rotting wood and the shape of it. He carefully rubs off some of the dirt covering the words. It reads.

{ THINK FOR YOURSELF }

Hiro scratches his head.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Think for yourself... OK, Think for yourself, yes, yes that's a good idea isn't it Yuki?

Yuki Barks and wags his tail.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Yes good boy Yuki you did good. Think for yourself... people are always telling me what to do, what they think, what they know, but I am going to think for myself this time, so...

Hiro pauses.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HIRO (CONT'D)

I will...we're going to the top.

Hiro turns to the "DANGER" sign and kicks it.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Danger this...

come on boy we're going to the top. It's
going to take more than a old sign to
stop us, right boy?

Yuki wags his tail and barks. Hiro pets Yuki and they
continue up the Mountain.

CUT TO:

INT.CLASSROOM.DAY

Hiro (12) sits at his desk, with all the other kids
sitting at their desks, they all have their backpacks
still on and their text books open.

TEACHER

Today we are going to learn a very
special lesson about ourselves. I want
every one to get their bubbles out, we
are going to take a closer look at who we
are, and learn more about ourselves.

Everyone reaches behind them pulling their backpacks
around to the side, as they zip the top of their bags,
their bubbles float out, most of them are the same size
about the size of a soccer ball. Some are a little
smaller. They all have their own magical colors glowing
brightly floating above each and everyone of them.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now boys and girls let us take a closer
look shall we.

They all pull there bubbles by the cord from the back of
their necks bringing their bubbles around in front of
them so that is just hovering above there desks.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

With out studying your bubble closely
you'll never really now who you are.
Right children?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHILDREN
(All together)
Right Miss.

TEACHER
Take a good look inside, and then I want
you to write down what you see and how
you feel about it.

For the first time as we get closer to the bubbles of the
different children we can actually see images of them and
the people from there past, replaying what ever had
happened to them for their bubbles to grow as they did in
the first place.

The children begin to write down what they see and how
they feel about it. Children make grunts and groans as
they look into their bubbles, remembering the past, and
bringing up sad thoughts and feelings again, one of the
girls in the class begins to cry.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Now what's the matter Taka, what happened
that is making you cry.

Taka doesn't reply, The other children turn to Taka.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
We must learn to except what has happened
and live with it. You can not fix the
past that is who we are, is it not?

CHILDREN
Yes, Miss

TEACHER
Something has happened to each of us
this is what guides us, this is from what
decisions we now make, what jobs we get
to have, who we marry and even what we
decide to wear. We must learn to take
precaution, not to take risk. This is the
reason why tree's are forbidden to climb,
you don't want to get your bubble too big
now do you? Because you all know what
will happen now don't you children.

CHILDREN
(Together)
Yes Miss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TEACHER

Taka, remember these things that happened to you, you may not like them but you should embrace them as they are part of you now, the past is all that you have to learn about yourself, so that when you know your past, your future becomes clear to you, so Taka wipe away your tears, and learn something about yourself for the future. Okay?

Taka wipes her tear away.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

OK now let us put are bubbles away, your lesson time is over for today. Have a good weekend children. And pick up your homework assignment on the way out.

The children pull down their bubbles and zip them away in their bags. The school bell rings and they jump up out of their seats each grab their homework assignments and head for the door.

EXT. HIRO'S HOME. AFTERNOON

Hiro approaches his home, with shoulder bag in hand. He finds Yuki eagerly waiting for him behind the gate, he barks and wags his tail with joy, Hiro puts his shoulder bag down. Yuki jumps up and licks him on the face. He is just as happy to see Yuki. Hiro's Mother (37) a pretty woman, dressed in her Summer Kimono, with beautiful flowers on it. Kneeling down also in the front garden planting some flowers in her beautiful flower garden that she has worked very hard on, a large tree rises high above them which gives shade to their beautiful traditional Japanese home. The garden is surrounded by beautiful hedges, lanterns and Bonsai trees Hiro's Mothers bubble floats above her twice the size as Hiro's. Hiro greets his mother, she finishes what she is doing and walks towards the house, slips her garden shoes off and her house slippers on, closing the door behind her. Hiro sits with Yuki stroking him with affection, His mother opens the sliding door.

MOTHER

Hiro...snack time.

Hiro jumps up, heading for the house, Yuki follows, Hiro slips of his shoes and slips his house slippers on and enters the house, Yuki waits eagerly at the door, Hiro returns with a fresh bowl of food for Yuki. Yuki licks his lips. Hiro places the bowl on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Yuki gets stuck in, wagging his tail. Hiro pets him, then slides the door shut.

INT. HOUSE . AFTERNOON.

The inside of the house is very plain, Zen like, a few bamboo plants surround a small water fountain in the living room, with some fish swimming around, pillows on the floor for their communal area, the next room is the kitchen with a sliding door in between. Hiro and his mother are seated at the table in the kitchen, the house is peaceful. Hiro eats a rice cake and sips his juice. Hiro's mother is reading the newspaper which rests on the table, whilst eating a pear. In the distance we hear the beating of a drum, coming from the village. Mother looks up.

MOTHER

Oh dear. Oh my. I wonder who it is this time?

She looks back at Hiro and smiles at him and turns back to her paper, Hiro watches her turn the pages from across the table, she stops on the 3rd page and points to the paper.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Hiro tomorrow is "The Festival of Light" it's going to be in the town square and we will all go. I will remind your father when he wakes up, maybe he will feel better and want to come too.

Hiro Smiles and nods his head up and down enthusiastically. He finishes his snack.

HIRO

Shall I see how father is, and take him a drink?

MOTHER

Yes, Okay, but quietly incase he is still asleep.

HIRO

Yes mother, of course.

Mother pours a cup of tea and gives it to Hiro. Hiro takes it from her carrying it in two hands and leaves the room using his foot to slide open the door this time.

INT. BEDROOM. AFTERNOON

Hiro enters the bedroom where his father (40) lays still in his bed. Hiro approaches and kneels down where he lays.

HIRO
(quietly)
Father...are you awake?

Father opens his eye's.

FATHER
Yes, I'm awake.

HIRO
I've brought you some tea father, to make you feel better. How are you feeling today father.

FATHER
Not to bad Hiro, not to bad my boy. How was your day?

HIRO
It was good thank you I still have my homework assignment to work on.

FATHER
Well you'd had better get started on it then I guess, thank you for the tea son.

HIRO
Oh and Mother says to remind you that 'The Festival of Light' is tomorrow, I do hope your feeling well enough to go with us.

FATHER
I think I'll be okay, it will be nice to be outside again after such a long rest.

HIRO
I am happy to hear it, drink slowly now.

Father nods yes.

Hiro's gets up, opens the sliding door and closes it behind him, once in the living room he walks over to the water fountain to say hello to the fish. He picks up the fish food next to the fountain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The fish are happy to see him and jump out of the water to greet him, they know it's snack time too. Hiro feeds the fish and they joyfully eat their food. Hiro places the food box back in it's place, and walks toward the front door.

EXT. GARDEN. AFTERNOON

Hiro slides open the door and walks out. Yuki wags his tail eagerly and lets out a happy bark.

HIRO

Hey boy, Hiro picks up a ball and throws it, it bounces off the tree and into Yuki's mouth.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Good boy. Now I have to do my homework and you can keep me company OK Boy.

Yuki drops the ball and barks.

Hiro walks to where he left his bag, picks it up and takes out his assignment.

It reads "WHO ARE YOU" to find out who you are, you must look into your bubble, study your bubble and find your destiny. Write down your thoughts and feelings about your life and what you think you must make of it.

Hiro scratches his head and gets out his bubble from his back, he throws the bag down on the grass by his side. His bubble floats above him and he brings it down so that it is level with his face.

HIRO (CONT'D)

(To Yuki)

Who am I?...who am I? I'm Hiro.

Yuki wags his tail, then sits.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Look into your bubble to find out who you are. There's got to be more to me than just my bubble, hey boy? I know there is I can feel it.

Yuki wags his tail. Hiro scratches his head, and then looks up at the tree as it blows in the wind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly a big gust of wind blows his assignment paper right out of his hand and into the air, he jumps up trying to grab it but it is too high, he watches it being spun around following the current of the wind, then changing direction and gets blown right into the tree getting caught up in one of the branches quite high up.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Oh no Yuki, my assignment is stuck in the tree, what am I going to do Yuki?... what ever shall I do. I.. I...I'm just going to have to climb up there and get it as quick as I can with out anyone seeing me hey boy, now you must be very quiet OK boy, good boy quiet.

Yuki wags his tail

Hiro jumps up for the lowest hanging branch and begins to pull himself up to a standing position. Holding on tight he looks up, it's a long way to the top, now climbing up the tree slowly getting higher and higher, he pauses for a moment to look at the view. As he does he loses his footing but is able to catch himself with one of the branches, he takes a deep breath. Yuki looks up in anticipation, wagging his tail. Hiro continues climbing, he is very close to where the paper is stuck. He reaches out for it and grabs it. Once it's in his hand he takes another deep breathe. Taking a moment again he looks out, catching the view, It's quite spectacular, he's never seen the view from the tree before, he can so far, even the mountain way off in the distance which now seems closer.

HIRO (CONT'D)

(Gasping)

Wow! It's so beautiful up here I feel so free.

Still looking out at the mountain, something catches his eye, close to the top of the mountain something shines bright, just as the sun hits it. Hypnotising him in wonder for a moment.

HIRO (CONT'D)

I wonder what that is.

Yuki's barks. Which snaps him out of his dream like hypnosis.

HIRO (CONT'D)

quiet Yuki, quiet boy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hiro folds the paper and places it in his pocket and begins to climb down as carefully as he can. He reaches the last branch and swings down, landing on his feet, and then wipes his forehead of sweat. Yuki jumps up and down with joy.

HIRO (CONT'D)

I don't know what all the fuss is about climbing trees is fun, and I bet climbing that mountain is even more fun, hey Yuki?

Yuki wags his tail, and pants.

HIRO (CONT'D)

You know what I think boy? This home work need some careful thought I think I'll do it later.

Hiro picks up the ball and throws it.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Go get it boy.

Yuki runs for the ball catching it in his mouth.

CUT TO:

EXT .STREAM .SUNDOWN

Fish jump in the stream. A frog floats down the stream on a branch another branch passes him by from the side he ribbits and jumps onto it. The sun sets as the frog floats off into the distance. Birds fly over the stream, and the fish jump in and out of the water.

CUT TO:

INT. HIRO'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Hiro lies in his bed which consists of a soft matt and blankets that lays on the floor, a Bonsai tree sits on his window ledge. Hiro is daydreaming staring at his bubble as it floats above him. The moonlight shines through the window. The door slides open and Hiro's Uncle walks in. Uncle a handsome man (42,) he is in a fireman uniform and wears a heavy duty back pack on his back.

HIRO

Hello Uncle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

UNCLE

Hello Hiro, did you have a good day?

HIRO

Yes sir. How was yours? Did you put out any fires today?

UNCLE

Not today, I just had to rescue the farmers cat that got stuck on the roof.

Uncle sits down on Hiro's bed.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Ready for the festival tomorrow?

HIRO

Oh you bet. I only hope Father is feeling well enough to come, he said he would.

UNCLE

Well if he said was then I guess he'll be coming too.

HIRO

Uncle...

UNCLE

Yes Hiro...

HIRO

I saw something strange today coming from the mountain.

UNCLE

The Mountain,

HIRO

Well I was in the garden about to start my homework when all of a sudden...

Hiro stops what his saying as he realizes the trouble he would be in if he told his Uncle about climbing the tree.

UNCLE

Yes all of a sudden what?

HIRO

(Thinking fast)

All of a sudden I decided I needed to think about my homework more carefully over the weekend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

UNCLE

Hiro what about the mountain? You said you saw something?

