

Name &amp; Date:

Objective: Reading

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**THE SUN, THE CLOUDS AND THE STARS***By Caroline Sedgwick*

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there was a country where it was always raining, raining and raining; downpours of rain all day, every day, for years and years and years. And there lived a little boy, in a little house on the mountain, with his Daddy and his dog.

He was nine years old and every day of his life, it had rained and rained, all day and all night.

Can you imagine it always raining and always being wet?

People were always telling him that, before he was born, there had been such a thing as a sun; this was a *big, round, yellow thing*, which gave warmth and light to everything and everybody and it always had a smile on its *big, round, yellow face*. And to see that smile on the sun, people would look at it and smile back at it.

The little boy could not seem to picture the idea of a *big, round, yellow, smiling face*, as he had never seen one. And he couldn't believe that people could look at it and smile, because in his little village, nobody smiled; they all looked sad.

One day, the people began to comment that the skies seemed a little lighter. It was still raining and the black clouds were still there, hanging in the skies, but it did seem lighter. The following day, people began to comment more, that it seemed to have rained less. The next day, it only rained for half the day. The next, it only drizzled and trickled. The next day, it stopped raining.

The following day, there were white clouds and not black ones. Next, there were bits of blue sky. Until suddenly, there were no clouds at all and a *big, round, yellow thing* sat heavily in the sky, giving warmth and light to everybody. And the people looked up at this thing and they smiled to see it because it had a *big, beaming smile* on its face.

And the little boy sat up in bed and saw a thing he had heard in stories: a *big, round, yellow thing* up in the sky, with a smile on its face. "*That must be the sun!*", exclaimed the little boy, smiling back. And he ran into the streets and saw that everyone else was smiling.