HIRO

Oh right, yeah I saw some kind of flickering light coming from it that's all, I was just wondering would it could have been that's all.

UNCLE

Oh boy the mountain, well I've heard lots of different story's and myth's, but never anything about a flickering light.

HIRO

Myths what kind of Myths?

UNCLE

Well of course we all know that it is forbidden to ever climb the mountain, but I did hear when I was about your age of a magical healing berry that grows at the top of the mountain, every berry that grows has not just one color but many, that's how you are to know that it is the right kind off berry, but it's only a myth nobody has ever found such a berry and it probably doesn't even exist, well of course it doesn't it's just a myth.

HIRO

Well how could they find it if the mountain is forbidden to climb. It doesn't make sense how can we know if it actually exist if nobody is allowed up there.

UNCLE

Hiro it's for our own good you no this, it's just too dangerous, do you want your bubble to get bigger? Of course you don't your too young. We have bigger things to keep us buisy anyway.

HIRO

Like rescuing cats from roof tops?

UNCLE

(laughing)

Yes , Like rescuing cats from roof tops.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HIRO

Will you tell me how you became a Fireman again please Uncle, I think it might help me with my homework assignment.

OK then just the short version, Well You know that when I was a boy there was a great village fire here in town, many people lost there lives, and others just could not take the great upset. I was one of the lucky ones. I told myself I would never let a fire like that happen again, and that's when I decided to become a fireman.

HIRO

Will you show me your bubble Uncle?

UNCLE

Not now Hiro, it's all so very sad. I don't want to upset you. Now get some sleep, for tomorrow is the wonderful "Festival of Light".

HIRO

OK Uncle, good night.

Uncle gets up and to leave the room and smiles.

Good night.

He slides the door closed. Leaving Hiro lying on his bed with the moonlight shining bright through his window onto his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE. NIGHT TO DAY

We see a beautiful bright moon, below the moon is the very same mountain that Hiro could see from the tree.

TRANSITION:

The moon slowly fades away as the sun comes up still in the same position with the mountain below. A new day unfolds.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE. MORNING. MONTAGE

Birds feed their young, crickets jump, along line of ants walk along, working hard collecting their food. The town looks very old. The Houses are mostly made of wood, the paint has come off through the years leaving many amazing washed up colors that now mix together. An old beautiful temple in all it's glory, a place of meditation, flowers grow up the sides off the walls. The town is quiet, paved with cobble stone streets. The Postman delivers the mail on his bicycle, his bubble floating above him. Street Sweepers sweep the streets, their bubbles floating above them too, the Flower shop lady opens up her store brings out some flowers placing them outside her store, which is filled with beautiful exotic flowers and plants of all kinds. They all have their bubbles. Fisherman fishing of the bridge, The Greengrocer, The Carpenter, The Farmers planting seeds.

The town square is surrounded by beautiful cherry blossom trees. There is a very large drum that stands tall tied on four sides to keep it in one place in the middle. People slowly appear and begin putting up decorations for The Festival of Light, a sign hangs in the square tied to two posts that reads "The Festival of Light" on one side of the sign is a large floating sun balloon and on the other a large floating moon balloon. Tables are set up in the square with tablecloths placed on top. People are busy erecting a small stage. Food shaped like sun, moon and stars are set on the tables, along with candy, rice cakes, sea food. More people begin to gather in the square, the band set up their instruments. The Festival of Light is about to start. It couldn't have happened on a more glorious day.

Over the hill and along the street come Hiro with his mother and father, Hiro and Mother both helping to push Father's wheel chair, all 3 with their bubbles floating above, Mother in a different flower summer Kimono, Father in a festive shirt and white trousers and Hiro with blue trousers and grey shirt.

The Festival of Light is about to begin. Nearly all of the village have gathered around the town square, their bubbles are all kinds of sizes (the biggest no bigger than 3 soccer balls) and all different colors. The Mayor of Mountain Valley steps up to the stage. He is 60 years old and his bubble is large and bright. He is dressed in long black trousers, and a black shirt, he is quite plump with a kind round face, long grey hair on either side but bald in the middle with a long grey beard. He clears his throat. The villagers gather closer, ready for him to address them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE MAYOR

Welcome, People of Mountain Valley on this glorious day, The Festival of Light is about to begin. Each year we gather in the town square as our ancestors before us to rejoice and appreciate the sun, the moon and the stars that guide us through our way each day and each night. We celebrate the opening ceremony with our Sun, Moon and Star song. Let us all sing together.

The band begin to play, a magical song that lights up the faces of all young and old, who sing together.

(Song)

The Sun and the Moon and Stars so bright,

LA LEE LA LA LAH LA LA LA LA LAH.....

In this town where we live every things alright.

We can dance, we can sing, we can go ding ling

with the sun and the moon and stars sparkling.

LA LA LEE LA LA LAH LA LA LA LA LAH

The song ends and every one cheers.

The Mayor clears his throat and address the Villagers.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

Have a wonderful day, may the sun and the moon and the stars truly shine bright for us all.

The Mayor walks off the stage and the band begin a new song. The people of Mountain Valley head for the tables to taste the sun and the moon and star foods of all different kinds. Some people dance in the square. Hiro with his mother and father take a bite into the star food.

HIRO

It's so tasty, Isn't it Father?

FATHER

Yes Hiro, very tasty.

Hiro's mother smiles taking another bite of the star food.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Then just as they are about to take another bite of their star food a strong breeze gushes buy, the tablecloths begin to blow, a chair is blown over, and the Sun and the moon balloons begin to blow softly at first and then harder as a now much stronger wind picks up with momentum. People begin to notice. Some hats blow off peoples heads. Then the moon balloon starts to blow a little harder than the sun balloon. The rope that it is tied with starts to undo, and does so until it is totally free, when the people see this there is quite a commotion.

MAN 1

(shouting)

Oh no look out it's loose.

A Shriek from a villager sets people running.

WOMAN 1

Watch out..it's going to hit someone

The Mayor jumps onto the stage.

THE MAYOR

Everyone don't panic, just stay still you will be OK.

The moon balloon is picked up in the air by the strong wind and is tossed around like a kite. Suddenly it changes direction and heads straight for the town square, the people scatter screaming in fear of the great moon. Again the wind changes course, picking the moon up high above the stage, and then all of a sudden everything goes quiet, the wind stops blowing and the balloon comes plummeting down right were the Mayor stands. The Mayor sees it and dives out of the way as the moon crashes into the center of the stage breaking the wood and knocking over the musicians instruments which have been left by the fleeing band. On the other end of one of the planks of wood that the moon has crashed down onto lies the Mayor flipping him high into the sky landing him right on top of the Moon where he now lies still. Everyone is taken back including the Mayor who sits up on top of the moon. Then the worst thing imaginable happens in the town of Mountain Valley. Every ones worst fear. The Mayors bubble gets bigger, and the crowd cry out in terror.

MAN 2

Oh no not the Mayor.

The Mayor looks up now realizing what has occurred.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THE MAYOR

Oh no, oh dear, not me, not I.

As the bubble grows bigger, it begins to lift him of the moon, and his small scared smile soon disappears.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

Good bye my dear friends, I am so sad to go, I'm old and my time has come. I bid you farewell. Play me a song one last time, play it loud and be strong. Good bye my dear friends, good bye.

The Mayor floats higher and higher till he has become just a speck in the sky. A man walks up to the drum in the square, picks up the drum stick tied on a rope and hits the drum, it beats loud and the crowd all sigh. The band return to the broken old stage, pick up their instruments and begin to play. Everyone waves as the Mayor floats away.

The crowd pick up the things that have blown away. Their hats, chairs, food off the floor. They pull themselves together putting things back. A sad day now for all. The crowd looking up wave goodbye. They walk away leaving this day, sad for they have lost their Mayor.

The villagers disperse leaving only a few to clean up.

Hiro heads back home, with his Mother as they push Father on either side of the wheel chair, back down the street and over the hill till they are out of site.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE. SUNDOWN

The sun falls behind the mountain, and on comes the night.

INT. HIRO'S HOUSE. LATE EVENING

Hiro sits on the pillows in the living area sipping some tea with his Mother and Father. They are still.

Hiro breaks the silence.

HIRO

Where did the Mayor go Father?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATHER

Oh son, he floated to the land where
dreams come true. Far far away from here.

HIRO

What happens now Father? Who will be our
new Mayor?

FATHER

The Counsel will decide in the new week
ahead. We will have a new Mayor again
soon. But we will miss our old friend. He
was a dear old man and he was loved by
all. It wont be the same without him.

HIRO

Do you think there is something more to
life than this Father?

FATHER

Like what son? What do you mean?

HIRO

I don't know, a feeling has come over me
that I can't explain.

FATHER

I don't know son, life is what is given
to us and that's that, we must be careful
as we go. That's all I know.

HIRO

I'm getting sleepy, I think I will go to
bed , good night Father, good night
mother.

Hiro gets up and walk to his room, he slide the door open
and slides it shut behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. HIRO'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Hiro lies in his bed staring up at his bubble. His eyes
start to blink and he drifts to sleep. The moon shines in
through the window, bright over his bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREAM. DAY

Hiro is floating on his back floating upstream with his hands folded behind his head, his bubble leading the way. Yet the current is floating down stream, the fish are jumping over him, back and forth. One of the fish lands right on his chest.

FISH 1
(to Hiro)
hello there young man.

HIRO
Hello there little fish.

FISH 1
Sorry to bother you on this fine day. But I just wanted to tell you that you are going the wrong way.

HIRO
Ahh...but how do you know which way I'm going? Just because I am going one way doesn't mean I'm going the wrong way. Now does it?

FISH 1
Ahh but you see...

Hiro butts in

HIRO
Sorry to butt in but I just wanted to remind you that your a fish and fish can't talk.

FISH 1
Yes But...

The fish stops for a second to take in the last comment.

FISH 1 (CONT'D)
Oh...yes I guess not, sorry then I'll be on my way, good day.

The fish jumps off Hiro's chest and back into the water, then Hiro's bubble begins to float up in the air pulling Hiro out of the water. He begins to float in the air above the trees and sees the mountain in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A cloud goes by and out of the cloud comes an eagle heading straight for him, closer and closer till the eagle is so close that he flies right into his bubble which then bursts, sending Hiro falling, falling, falling straight towards the stream.

INT. HIRO'S BEDROOM. MORNING

Hiro wakes from his dream, sitting up fast, he rubs his eyes, and then sighs in relief.

HIRO

Wow! That was a close one.

He just sits there thinking about his dream.

HIRO (CONT'D)

It's that Mountain, there's something about that mountain...

Hiro darts out of bed, throws on a pair of long dark shorts that go just above his ankles, that almost look like he's grown out of them, and a white shirt.

INT. KITCHEN .MORNING

Hiro's Mother is making breakfast. Hiro enters suprising her.

MOTHER

You are up early Hiro. Are you going somewhere?

HIRO

Yes, Mother I'm going to take Yuki on a long walk with me this morning. I feel like an adventure.

MOTHER

That sounds like a good idea Hiro, I will pack you and Yuki some lunch.

HIRO

Thank You Mother.

Mother makes Hiro and Yuki's lunch, Hiro grabs a rice cake, sits at the table and eats it, then gets up leaving the kitchen.

EXT. HIRO'S GARDEN. MORNING

Hiro opens the front door and is greeted by Yuki who is very happy to see him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hiro puts down a bowl of food and Yuki gobbles it up waging his tail. After Yuki is finished he licks his lips and barks at Hiro.

HIRO

Yuki, today we are going on a long journey together.

Yuki wags his tail excitedly and barks.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE. MORNING

Hiro and Yuki cross over the bridge, Hiro is carrying a stick which is slung over his shoulder at the end of which a cloth is tied, with his lunch inside.

HIRO

Yuki we are going to do something and it's got to be our secret, okay boy?

Yuki barks

HIRO (CONT'D)

We're going to climb that mountain today and have ourselves a great adventure. I know we are not supposed to but I think we'll be okay and if the myth that Uncle told us is true then we can make Father better again. We'll take good care of each other, right boy?

Yuki barks, and wags his tail. They pass over the bridge, a frog is at the other end of it, watching Hiro and Yuki walk off over the hill until they are out of sight. The frog then bounces off the side of the bridge and heads for the stream.

FROG

Ribbit. Ribbit.

The frog jumps in making a small splash.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF WAY UP A MOUNTAIN. EARLY AFTERNOON

The "Danger" sign is still wobbling, Hiro and Yuki are walking up the mountain. The top of the mountain is still some way ahead, yet it doesn't seem so far. The path that they walk becomes a little thinner and more rocky. The same eagle soars high in the sky.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A natural stream trickles down the side of the mountain, Hiro and Yuki stop for a drink. Hiro takes his stick down and unties the cloth, taking out a little of the food for himself and a little doggy treat for Yuki. They sit for a minute taking in the magnificent view.

HIRO

Isn't it great Yuki, we are going where nobody has gone before, or at least for a very long time, that sign didn't get there by it's self. We're going to find out what it's like at the top and see what all the fuss is about.

Yuki wags his tail and licks Hiro on the chin.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Ready boy, lets keep going.

They continue up. As they do the path begins to wind back and forth zig zagging as they go.

HIRO (CONT'D)

It's so fresh up hear, the air is so clean.

The path gets steeper and steeper as they near the top which isn't too much further away.

HIRO (CONT'D)

We are so close Yuki, can you believe it boy, we're nearly there.

Yuki wags his tail and barks. The last few steps finally puts them at the summit. They have made it. Hiro throws down his stick and falls to the floor to catch his breath, as does Yuki.

What they see before them is the most beautiful view ever imaginable. So peaceful and tranquil, Hiro takes in a deep breath looking out in ore. We see the view, it truly is magnificent.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Oh Boy, what a view, what a glorious view. I feel so happy and free, like never before, I feel like I could do almost anything. Do you feel that boy, do you.

Yuki stand and wags his tail with joy, and barks.

Hiro stands up too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HIRO (CONT'D)

I feel so light, and free.

Just as Hiro speaks those words he notices something very odd happen, he notices his bubble getting further away from him while he is still standing in the same place, the cord has left too and he watches it float higher and higher up into the sky, which is exactly the same time that Yuki barks, and oddly enough Yuki's bubble does exactly the same thing. Leaving both of them bubble free. Hiro looks up in amazement watching his bubble float away as does Yuki. Hiro looks back down at Yuki.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness, oh my goodness. Yuki our bubbles, they have gone, they have really gone, I feel so free.

Yuki barks happily and Hiro begins to laugh. His laugh gets louder and louder, he falls onto the floor.

We pull out from the mountain, seeing the eagle fly by. From the P.O.V of the Eagle, we fly high around the top of the mountain circling around and around.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF WAY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. AFTERNOON

Hiro and Yuki walk down the mountain coming to the same place as before with the signs. Hiro sees the "DANGER" sign and takes a good look. He then pulls it off leaving just a stick sticking out of the ground, he bends down and replaces it with, the "Think for Yourself" sign, giggles and continues down the mountain, with Yuki following by his side.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE. LATE AFTERNOON

Hiro and Yuki reach the bridge, both walking bubble free and looking very pleased with themselves.

HIRO

come on boy lets race.

Yuki barks, Hiro starts to run, and so does Yuki. They are neck and neck all the way. They reach the end of the bridge, Hiro falls onto the ground and Yuki licks him. Hiro gets up and they continue on there way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIRO (CONT'D)

How are we going to explain this to everyone Yuki? Oh No! The berries! What about the magical berries for Father, what with everything that happened I forgot to look for the berries.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIRO'S GARDEN. LATE AFTERNOON

Hiro and Yuki slowly walk up the garden path. They reach the front steps and slowly walk up the garden path toward the house.

HIRO

This is it boy. You'd better stay here OK.

Yuki sits happily.

Sliding the door open, Hiro steps into the house, walks through the living room, and heads towards the kitchen. Hiro slides open the door where he finds his mother and father. Father is sitting down at the table as mother is about to serve him his supper.

MOTHER

Great timing Hiro, I new you wouldn't miss your supper. Come and sit down.

Hiro sits

FATHER

How was your adventure son.

Hiro is a little surprised that neither of them have realized that anything is different about him.

HIRO

(Smiling)

Great, we had the best time ever.

FATHER

That's my boy, adventuring around town.

HIRO

Well not around town Father.

MOTHER

By the stream, catching frogs?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIRO

No mother.

FATHER

In the park?

HIRO

No not the park either.

FATHER

Well where then son?

Hiro Gulps.

HIRO

Well actually, I....well I went up, the
um....

FATHER

Yes son, you went up the what.

Blurting it out.

HIRO

The mountain

MOTHER

The mountain.

FATHER

The mountain.

HIRO

Yes the mountain

MOTHER

Oh no son, you didn't go up the mountain.

HIRO

Yes I went up the mountain, I went to the
very top.

FATHER

(upset)

You went to the top of the mountain, but
son you know that the mountain is
forbidden to climb.

HIRO

Yes Father.

MOTHER

Then why did you go up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HIRO

For you father, Uncle told me about a myth, magical berries Father to heal you. I had a feeling that I had to go and see for myself.

FATHER

Uncle? Myth? See what for yourself? You had better start making some sense boy.

HIRO

See the mountain for myself, and to find the berries, I just wanted to help you father, that's all.

FATHER

And so what did you see for yourself? Did you find any such berries?

Mother drops her plate that she was about to serve father with, as she notices that Hiro has been sitting at the table the whole time bubble free. Father looks very surprised by Mother as he jumps from his seat.

FATHER (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

Mother what is the matter.

Mother has one hand over her mouth and the other pointing at Hiro. She tries to speak but nothing will come out.

FATHER (CONT'D)

What is wrong...

Father turns to Hiro taking a good look, seeing nothing out of the ordinary, until he takes a closer look as he peers around looking for Hiro's backpack which he has assumed was on his back the whole time.

FATHER (CONT'D)

What day is it today?

HIRO

It's Sunday Father.

FATHER

Right because for a minute I thought it was Monday, but now I notice you don't have your backpack on, as we well know children don't wear their backpacks on the weekend.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

FATHER (CONT'D)

So yes it is Sunday and if it is Sunday then we would see your bubble would we not? So then tell me son why can't I see your bubble?

HIRO

You can't see my bubble Father because it's not there.

FATHER

(upset)

What do you mean it is not there. Where is it?

HIRO

It's gone.

Mother sits down, still in shock and still with her hand over her mouth.

FATHER

Gone where, bubbles do not just disappear, where is it? Is this some kind of joke son.

HIRO

No Father.

FATHER

Then tell us son what has happened to your bubble?

HIRO

It floated away.

Mother makes a squeaky noise

FATHER

It floated away. Where did it float away?

HIRO

It floated away at the top of the mountain.

FATHER

It floated away at he top of the mountain.

HIRO

That's right!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

FATHER

That's right? Hiro your gonna be in big trouble if you don't tell me what really happened.

HIRO

I am telling you Father. It was so beautiful at the top. Like nothing I have ever seen before. I felt so free and wonderful, and that is when it happened. My bubble just floated away, well not just my bubble...

FATHER

What do you mean not just your bubble?

HIRO

Well Yuki's bubble floated away too.

FATHER

(raising his voice)

What Yuki's too?

Father gets up slowly using his stick, walks out of the kitchen, through the living area and into the front garden.

EXT. GARDEN. EVENING

Yuki is sitting by the tree, as the door slides open and Father looks out. Yuki gets up and runs toward him, just as Hiro said. Bubble free. Father examines Yuki.

FATHER

Why this is popostrious. Yuki were is your bubble?

Yuki jumps around playfully. Father scratches his head and walks back to the house.

INT. KITCHEN. EVENING

Father enters the kitchen sliding the door behind him and sits down at the table. Mother has not moved an inch she is clearly still in shock.

FATHER

Hiro, why don't you start from the beginning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIRO

Well OK, it all started yesterday when I was in the garden about ready to do my homework assignment, when a big gust of wind came and blew it right up into the tree, so I had climb up and get it.

MOTHER

(Breaking her silence)

Not the tree too.

Father and Hiro look up at mother. Hiro Continues.

HIRO

Yes I had to, I had to get my assignment. So I climbed to the top. When I got up there I felt something different, free, happy I don't know. I never felt like it before, and then I saw the mountain, from the tree and I saw a light, I don't know what the light was maybe it was nothing but after hearing about the myth I had to climb it. To see if it was true, So I did.

FATHER

And so did you find the berries too.

HIRO

Well after loosing my bubble, I kind of forgot to look, I was just too excited.

FATHER

Hiro what has gotten into you, breaking rule after rule. What did you find on the mountain?

HIRO

I'm sorry Father, something just came over me.

FATHER

Well go on, what did you find on the mountain?

HIRO

Well half way up I came to a sign that read " DANGER WHOMEVER SHALL WALK THESE PATHS MAY SOON MEET THEIR DOOM"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MOTHER

Oh no Hiro. Oh no

HIRO

It was okay mother, when I saw the sign I decided to turn back but then..

FATHER

(Eagerly)

Yes...

HIRO

Then Yuki found another sign.

FATHER

Yuki found Another sign? What did it say?

HIRO

It simply read. "Think for yourself"

FATHER

Think for yourself.

HIRO

Yes, think for yourself, so I did. And decided I would carry on until we reached the top. It felt magical, it was beautiful and wondrous and that is when it happened, our bubbles just floated away, far, far away till they where gone.

FATHER

I don't understand. How could they just float away. It's not logical. How can you go around in life without your bubble.

HIRO

Well maybe we don't need them anymore.

FATHER

(upset)

Don't need them anymore? I think we had better go take a visit to see the Doctor and see what he say. There might be something wrong with you.

HIRO

But I feel fine Father, in fact I feel more than fine I feel fantastic.

FATHER

Even so Hiro I think we had better pay him a visit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MOTHER

But you are still sick, and you could get worse.

FATHER

and so could our son, we must find the Doctor Mother.

MOTHER

Okay He'll be fishing, it's Sunday and he is always by the stream.

FATHER

Okay mother I will take Hiro and Yuki with me after supper. Hiro can help me get there. So lets eat.

Mother turns back to the prepare the food as father joins Hiro at the table.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK. SUNDOWN

Hiro's wheels Father through the park.

FATHER

Hiro I want you to know that I'm very disappointed with you at the moment and want nothing more than to get the bottom of this, ridiculous mess, you got yourself into. You have to learn that you can't just go around breaking ancient rules when ever you feel like it. Climbing trees and mountains I'm mean what our people going to think. That I can't even control my own son, and then what, that maybe I'm not even responsible enough to raise my own family

HIRO

But father...

FATHER

No buts Hiro I think I've made myself perfectly clear, now haven't I?

HIRO

Yes father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATHER

Right then, now lets see if we can't get down to the bottom of this.

EXT. STREAM .SUNDOWN

The stream is filled with fish jumping in and out of the water. They try biting at the fishing lore where a big fat juicy worm hangs, the worm wriggles free and the fish swim down to look for their supper. We follow this fishing wire up to the rod, where sits the Doctor, 55. He wears his green fishing outfit. A nice looking man with glasses and scruffy hair, with his bubble floating above him. He huffs.

DOCTOR

Not another worm, I just can't keep up with these fish today, or is it the worms I can't keep up with.

He reaches for another worm but he stops as he see's someone approaching

FATHER

Good evening Doctor.

DOCTOR

Why hello, yes good evening...feeling better are you? That's good and what brings you out on such a plesent evening?

FATHER

Well I am sorry to bother you Doctor...but it seems we have quite an extraordinary occurrence on our hands.

DOCTOR

Yes, yes, Well what is it?

FATHER

Well Doctor as funny as this may sound it seems that my dear son Hiro has managed to...well, err...

DOCTOR

Yes yes, come, come, what is it?

FATHER

Well...err it's well that Hiro, my son has seemed to have somehow.. well er..lost his bubble.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I think I misheard you. I thought you said that young Hiro has lost his bubble.

FATHER

Yes, yes that is what I said.

Pushing Hiro closer to the Doctor.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Well Doctor it's not only Hiro you see, but his dog too.

The Doctor, slowly stands and looks Hiro up and down, taking a closer look at him, he spins him around, then shakes his head in wonder. Yuki comes up to the Doctor and wags his tail, but the Doctor backs away.

DOCTOR

Oh Dear, this cannot be. Why, I have never seen such a thing! Tell me young man how do you feel?

HIRO

Why I feel just fine Doctor, I feel wonderful.

DOCTOR

Oh dear that doesn't sound very good now does it.

HIRO

No Doctor, I said I feel great.

DOCTOR

Yes yes, I heard what you said but how can you feel great, you are missing your bubble? I think he is delusional. Did you hit your head.

HIRO

No Doctor, I climbed the mountain.

DOCTOR

Climbed the mountain? What are you talking about? Nobody climbs in Mountain valley, we all know this, so what's this about climbing, Is this true?

FATHER

I'm afraid so Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DOCTOR

Oh dear, this doesn't look very good at all.

FATHER

Doctor he says that he feels fine. I don't think he is sick I just wanted to hear your opinion.

DOCTOR

Yes, yes right, well my opinion, my opinion is that they are both sick, there is definitely something wrong with them. I think their in need of some serious treatment.

FATHER

No Doctor I don't think he is sick, he says he feels great.

DOCTOR

I think you might be delusional too then. If you don't need my help I don't know what else I can do for him.

FATHER

Doctor I don't think...

DOCTOR

Well I do, so if you don't want to listen to me that's fine? Lets just hope it isn't contagous shall we. By the sound of it you may have already caught it and it's going to be too late for you too. Now good evening.

Father motions to Hiro that he want's to leave, Hiro spins Father in the chair around and Yuki follows.

FATHER

Yes, good evening Doctor, sorry to have disturbed you.

They travel off along the stream.

HIRO

father do you think I'm sick?

FATHER

No Hiro I don't think you're sick but I don't know what to think really, why don't we give it a few days a see if it comes back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HIRO

And what about school in the morning,
what shall I tell everyone?

FATHER

Maybe you should keep your mouth shut and
your backpack on like normal until we can
work out what's going on.

HIRO

But maybe I shouldn't hide it either
Father. I'm not ashamed, I am happy.

FATHER

I don't think that's a good idea Hiro.
Nothing like this has ever happened in
the town of Mountain Valley. Nothing that
I can think of, and we don't want to stir
up trouble and upset the village, now do
we?

HIRO

No Father.

FATHER

Come on son let's go home it's getting
late and I'm very tired.

Father, Hiro and Yuki head home.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MOON. NIGHT

The moon shines bright birds fly past.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUNRISE. DAY

The sun slowly rises, another beautiful day.

INT. HIRO'S BEDROOM. MORNING

Mother quietly slide open Hiro's door, watching over him
as he sleeps bubble free. She looks at Hiro in puzzlement
and slides the door closed.

INT.CLASSROOM.DAY

Hiro and the rest of the children come into the classroom and take their seats, a little chatter as they arrive, they all have their backpacks on.

The teacher comes in last. The room goes quiet when she enters.

TEACHER

Good Morning children.

CHILDREN

(Together)

Good morning Miss.

TEACHER

I hope you all had a refreshing weekend, and are all ready to share your assignments.

Hiro gulps, but all the other children nod their heads up and down.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now who would like to go first?
Right, lets start with you Miki.

Miki, a small and skinny girl with pig tails proudly gets up and walks to the front of the class with her assignment paper in hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

OK Miki would you like to take out your bubble first.

Miki nods, reaching back, unzipping her backpack her bubble floats out towering over her as she places her backpack down by her side and starts to read from her paper.

MIKI

What I have learnt from my bubble is that I am a very friendly person and after I got in trouble when I was little for accidently poisoning my cat....

The children giggle

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKI (CONT'D)

with my secret recipe, I decided to become a chef. I will prove to everyone that I can cook and I will never hurt another soul again and will be the best chef in the whole of Mountain Valley. People will come from all over to taste my food, and nobody will ever get sick. I have brought everyone my freshly baked cookies in my bag that I made all by myself with my very own secret recipe and would like to share them with all of you. Now who would like to try one?

The class is silent and nobody moves.

MIKI (CONT'D)

Anyone, please, they are very tasty. Please don't be shy, you'll really like them. Well maybe later then. Well that is it, that's my assignment.

TEACHER

Thank You very much Miki, good work, you may sit down now.

MIKI

Yes thank you Miss, Would you like a cookie?

TEACHER

Maybe later. Right who will be next? Tomi?

Tomi who is sat at the back gets up. He is a little chubby and his hair sticks up. He walks to the front of the room, tripping on his way up to the front of the class. The children laugh. He begins to take out his bubble before the teacher asks him. The Bubble floats above him very bright.

TOMI

My daddy is a Librarian and is always telling me to be quiet and read but I don't like reading, I like singing. I'm gonna be a singer and play in a band. I like playing the drums too, so I might do that, or I might be a bridge builder so I can use a hammer and knock all the nails in, or I might build houses, anything that makes a lot of noise really, I'm not going to work in a library I know that.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOMI (CONT'D)

I like making people laugh. Well that's my assignment.

TEACHER

Thank you very much Tomi. OK Hiro would you like to come up and share your homework with us next.

Hiro smiles, slowly making his way up to the front of the room. His backpack still on. He Pulls out his blank piece of paper pretends to read from it.

HIRO

For my assignment...

TEACHER

Hiro, aren't we forgetting something?

HIRO

Err no miss, For my assignment I...

TEACHER

No Hiro get your bubble out...

HIRO

Uum right my bubble.

Hiro reaches over, unzips his bag, and begins to pull some clothes out of it, then some more. Hiro turns to see everyone's face, stalling for time. He then takes his backpack off, puts it down and continues to look, still pulling things out, some books, an old pair of shoes.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Err sorry Teacher.

TEACHER

Sorry for what Hiro?

HIRO

I seem to have err...I seem to have lost it miss..I know it's around here somewhere. No I guess it's gone.

TEACHER

Gone? What do you mean gone?

HIRO

I seem to have lost it.

The children begin to chatter and look around at each other. They are shocked and stunned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HIRO (CONT'D)

I must have grown out of it or something.
Maybe I should go look for it outside or
something.

TEACHER

HIRO! What an earth are you talking
about? Where is your bubble. You can't
just go around loosing your bubble.

HIRO

Maybe I don't need it anymore.

TEACHER

What are you talking about of course you
need it. How are you going to get on in
life with out it. I've never in all my
years, seen anything like this. Children
take out your books...no children don't
take out your books...

Teacher loses her balance and falls into her chair.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

OK children... err Hiro sit down and take
your things with you, your are in big
trouble young man. Children...get your
books out and I'll be right back.

Teacher leaves the room. All the kids look at Hiro who is
now sitting at his desk just smiling out at the kids. A
girl sitting next to Hiro is the first to speak to him.

KOKO

What happened Hiro, Where did your bubble
go?

Some of the other kids join in asking the same question.

CHILDREN

Yes where is it?

HIRO

It floated away.

Hiro sits up on his desk. And the children all gather
around.

HIRO (CONT'D)

I'll tell you what happened to my
bubble...

Hiro takes his time acting very cool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HIRO (CONT'D)

I went on a great journey. A great adventure. I climbed to the very top of the mountain.

MIKI

No you didn't, it's forbidden.

FUDO

Are you crazy? Yes it is forbidden.

HIRO

Well why is it forbidden.

FUDO

Because (thinking) it's forbidden.

HIRO

Why is it forbidden? Has anyone ever told us? No they haven't. They just say it's forbidden, there is nothing wrong with a nice walk up a mountain.

FUDO

Yes but it's forbidden.

HIRO

Fudo stop repeating yourself and most of all stop repeating what others have said.

FUDO

Yes but it's...

CHILDREN

(together)

We know it's forbidden.

MIKI

What happened Hiro, what did you see, why did you do it?

HIRO

Why I saw the most beautiful breathtaking view imaginable. I could see everything for miles. I could see the whole village. I could see all of your homes, and the hills went on for miles. I've never seen anything so amazing. I felt fantastic standing at the very top I went for my Father to find the Myth of the magical colored healing berries.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MIKI

What Magical healing Beans, you are lying.

HIRO

No I'm not, and there not beans there berries my Uncle told me about them.

MIKI

Beans! Berries! Your just a smelly liar.

FUDO

And what else happened how did you loose your bubble, did you fall?

HIRO

No, when I reached the top, it was just so breathe taking I'd never felt so free and wonderful all at the same time. Then just at that point, it happened.

MIKI

What happened?

The kids lean in.

HIRO

My bubble...it just floated away.

MIKI

It just floated away?

HIRO

Yes, it just floated away. Leaving me feeling so light and free.

FUDO

I don't believe you.

TAKA

I believe you Hiro.

Hiro smiles at Taka.

HIRO

Thank you Taka.

FUDO

And the stupid Berries what about the berries.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

HIRO

I never saw them...well I forgot to look...I was just so excited...I...

The children laugh, and the door slides open. The head teacher walks in and all the children scatter back to their seats. The head teacher takes a moment looking at Hiro, bubble free.

HEAD TEACHER

Good heavens what is going on. Hiro!
Please step outside with me. The rest of you I'm sure you have something to get on with.

Hiro stands up from his seat and walks up to the Head Teacher, leaving his backpack by his desk.

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

Hiro I don't know what's come over you or where your bubble is or what you think your doing but we are going to get down to the bottom of this. Your teacher isn't feeling very well at all, And she wont even come back to work, I don't know what to do, you had better have a good explanation young man and tell me where your bubble has gone, and start making some sense right now. Well Hiro, what do you have to say for yourself?

HIRO

Well Miss...it all began when...

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET. DAY

Bicycle wheels roll around and around, hands on the handle bars ringing the bell. It's the postman. And he has a notice to give out to everyone.

POSTMAN

Who will be our new Mayor? Come to the meeting this evening at 8 p.m. Who will be our new Mayor? Meeting tonight.

He passes the notices out to all the people in the streets without stopping on his bicycle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He throws one up in the air and it lands on to the ground. It reads " Town Meeting for the people of Mountain Valley in the Town Hall, 8 p.m. tonight. To discuss who will be the new Mayor of Mountain Valley."

EXT. PARK. AFTERNOON.

Hiro is walking home through the park. Following secretly behind him is Taka. She is following Hiro, hiding behind the trees as she goes, she steps on a branch. Hiro looks behind him.

HIRO

Hello? Is there someone there?

Taka, the girl from school, comes out from behind the tree, lifts her head up, and smiles at Hiro.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Taka? What are you doing? You don't go home this way.

He thinks for a second.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Are you following me?

Taka slowly walks up to him.

TAKA

Yes, sorry I didn't mean to frighten you, I just wanted to talk to you, but I got a little shy and was waiting for the right moment, and well I guess this is the right moment.

Taka smiles at him.

HIRO

What did you want to talk about?

TAKA

Well what did our head teacher say to you?

HIRO

She didn't know what to say, she just sent me out of school, and told me to go look for my bubble and stop playing games and making up lies.

TAKA

And then what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIRO

I just smiled at her, thanked her for her time and left. She was utterly disgusted. It was quite funny really. I'm the one that is supposed to be sick or something and I've never felt better in my life. I feel so much more lighter than ever before.

TAKA

I think it's great. Maybe you really have stumbled onto something, Hiro I want to go to the top of the mountain with you and look for the Magical berries. Will you take me?

HIRO

Well I wasn't planning on going back up there so soon, especially now that everyone knows that I went up the forbidden mountain.

TAKA

Oh Hiro, I want to be free like you. I don't want to carry my bubble around with me anymore, I want to see what you saw and feel how you feel, please Hiro, will you take me? Will You? Please take up the mountain.

HIRO

Well I guess It doesn't make any difference anymore, I'm already in trouble. How much more trouble could I get into. I guess it would be OK. And we still have to find those berries for my Father.

Taka Smiles

TAKA

So then you will take me? You'll really take me.

HIRO

Sure, why not.

Taka is so happy that she kisses Hiro on the cheek. Hiro is surprised and then blushes.

TAKA

When can we go Hiro? When can we go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Hiro still blushing from the kiss, just blurts out.

HIRO

How about right now? We can go before the town is at the meeting, If we get a head start we could be back before it's over, and nobody would even know we were gone.

Taka thinks

HIRO (CONT'D)

It will be dark as we make our way back down, but the moon will give us enough light for us to see our way home. Are you ready? Do you really want to go?

TAKA

Yes, I am ready. Lets do it.

HIRO

OK, lets have an adventure.

Hiro and Taka walk off down the park together in the direction of the Mountain. Still wearing their school uniforms.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE. AFTERNOON

The beautiful sun begins to set.

EXT. VILLAGE. AFTERNOON

People walking about.

EXT. TOWNHALL. AFTERNOON

The notice is posted up for the meeting.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP. AFTERNOON

The flower shop lady pulls out some flowers from the front window to sell.

EXT. STREAM . AFTERNOON

Fish are jumping, humming birds are hovering in their search for nectar. Spiders are spinning their webs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And our funny little frog friend sits by the stream, catching flies and croaking, when all of a sudden a crow comes flying out of nowhere and swoops down heading right for the frog. Luckily the frog sees him first and jumps into the pond, just in time, not to be the crows lunch. Moments later two little eyes appear out of the water, looking around to check if the coast is clear. It is, and he returns to the stream bank to continue catching his supper.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN. AFTERNOON.

Two pairs of feet walk side by side. Panning up we see it's Hiro and Taka. The mountain lays right ahead. Taka smiles at Hiro, Hiro returns the smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIRO'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON

Hiro's mother is in the garden doing a little gardening.

She stops what she's doing for a moment, walks to the front gate and looks up and down the street. She then scratches her head, takes a moment and then returns to her gardening chores.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIREHOUSE. AFTERNOON

Hiro's Uncle is in front of the firehouse cleaning his fire engine. A two seater, red truck, with 4 water buckets on either side that hang over handle bars, where the other firemen would hold onto when ever there is a fire. A bell hangs in the back, and a small tank for water takes up the rest of the space. He stops for a second and wipes his brow. Running towards him comes the Doctor's wife Akako (50), looking quite upset. She runs right up to him.

AKAKO

Oh dear, Oh dear.

Uncle stands to attention ready for anything.

UNCLE

Akako what is the matter?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AKAKO

It's the Doctor. Well he was supposed to have been home hours ago and he never returned, I don't know where he could be.

UNCLE

Well where did you see him last?

AKAKO

I saw him this morning when he was going fishing, but he wouldn't still be down there it was hours ago.

UNCLE

That's the first place we should look, now come on we can jog there as it will be faster than cutting through the windy road with the truck, we should take the short cut to the stream through the village.

Uncle and Akako take of heading through the village, other villagers see them walking at a very fast pace and catch up to ask what is happening.

MAN 1

Trouble?

FATHER

We seem to have lost our dear old Doctor, we may need an extra hand, would you like to come along?

MAN 1

Why of course.

Another person walks up to the man and asks what's going on.

MAN 2

Trouble?

MAN 1

Maybe, we're looking for the Doctor and we might need some help, would you like to join us?

MAN 2

Why of Course.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Somebody else approaches and then another and soon enough dozens of people follow along in a long line heading for the Stream. They walk through the village. More and more people join in on the walk, men, women, children and even a small goat finds it's way into the pack of villagers.

They soon approach the stream, they head further and further up stream in search of the missing Doctor, People begin calling out his name.

A little further up stream we can just make out a figure lying in the middle of the stream, very still on a big rock, his bubble floating above him, it's the Doctor.

Uncle is the first to see him.

UNCLE

I see him.

MAN 1

He sees him.

MAN 2

He sees him.

The villager cry out in joy.

As they all get closer it is clear that the Doctor is asleep out in the middle of the stream on the rock.

AKAKO

Oh my dear, oh my goodness, Doctor, are you all right.

The Doctor is still.

UNCLE

Doctor can you hear me.

VILLAGERS

(Together)

Doctor!

That did the trick, the Doctor Wakes up from his deep sleep, rubbing his eyes, he slowly sees everyone across from were he sits. He is a little surprised by all the people. And his face is bright red from the sun.

UNCLE

Doctor, are you OK?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DOCTOR

Well actually no, I think I'm stuck. Oh dear, I must have fallen asleep. I was fishing out here on this rock, when I thought I'd take a nap, and when I woke I was surrounded by water and you know I can't swim, I tried calling out but there was know one around for miles, I waited and waited and must have fallen back to sleep. Will you help me? I'm too stiff to stand and will surely drown if I go in the water.

UNCLE

Doctor I can assure you, you will not drown.

DOCTOR

Oh I can assure you my boy that I surely will.

UNCLE

Doctor I can assure you, that this stream is not deep, why it's only 2 feet deep at most.

DOCTOR

Nonsense I've been fishing in these waters for years, don't you think I know how deep it is.

Uncle is about to speak again when he suddenly notices that the goat that walked down with the villagers is now standing in the middle of the pond splashing about. The water just goes up to it's little body cover his legs. The goat making a goat like sound slowly walks up to where the doctor sits and takes a bite of the Doctors trouser leg as the Doctor sits on the rock, which is close enough for the goat to get at. Someone in the Crowd begins to laugh, which almost immediately becomes contagious spreading through the villagers like wildflower. Soon the entire village is in hysterical laughter, including father and the Doctor's wife. The Doctor kicks his leg but the goats has too good a grip. The Doctor looses control, sliding off the rock and into the pond, landing on his bottom. The splash scares the goat, making him run back down the stream, leaving the Doctor sitting up to his waist, soaking wet. He looks up totally embarrassed, at which time his bubble gets just a little bigger. The Villagers cry out in uncontrollable laughter. The Doctor slowly stands leaving him knee high in water. The villagers continue to laugh. Some have to sit on the ground so as not to loose their balance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Yes, yes very funny, very funny, stupid goat. Very funny.

He reaches the bank. Father reaches out his hand to help but the Doctor waves him away.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

No thank you, I don't need your help, I don't need any ones help thank you very much. I am quite capable myself.

The Doctor brushes himself off, wringing out his clothes as he walks away. His wife follows, leaving the villagers. Some stagger off, some roll about on the floor.

MAN 1

(laughing to man 2)
Stupid goat.

MAN 2

(Laughing to man 1)
Yes, Stupid Goat.

The goat splashes around watching the fish jump out of the water.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALFWAY UP THE MOUNTAIN. SUNDOWN

Hiro and Taka approach the half way point of the mountain where Hiro found the two signs. Hiro Points.

HIRO

There it is up ahead, the sign I told everyone about.

They approach the sign. Taka reads.

TAKA

Think for yourself. Yes, yes. Think for yourself. Hiro this is amazing all the beautiful trees we passed. And all the butterflies, thank you for bringing me up here Hiro.

HIRO

Just wait till we reach the top. It gets better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Taka smiles at Hiro, Hiro nods back at her. They continue up together.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWN HALL. SUNDOWN

A small table is placed at the far end of the room ready for the meeting.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP. SUNDOWN

The flower shop lady closes the shop for the evening.

EXT. BAKERY. SUNDOWN

The Baker closes his shop.

EXT. STREET. SUNDOWN

The Postman rides by on his Bicycle.

EXT. VILLAGE. SUNDOWN

Smoke comes out of chimney pots.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP. EVENING

Hiro and Taka reach the top of the mountain, Takas mouth is open in awe of all the beauty, she takes a minute to take it all in.

TAKA

Oh Hiro, it's so amazing, I can see for miles, and the sun, look as it just goes down. How beautiful it all is, I feel like it all just doesn't mean anything just like you said. Like there are no worries in the world. It's so peaceful up here. And everything is so quiet. I feel so free, so happy.

Taka takes Hiro by the hand, Hiro smiles at Taka, and then taking Hiro by surprise Taka leans in to him and kisses him full on the lips. She then just holds him tight to her and closes her eye's. A moment goes by and then something truly magical happens not for the 1st time, not even the 2nd time, but for the 3rd time. Taka's Bubble begins to float away, as she opens her eyes she realizes that there is something different about her. She looks around seeing nothing different. Then she looks up. She shrieks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAKA (CONT'D)

Hiro, look.

Taka Points to the sky.

TAKA (CONT'D)

My bubble, it's floating away.

She jumps for joy.

TAKA (CONT'D)

It's floating away, it's floating away, I don't believe it. It's really floating away. I feel so good. So free.

Taka puts her hand to her mouth and laughs, then taking it away from her mouth she continues to laugh, and laugh and laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. HIRO'S HOUSE. EVENING

Mother and father sit at the kitchen table. Eating their supper.

MOTHER

I wonder were Hiro has gotten to. I do hope he's OK.

FATHER

Oh I'm sure he's fine. He's probably off playing with one of his friends. He'll come back soon, when he's hungry. Now come along we must get ready for tonight's meeting.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE STREET. EVENING

Many of the villagers walk over the hill heading into town.

EXT. TOWN HALL. EVENING

The villager start to gather in front of the Town Hall, including the Doctor and his wife, who are noticed in the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Someone makes a goat noise and people giggle to themselves. Hiro's mother and father are also there. A woman in her early 40's approaches them.

FUDO'S MOTHER

Excuse me, sorry to bother you but I just wanted to clear something up. It's my son Fudo you see, he is in your son's class at school and well the thing is, is that Fudo, my son has been going on all day about Hiro, and I know this might sound strange to you of course, well strange for all of us I'm sure, well Fudo has told me that your son Hiro has somehow managed to loose his bubble. My son never lies you see and that is why I had to ask you and to clear this nonsense up once and for all. So err.

She laughs nervously

FUDO'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Is it true?

Hiro's mother and father look at each other and then back at her.

FATHER

Actually yes, he did loose his bubble and is out looking for it now.

Fudo's mother is quite taken back.

FUDO'S MOTHER

Why I've never...It can't be...

she turns to another woman next to her and nods her head up and down. The woman next to her gasps.

The doors to the town hall open, and the villagers slip off their shoes and walk in.

INT. TOWN HALL. EVENING

The villager sit on the floor in rows. Three councillors all dressed in long black robes, with long skinny beards sit at the front of the room on the floor at the small table, which had been placed there earlier. The councillor in the middle holds a wooden hammer which he bangs on the table. The villagers go silent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCILLOR

This meeting is in session. Let us now begin the meeting to choose our new Mayor of Mountain Valley.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALFWAY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. EVENING

The moon shines bright as Hiro and Taka make their way down the mountain hand in hand and bubble free.

INT. TOWN HALL. EVENING

COUNCILLOR

Ladies and Gentleman of Mountain Valley...

The councillor is interrupted by a strange sound. He begins again.

COUNCILLOR (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlem....

Interrupted once again. Now we can hear the distinct sound of a frog croaking.

COUNCILLOR (CONT'D)

What is that sound?

MAN 1

Sounded like a frog.

The villagers look around but it's quiet again.

COUNCILLOR

Right Ladies and....

Once again a loud croak comes from somewhere in the hall. The villagers look around and we hear another croak. This time someone notices where it came from.

WOMAN 1

Doctor are you feeling, OK?

Everyone looks at the Doctor.

DOCTOR

Yes quite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The croak gets louder and this time the Doctor's top jacket pocket moves and everyone notices. The Doctor tries to look innocent. Then suddenly two little eyes appear. It's our little froggy friend and he has found his way into the Doctors pocket.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Oh dear, oh dear, how did he get there.

The villagers begin to giggle once more at the Doctors expense.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Oh I say he must have jumped right out of my wet trousers from the stream and right into my jacket. Oh I say I'm terribly sorry.

The Villagers loose control, their giggles become howling laughs. Making goat and frog noises, the frog jumps out of his pocket and onto the floor and heads straight for the door. The villagers point at the little frog as he makes his way out.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Why, I have never been so humiliated in all my days.

He gets up and heads for the door, his wife follows. The frog speeds up.

BOY 1

It's a race.

BOY2

Who will win, the Doctor or the frog?

The frog makes it to the open door.

BOY 1

And the frog wins.

The villagers cry out in joy. The Doctor's wife closes the door behind her, calling out for the Doctor.

VILLAGERS

HURRAY.

They all laugh. The council are not amused.

The councillor slams down his wooden hammer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COUNCILLOR

If you have all quite finished we have important business to attend to. Now, concerning our new Mayor. We have several new people to be considered for this position. We will hear what they all have to say and go from there, now...

CUT TO:

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN. EVENING.

Hiro and Taka walk away from the mountain.

HIRO

Now if we hurry we can make it back to the Town Hall and show everyone our amazing discovery, and we'll pick Yuki up along the way.

FADE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE STREET. EVENING

The moon is full, Hiro, Taka and Yuki walk over the hill. They are in silhouette as the huge moon behind them peeks up over the street.

INT. TOWN HALL. EVENING

Three men in their 50's are knelt down on the stage next to the three Councillors.

COUNCILLOR

And so after much thought and consideration I would like to appoint Tatsuhiko Marumoto as the new Mayor of Mountain Valley.

The villagers cry out in joy for the new Mayor. Just as they do, the Town Hall doors swing open. Standing there bubble free are Hiro, Taka and Yuki. Yuki barks and the villagers go silent. They slip off their shoes at the door and slowly walk in and head for the stage where sit the 3 councillors and the new Mayor. The villagers notice that they are bubble free, gasp and point.

FATHER

Oh no!

Mother has her hand over her mouth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hiro addresses the Council.

HIRO

I'm sorry to interrupt, but we feel this is very important news and should be addressed to the villagers straight away.

Hiro turns back to face the Villagers.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Excuse me for breaking up this meeting but something has happened that we need to share with the rest of the village. As you can see, we no longer have our bubbles. Hard to believe I know, but it's true. You see we have been to the forbidden mountain and seen for ourselves the true glory of the world and all it holds. Do not fear the mountain, It is truly beautiful.

FATHER

(Angrily)

Hiro!

HIRO

I'm sorry Father but they have to know. Villagers of Mountain Valley, we have made an amazing discovery. We have found a way to rid you of your bubbles forever.

The villagers gasp.

You can live freely. To choose as you will, not from what happened, but from now. You don't have to look to your bubble for the answer, you just have to look to yourself, let your heart lead the way not your bubble.

COUNCILLOR

Why this is preposterous.

HIRO

Why of course it isn't. I believe we have been misguided.

TEACHER

Misguided, how dare you tell us that we have been misguided.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TEACHER (CONT'D)

I have been teaching the way of the bubble all my life. Are you telling me I am misguided.

HIRO

Well, actually yes I am.

TEACHER

But I'm your teacher and you, you are just a boy.

TAKA

He is not just a boy, he's brilliant.

FATHER

Hiro, I think you have said quite enough.

One of the other council members stand up.

COUNCILLOR 2

Well come now, this young boy may well have stumbled onto something indeed, and we shouldn't just dismiss it just because he is a boy. All great men were once boys too, remember.

TEACHER

You are talking nonsense Councillor.

The villagers stir and began to chatter to each other.

COUNCILLOR

Well something has truly happened here and we do need to get to the bottom of this, so I suggest appointing a small team to investigate, and go to the top of the mountain.

The villagers gasp in outrage.

TEACHER

But you can't surely believe this boy.

FATHER

Please don't address my son as "this boy", his name is Hiro, which I named him, and would appreciate you calling him by his given name, thank you very much.

TEACHER

Yes of course, please I just want to make myself heard and...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COUNCILLOR 2

Yes thank you teacher, we heard you loud and clear, and now you have heard me loud and clear also, so Mayor Tutsuhiko Marumoto what do you say?

The villagers go silent waiting for the Mayor to speak his first words as the new Mayor of Mountain Valley.

MAYOR

Well thank you Councillors. Villagers let me first say what a pleasure it will be to be your new Mayor of Mountain Valley and...

TEACHER

Yes, yes but what do you say?

COUNCILLOR

Now Teacher, let the man finish what he is saying.

MAYOR

Thank you Councillor, well this truly is a most unusual occurrence, and this especially puts me on the spot as the new Mayor. Now listening to what the boy has had to say and the thoughts and feelings of some of the villagers I agree with the Councillor...

Gasps from some of the villagers in upset.

MAYOR

And think that it would be a very good idea to send a small group up the mountain to investigate. Life can be very unpredictable and you never know what is around the corner, and to dismiss young Master Hiro, would also be wrong.

TEACHER

This is an outrage. You should all know better than to trust a bunch of bad kids breaking ancient laws.

The Teacher gets up and heads for the door, turns to Hiro's parents, and huffs at them. Teacher exits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

COUNCILLOR

Right, so that settles it. We will send a small party up the Mountain, But who do you think we should send up there Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR

Hmmm, That's a good question, they would have to be very brave and smart and strong. Someone we all look up to and trust.

TAKA'S MOTHER

(sly)

Like the Fireman.

Uncle gives Taka's mother a sarcastically, "thank you very much" look.

UNCLE

Oh yes well err, I suppose I could.

Uncle looks at the woman, unimpressed by her putting him on the spot..

MAYOR

Now maybe that would be a good idea, Hiro is your nephew after all, and we do all look up to you and trust you. If you wouldn't mind of course. We would be honoured.

UNCLE

Yes of course, I will go, but who else should accompany me? Perhaps Taka's father would like to come with me.

TAKA'S MOTHER

Definitely not...

Taka's father Yuri stands.

YURI

No , I would like to go too.

TAKA'S MOTHER

No you wouldn't, sit down.

Yuri gives her a look that silences her. She then looks at Hiro's father, who smiles back at her. She huffs showing her annoyance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

COUNCILLOR

Right, that's two so far, one more person should settle this. And I would like appoint our respected Number 2 Councillor to verify this unusual situation. If that's agreeable with you Councillor?

COUNCILLOR 2

Oh I say, you took me by surprise, I haven't been on an adventure like this in a very long time, I do hope my legs don't give out, I think I can manage it. Is it very hard Hiro?

HIRO

No, not so bad.

COUNCILLOR 2

Of course you would say that you are a young boy, well OK then I would be honored to accept this request.

COUNCILLOR

Well that settles it then, our gracious Fireman, Yuri and our esteemed councillor will be our investigators.

I think that should do it.

COUNCILLOR (CONT'D)

They shall leave in the morning at sunrise, and report back to the committee and your new Mayor on their return. See that you get some good rest, for a new day awaits you in the morning, a new day for us all. Now it is quite late enough. And if there are no more questions I think that should be everything...

The villagers stand and begin to chatter among themselves as they make their way out of the town hall.

EXT. SUNRISE.

The sun comes up, birds chirp, bees fly around the flowers looking for their nectar, everything is glowing.

EXT. UNCLE'S HOUSE. SUNRISE

Uncle's hand opens the front gate and it swings shut.

CUT TO:

EXT. YURI'S HOME. SUNRISE

Yuri slides open his front door and steps out, taking in a deep breath.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNCILLOR 2'S GARDEN PATHWAY. SUNRISE

The Councillor walks over his little garden bridge, down to the bottom and trips on a small twig.

COUNCILLOR 2

OOPS!

He carries on.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK ENTRANCE .SUNRISE

All three men meet up. Bow their heads at each other, and begin walking through the park. Each carrying a small bag thrown over their shoulder and their bubbles floating above them.

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN. MORNING

The three men are standing at the bottom of the mountain, looking up.

COUNCILLOR 2

Oh dear, it seems so very far to the top.

UNCLE

It doesn't seem too bad.

YURI

It'll be alright, I think. Your nephew has already been up there twice now hasn't he.

Well, shall we?

Councillor and Yuri nod their heads. They take their first steps up the mountain. Suddenly out jumps the teacher from behind a rock. All three men jump in surprise.

TEACHER

What do you think you are doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

UNCLE

Why Teacher you scared us. What are you doing here? Did you follow us all the to the mountain?

TEACHER

Do not climb this mountain, it is truly forbidden and all that go up it will surly bring much trouble to the village.

COUNCILLOR 2

Teacher I think you should go back home now and do not keep us from our mission. This was a decision made by the council and the Mayor, So you don't have any say in this matter, so turn back now and return to your home at once and we will not hear any more of your nonsense.

TEACHER

I warn you, do not take another step up this mountain.

UNCLE

(to men)

Come on lets get going, she can't bother us if we are not here to be bothered by.

The three men turn back towards the mountain and continue up. Leaving Teacher at the bottom.

TEACHER

You'll be sorry, you'll all be very sorry.

They continue to walk until the teacher is long gone far in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREAM. DAY

The stream looks truly magical all the colors are very bright, everything is shining all around. Hiro floats down stream on his back, this time along with the current, his hands behind his head, and smiling, still bubble free. A fish jumps out of the water and onto his chest.

FISH

Hello, where do you think you are going then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIRO

Just for a pleasant float down the stream. Always good to go with the flow I think. No use floating up stream and fighting the current is it?

FISH

Yes, yes of course, going in the same direction of the stream is always the right choice, you never want to fight that. Well, nice to see you again anyway. Bye bye.

The fish jumps off Hiro as Hiro carries on floating down stream on his back.

CUT TO:

INT. HIRO'S BEDROOM . MORNING

Hiro wakes from his dream, the sun shines in on his face. Feeling refreshed from a good nights sleep he bounces out of bed and out the door, still in his blue striped pyjamas.

CUT TO:

INT. TAKA'S HOUSE.MORNING

Taka is sitting at the kitchen table across from her mother, bubble free, eating her breakfast happily as her mother watches her, speechless and looking very worried and confused. A moment passes.

CUT TO:

INT. HIRO'S KITCHEN. MORNING

Hiro enters the kitchen, his mother is preparing his breakfast before he goes to school.

HIRO

Good morning mother.

MOTHER

Good morning Hiro, Sleep well?

HIRO

Very well thank you mother. I guess Uncle has gone to the mountain?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOTHER

Yes son, he left very early, at sunrise.
I'm making you your favorite omelette
this morning.

HIRO

Umm! Thank You Mother. What an exciting
day this is, what with Uncle and the
others going up the mountain.

MOTHER

We will see...yes, we will see.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNCILLOR'S BEDROOM. MORNING

The Councillor stands alone looking out of his window at
the mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN . MORNING

The three men are walking up the beautiful mountain where
the trees grow high and the birds and butterflies fly
about enjoying their day.

COUNCILLOR 2

My it's beautiful up here isn't it, just
beautiful.

The other two men nod their heads in agreement.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE. MORNING

The children walk through the village in their school
uniforms, backpacks on their backs.

FADE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM.DAY

The children are in their classroom waiting for their
teacher. Some of the kids are sitting on their chairs and
some are sitting on their desks. Yogi sits at the teacher
desk swinging his legs, peeking at some of the paperwork
on the teachers desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FUDO

Yogi you're gonna get in big trouble if you do that.

YOGI

Oh be quiet Fudo and mind your own business.

MIKI

I wonder where teacher is, she's usually here by now.

YOGI

Well if she doesn't come soon I'm just gonna have to take her place.

MIKI

You can't do that.

YOGI

Oh yes I can.

The children all laugh. Yogi clears his throat pretending to be the teacher, takes his pencil out from behind his ear and bangs it on the table.

YOGI (CONT'D)

Now children I want you all to sit down.

The children giggle and play along.

YOGI (CONT'D)

Thank you. Now I want you to take out your book from your desk and turn to page 10.

They all do. Still giggling.

YOGI (CONT'D)

Children, know fooling around, this is serious stuff. Now Taka because you lost your bubble, I want you to read from the top of the page.

Taka turns to page 10. The children giggle

TAKA

(reading)

A Tale of Three Cities, Cities and castle towns were established nationwide from the latter half of the 16th century to the turn of the 17th...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. MORNING

The Head Teacher is walking down the hallway just passing the classroom, She puts her ear up to the door, hears Taka reading aloud, smiles nods her head, and continues down the hallway.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

TAKA

The three most populous - Edo, Osaka, Kyoto, known as "The Big Three" were under the direct control of the government.

YOGI

OK, OK, very boring thank you very much Taka

The children laugh.

YOGI (CONT'D)

Right lets try that again shall we Taka? But this time I want you to read it backwards.

TAKA

Backwards?

The children laugh.

YOGI

Yes Backwards.

YOGI (CONT'D)

Quiet children, this is serious business.

Taka looks at Yogi with a big grin on her face, turns to Hiro and smiles at him too, who smiles back at her in return and then she continues as per instructed.

TAKA

Government the of Control direct the under were.

The children loose it. They start to laugh.

YOGI

Children will you be quiet now.

Yogi acting serious then stands on the teacher's chair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOGI (CONT'D)

Right, very good Taka. Now your homework assignments are to think of ways to annoy your parents. And to pour milk down your trousers.

The kids laugh. One falls off his chair, they laugh harder. All of a sudden the class door slides open and the Head Teacher walks in.

HEAD TEACHER

What is going on? Teacher?

The head teacher looks around for the teacher.

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

Teacher? Children what is going on here and where is your teacher? And Yogi why are you up on that chair, get down from there at once. Yogi come here.

Yogi jumps down from the chair and walks up to her.

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now I want you to tell me what is going on?

YOGI

Well Miss. We were just working reading from our History books, while waiting for our teacher to get here.

HEAD TEACHER

You mean to tell me that your teacher hasn't arrived yet?

YOGI

Yes, that's right Miss. I was just having everyone reading while we were waiting.

HEAD TEACHER

Is this true children?

CHILDREN

Yes Miss.

HEAD TEACHER

And you found it necessary to do this by standing on a chair did you. OK Yogi that's all the teaching I'm going to need you to do for me today. Children I want you to continue reading from your History books in turn starting from page 1.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

You will all read out one page each aloud starting from this end of the class, and working back until I return and find out where your teacher is, is that clear?

CHILDREN

Yes Head Teacher.

HEAD TEACHER

Your are to do this seated in your own seats is that clear Yogi.

YOGI

Yes Head Teacher.

HEAD TEACHER

Right, now get started, and I will be back.

Yogi sits at his desk as the Head Teacher leaves the room. The first child begins to read.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL. MORNING

The head teacher walks out of the school, through the school yard, over the bridge and to the front of the school to look out seeing if she can see the teacher on her way up. There is no sign of her. She scratches her head in puzzlement.

CUT TO:

EXT.VILLAGE.MORNING

The Flower shop lady puts flowers out at the front of her store as the Postman rides by on his bike and waves at her, which is at the same time when our missing teacher decides to run in front of the Postman on his bike. The Postman just catches a glimpse of her and swerves missing her just in time. He stops.

TEACHER

You clumsy idiot. Has the whole village gone mad? Climbing mountains, and running people over, what's next?

POSTMAN

Oh, I am terribly sorry teacher.

TEACHER

Oh, of course you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She continues walking down the street heading in the direction of the Mayor's office.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE .MORNING

The teacher barges in, almost knocking over one of the Mayor's employees.

EMPLOYEE

Oh good Heavens!

TEACHER

(rudely)

Excuse me!

EMPLOYEE

I think you might need an appointment first.

TEACHER

Mind your own business.

The teacher walks straight up to the Mayor's office and slides open the door.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE. MORNING

The Mayor's door slides open and the teacher storms in catching the Mayor, bubble flying high, off guard, whilst hanging up a picture in his new office. The picture crashes down onto the floor and smashes. Boxes sit on the table with some of his belongings sticking out.

MAYOR

Good heavens, what on earth is... I must have not seen you in my Appointment Book.

The Mayor bends down to pick up the pieces of the picture frame.

TEACHER

I'm sorry, I didn't have an appointment.

MAYOR

Oh you didn't have an appointment I see well...

TEACHER

Mayor, this town has gone crazy. You can't possibly let them go up the mountain. It is for bidden for a good reason.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR

Now Teacher, we have already addressed this situation so I hope you have a good reason for coming into my office? Without an appointment, scaring me half to death and making me break my picture frame. What do you want from me then? If you don't have another good reason then I'd ask you to leave my office. And why may I ask are you not at school teaching your students? Are you quite sure that you haven't gone crazy, and the rest of the village on the other hand quite sane.

TEACHER

Why that's outrageous.

MAYOR

I'd like to know why you are not at school?

TEACHER

Because... because how am I supposed to teach anything around here if the children don't have their bubbles to learn from. What's gotten into you. Don't you see we need our bubbles because without them we are nothing.

MAYOR

I see, so you are afraid that you are going to loose your job. Is that right?

TEACHER

Well it's everything that I've been teaching for all these years. It's how the world works and you know it.

MAYOR

Look, all I know is that a boy and a girl and a dog have gone up that mountain and have come down. Not having their bubbles is, I agree very strange, and that is why I have sent a party up to get to the bottom of this. They all seemed very happy and content and that's all we know.

TEACHER

Well I think you are missing the point and I'm not going to stand for it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAYOR

I think you should be careful not to get yourself worked up or fear the worst.

TEACHER

Yes well I'll watch out for myself, thank you very much.

Teacher turns and walks out in disgust. Sliding the door back very hard. The Mayor nods his head.

MAYOR

Oh dear, oh dear.

EXT. VILLAGE. MORNING

The teacher walks up the street heading for the school in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF WAY UP THE MOUNTAIN. LATE MORNING

The three men leave the wooded area of the mountain, and now approach the half way point, all carrying sticks to help them keep their balance. Uncle is first, Yuri second and the Councillor last. Uncle reaches the sign first. And reads it "THINK FOR YOURSELF"

UNCLE

(Reading)

Think for yourself.

He looks out at the view, waiting for the others to catch up and to catch his breath. He looks out taking in the wonderful view. He shakes his head in amazement, placing his hands on his hips. The other two men reach him. They stop to catch their breath.

COUNCILLOR 2

Goodness, I have not had this much exercise in a very long time.

YURI

Yes it certainly has been a while for me too, I think I need to get back into shape.

Yuri looks up at Uncle who is still gazing out. Yuri looks out as does the Councillor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCILLOR 2

It's, it's breathtaking isn't it.

YURI

Oh my...what do you think we're going to find when we reach the top?

COUNCILLOR 2

I don't know, I really don't.

FATHER

(pointing at the sign)

Have you seen this?

COUNCILLOR 2

Ah yes, let me see, Think for yourself, I see, so someone has been up here before us and before your boy. I don't know why I never thought of climbing this mountain as a boy. I suppose times are changing. The children today feel differently, they want to explore, break down a few doors and ask questions for themselves. Find out what things are really like, and not take everything for granted. Times are changing my friends, maybe for the better, or maybe for the worse, but I feel it coming. A new age is before us and it's people like your son who will lead the way now. When we are gone they will be here standing strong. I don't know what we are going to find at the top of this mountain, but we've come this far, and to the top we shall climb. Now if you are both ready, I think we should push on.

The Councillor brushes past them.

COUNCILLOR 2 (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Think for yourself.

He chuckles

COUNCILLOR 2 (CONT'D)

Think for yourself.

Yuri nods at Uncle and they continue up the mountain.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

The children sit at their desks talking to each other. The Head Teacher is not in the classroom with them. Hiro sits at his desk. He has a contented look on his face, as does Taka. They seem relaxed and at peace. They turn to each other and smile. The other children are also chattering away with each other too.

EXT. SCHOOL GARDEN. DAY

The teacher is in the garden sitting by the bridge talking to herself, or maybe even the fish. It's hard to say.

TEACHER

How dare they! Ruin my day! Ruin my job!
Climbing that mountain, whatever next?
It's madness. Madness.

She begins to cry. The tears drop into the pond. They bounce onto the water hitting where the fish swim. A steady stream of tears begin to flow. The pond begins to fill, little by little until it reaches the top and begins to flow out of the pond. She doesn't notice. When she does it's too late, the water is all around her. She is in over her waist. It grows higher and higher up to her neck until she is completely submerged under water. She try's to swim up to the surface but it is too deep, and as she makes stokes to get out she gets caught in some kind of current and begins to spin around and around.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL GARDEN. DAY

The Teacher awakes abruptly from her bad dream. Lying beside the pond. She takes a deep breathe and rubs her eyes. The head teacher approaches her from the school.

HEAD TEACHER

Oh my, what an earth are you doing? Are you OK?

Teacher is a little confused after her dream. She tries to find the words.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEACHER

Err..Yes..I think..no..no.. I'm not OK has everyone gone quite mad, how am I supposed to teach anything around here when the children are beginning to loose their bubbles. What am I supposed to teach them?

HEAD TEACHER

Only Hiro and Taka have lost their bubbles, and we have people assigned to looking for them.

TEACHER

No, No, No, No, No... It will not do.

Teacher jumps up and runs out of the school ground and back down the street. Leaving the Head Teacher standing there scratching her head.

HEAD TEACHER

Oh dear. What am I going to do now?

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN. DAY

Uncle, Councillor and Yuri, take the last few steps as they reach the top of the mountain, they all take a moment to catch their breathe all they can do is take in the all magnificent view. The Councillor sits on the rocks, the other two just stand there admiring the scenery.

COUNCILLOR 2

Oh my, you know I feel so tiny up here, everything is just so beautiful. I truly can't understand why a mountain so magnificent could be forbidden to climb.

UNCLE

Truly breathtaking. Like nothing really matters. Nothing really matters when you are this high up.

YURI

Look I can see my house from here. It's tiny.

Yuri breaths in deep, and exhales.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCILLOR 2

I feel dizzy.

UNCLE

Are you OK Councillor?

COUNCILLOR 2

Oh Yes, quite.

The Councillor chuckles to himself. Yuri smiles. He feels the freeness at the top of the mountain.

UNCLE

What a strange feeling it is to be up here indeed. I feel so peaceful.

The three men begin to laugh. They laugh like they were children, and don't seem to be able to stop, but Yuki suddenly does. He points to the Councillor, looking up at his bubble, which has dislodged now from his neck which has begin to float upwards into the sky, the Councillor looks up.

COUNCILLOR 2

Oh my.

Suddenly Yuri and Uncle's bubble begin to float off into the sky too.

I don't believe it. Our bubbles they are really going. They are really going.

All three look up in amazement, The Councillor begins to laugh again which becomes contagious, as all three begin to laugh, and laugh and laugh.

We see the men standing on the mountain. (L.S) Their bubbles flying off way up into the sky, far above them. They howl out to the sky like a pack of wolves.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

The Head Teacher enters the classroom. The children stop their chatter and put their faces back into their books, as to pretend they had been studying the whole time.

HEAD TEACHER

Well children I can see that you have been very busy studying hard so I'm sure you'll have no problem writing an essay on your favorite part of this book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The children moan.

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

On the other hand, I seem to have no other choice than to send you home a little early today, till I can find a replacement for your teacher who decided not be with us today due to unusual circumstances.

The children cheer.

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

OK, well enjoy your special day. I don't think this will happen again.

The children jump up from their seats and head for the door.

HIRO

(to Taka)

Let's go get Yuki and wait for our Uncle to return from the mountain.

Taka nods as they leave the classroom.

EXT. SCHOOL GARDEN. DAY

The children run with joy out in the garden heading for the street.

EXT. HIRO'S GARDEN. DAY

Hiro returns to his house with Taka, and are greeted by Yuki, and mother who are in the garden.

MOTHER

What are you doing back so early children?

HIRO

Well, it our teacher, she didn't turn up for school today, so our Head Teacher sent us home early because there wasn't anyone to replace her.

MOTHER

Oh dear, I wonder what happened to her.

HIRO

We came back to get Yuki and wait for Uncle to return from the mountain.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIRO (CONT'D)

We are going back through the park to the Village which is where people have began to wait.

MOTHER

Yes, well I will come with, and wait for them too. Let's get your Father.

Yuki wags his tail, so happy to see Hiro home so early.

HIRO

Come on boy we're going to town.

Yuki barks, jumps up on Taka and licks her face.

TAKA

Good Boy Yuki.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN SQUARE.DAY

The villagers have gathered in the square talking to each other about what they think the mountain party would have discovered on their great journey.

The Mayor walks out of his office building and heads across to where the villagers congregate.

MAYOR

Ah, good day to you all, and how are we all on this fine day?

VILLAGERS

Very well Mayor thank you.

MAYOR

So when are we expecting our mountain climbers back then?

MAN 1

Oh they could be back very soon Mayor.

MAN 2

Or they might not be back for sometime.

MAYOR

I see. Well the rest of the village looks like they think it could be sooner than later by the looks of things.

MAN 2

Yes but we wont know for sure until they are actually here standing before us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR

Yes of course.

MAN 2

They could have got lost.

MAN 1

Lost, how could they have gotten lost?
The Mountain is over there and we are
over here. It's quite simple.

MAN 2

Yes but they could have gotten lost on
the mountain.

MAN 1

No they couldn't all they have to do is
go up one way and then back down the same
way.

MAN 2

How do you know? Have you ever been up
that mountain.

MAN 1

No of course not it's forbidden.

The Mayor nods his head at this ridiculous conversation,
and walks away, only to be greeted by Taka's mother.

TAKA'S MOTHER

Oh Mayor, I'm worried sick, I do hope
they will come back soon, I am very
worried.

MAYOR

Now now, there is nothing to worry about,
they are all in good hands, I can assure
you.

TAKA'S MOTHER

Well I suppose so, I do hope you are
right.

Some of the children begin to turn up from school. The
parents go up to some of them to find out what they are
doing out of school so early.

Hiro and Mother push Father in his chair, Taka and Yuki
come up over the hill right behind them. Walking up to
the villagers in the town square to join them. Taka's
mother sees Taka and she runs up to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TAKA'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Taka, why on earth are you out of school so early?

TAKA

Well our teacher went missing and our Head Teacher let us go home early.

TAKA'S MOTHER

Oh dear, I do hope she's alright after last night. She was very upset when she left the meeting.

The Doctor and his wife walk by and join the villagers. They are both wearing cotton contamination masks.

MAYOR

Oh, hello Doctor, feeling a little poorly?

DOCTOR

No I feel fine, I'm just protecting myself from the virus.

MAYOR

What virus?

DOCTOR

It could be very contagious Mayor.

MAYOR

I don't think so Doctor. I don't know what's going on but I don't think it's dangerous. Have you seen Hiro and Taka they both look very well and very excited. I don't see that being a dangerous situation Doctor.

DOCTOR

Well better safe than sorry. I am the Doctor after all. I know what's what.

MAYOR

Well If it makes you happy Doctor.

DOCTOR

It doesn't make me happy. It's....

Suddenly the drum in the middle of the square beats, everyone turns to the drum, standing with the drum stick in hand is the teacher, she bangs the drum again and lets out a scream.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TEACHER

This is madness I tell you, madness.

Teacher bangs the drum two more times. The Mayor walks up to her.

MAYOR

Now I think that's quite enough of that, you are beginning to frighten people carrying on like that.

She doesn't listen she just keeps banging away. The Villagers gather around with their hands over their mouths.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Teacher, I warn you, you had better come away from there.

TEACHER

Leave me alone, leave me a.....

She suddenly stops and freezes, looking right past the Mayor. She looks as though she is trying to gasp for air. The drum stick falls out of her hand and swings back and forth on it's string knocking along side the drum. She slowly raises her arm and points, and starts to sob.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Oh no, it can't be.

The villagers turn to look at what she is pointing at. Uncle, Councillor and Yuri have returned, standing there bubble free. The villagers gasp. It all goes quiet. Then suddenly Teacher lets out a scream. As she does, her bubble gets bigger, which slowly begins to lift her up off the ground. As she lifts up, the string of the drum stick gets caught around her foot for just a moment. As the drum stick unwinds itself, it swings back hitting the drum one more time. The drum beats loud. The teacher begins to cry harder as she lifts up into the sky before the whole village, who raise up their hands and wave her off. She rises high, high up into the sky until she is a tiny spec. The three men step forward. Hiro runs into his Uncle's arms so happy to see him back and bubble free, as does Taka, giving her father a big warm hug which she doesn't usually do.

UNCLE

Hello Hiro, we're back and I understand now. I understand what happens at the top of that mountain. Thank you Hiro, thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Father looks up at the villagers. Hiro stand close, as does Yuki.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

The mountain was truly amazing, what we found and what we saw was too beautiful to describe. Now I know what this is all about. What we found up there, what my son found up there, This..

Pointing up in the sky.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

doesn't have to happen anymore. We don't have to live like this any longer. We don't have to carry our bubbles with us to know who we are. You are who you are, and we have our whole lives before us to live as we wish. What has been our way of life for as long as we can remember doesn't have to remain this way any longer. We have been to the top of the mountain and have seen it's glory. And it is truly magnificent, just as Hiro and Taka have described.

Councillor 2 and Yuri both nod in agreement. The two Council members and the Mayor step forward.

MAYOR

And you Councillor 2, do you agree with what he says.

COUNCILLOR 2

Oh yes, yes I do. It's true it's all quite true.

The Villagers gasp.

CONCILLOR

And Yuri do you also agree with them?

YURI

Oh yes, I surly do. The mountain was breathtaking and what we found at the top even more so.

COUNCILLOR

I must say this is all too good to be true , but Councillor 2 we have known each other for quite some time now and I do trust your judgement.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

COUNCILLOR (CONT'D)

If what you are saying is true, and our Hiro has discovered something that could change the reality of life as we know it, then I would like to see it firsthand.

DOCTOR

I don't know if this is such a good idea, we really don't know much about it at all. What if there are side effects.

FATHER

Side effects to being happy doctor? I'm sure if people could find a way to be truly happy and put the past behind them, what more could we possibly want?

DOCTOR

Well how do you feel now Uncle?

UNCLE

I feel like I have never felt before, I feel excited, I feel light, I feel emptiness. A good emptiness a pure empty feeling. Joyful and happy, very happy Doctor. So now tell me Doctor, who are we to stop people from having this feeling? You are a Doctor, isn't that the first thing that you want for people? For people to feel good?

DOCTOR

Yes, yes of course.

UNCLE

Doctor, I can't explain what has really happened here today, but I know it's a good thing, a great thing. Hiro knows it, and Taka knows it and so does The Councillor and Yuri and even Yuki the dog knows it...

Yuki barks as he hears his name.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

and I think you know it too.

Uncle addresses the villagers

UNCLE (CONT'D)

It's time we took a chance for something new in our lives. A new way of being. Life doesn't always turn out to be how we thought it was going to be. It's full of wonder and surprise along the way.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Only you have to take that chance when it comes, because you don't know when it's going to turn up again. People of Valley Mountain, you don't have to float away anymore you can continue to live here and watch your children grow up, grow older and wiser. There are going to be some changes around here and all you have to do is choose. Take that trip up the mountain and you will surely find what you have always been looking for. What you once knew as a child you will find again, put away your troubles and enjoy a new day, each day afresh.

The villagers look around to catch the reaction of the other villagers, they look intrigued and bewildered. An elderly man one of the oldest in the village, speaks up. He carries a cane, his bubble is big, and his name is Akiyama.

AKIYAMA

I am the oldest man in the village, my time to go may be soon, but if what your are saying is true then I want to go up that mountain and find out for myself. It might take me a little longer to reach the top than all of you, my legs aren't as strong as they used to be but I think it's worth the journey, if there is a chance I can live here for a little longer I think I'd like that. So now if you'd excuse me I have no time to waste.

Akiyama begins to walk off past the villagers in the direction of the mountain. Akiyama's Daughter (43) runs up behind him and takes him by the other hand.

AKIYAMA'S DAUGHTER

And I will help you to the top Father.

HIRO

But what about Father, how will he make it to the top?

FATHER

Oh son don't worry about me, I have seen so much already it's okay.

Uncle puts his hand in his pocket, and then gasps.

UNCLE

Oh my I nearly forgot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

Uncle pulls out a small brown sack from his pocket, takes his brother's hand who sits in his wheel chair and pours out the contents of the bag, colored Berries.

HIRO

The magical colored healing berries, it's true it's really true.

FATHER

The Myth? You found the berries?

UNCLE

take them try them.

Father does hesitate, he eats them all.

Everyone gathers around Father as he sits chewing the Berries in his chair.

FATHER

That's funny, my breathing it seems to be...wait a minute....I feel...

The villagers lean forward. And Father jumps out of his chair, the villagers are shocked and jump back. Father picks up Hiro, and his wife at the same time.

FATHER (CONT'D)

I feel....good. I feel like...going for a walk. Who's with me.

The Villagers, shocked can't believe their eye's. They begin to cheer.

Akiyama looks back for a moment at the Villagers seeing them rejoice, he smiles and then laughs. He turns back in the direction of the mountain and continues onward.

An eagle flies past and soars around the villagers high above them. P.O.V of the eagle we see the Villagers as they begin to disperse, and slowly begin to head in the same direction as Akiyama and his daughter. One by one at first, until a long line of villagers begin to follow.

FADE TO:

EXT. BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN. DAY

P.O.V of the eagle, we see the villager as they get closer to the mountain still walking in a line one behind the other.

FADE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN. SUNSET

The sun slowly goes down leaving a beautiful sunset. Still from the P.O.V of the eagle. We see hundreds of people climbing, nearer to the top now. The eagle soars around and around the top of the mountain, suddenly we see a bubble floating up into the sky then another and another till the entire sky is filled with hundreds of bubbles, disappearing far, far above. Magical laughter comes from the top of the mountain, howls of joy, fill the evening air. A magical Sunset.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREAM. SUNSET

A frog sits by the side of the stream. C.U of frog as he croaks, jumps into the stream, making a splash.

THE END

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)