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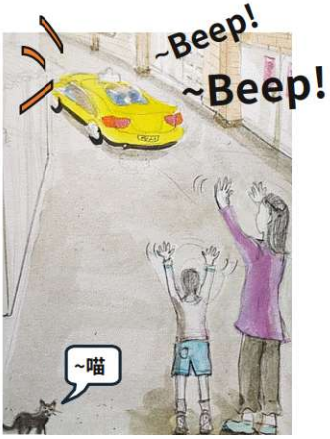
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~ 菜市場 1 Farmer's Market ~

「爸爸再見！羅茜再見！」小凱和媽媽對著一輛車不停地揮手。這台每天在路上都能見到的黃色汽車剛帶走了爸爸和妹妹。

「我已經開始想念他們了！」小凱對著計程車消失的背影說。



「我知道，但吉爾叔叔真的需要爸爸幫他拼湊他們博物館在亞利桑那州新挖出的化石啊。」媽媽說。

「我們之前不是說好會到兒童樂園去慶祝我 11 歲的生日嗎？可是現在羅茜得去奶奶家，然後不到兩個禮拜就要開學了…」小凱嘟著嘴巴踢著剝落的柏油路塊發牢騷地說。

"Bye, Daddy! Bye, Rosie!" Kai and Mother zealously waving goodbye to a mundane yellow automobile, which just took off with his dad and little sister.

"I miss them already!" Kai said, eyeing the disappearing taxi.



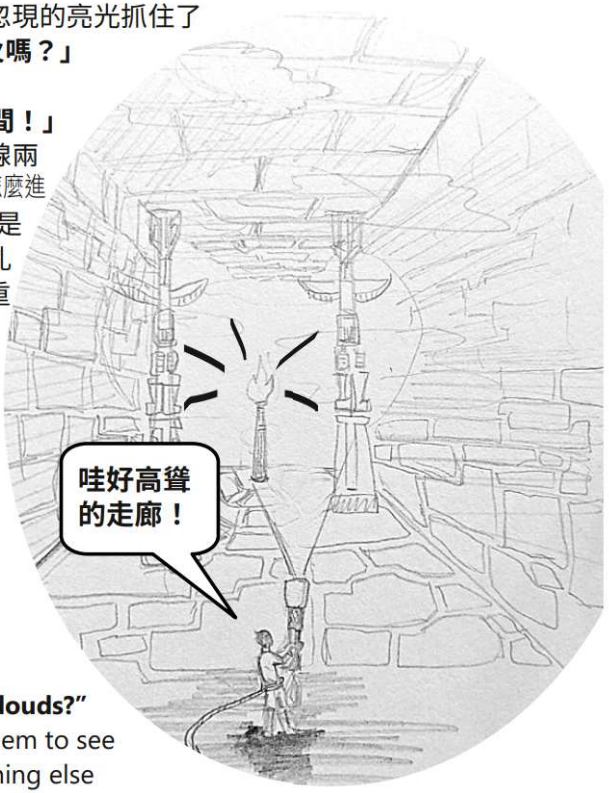
"I know, but Uncle Gil really needs Daddy's help to piece together fossil fragments his museum just dug up in Arizona," Mother said.

"I thought we agreed to celebrate my 11th birthday at the amusement park? But now, Rosie needs to go to Grandma's and school starts in less than two weeks!" Kai pouted and grumbled while kicking a loose piece of asphalt pavement.

高聳的圖騰石柱用來支撐它威風鼎鼎，約 6 米高的岩石天花板。把手電筒往上照，小凱看到一團團像霧般的移動物體漂浮在天花板的下方。

「咦，這些是雲嗎？」小凱把手電筒往它們照，希望能看更清楚些，但遠方忽隱忽現的亮光抓住了他的視線。**「咦… 那是火嗎？」**

「媽！是這個房間！」小凱興奮地用力扯尼龍線兩次。可是沒有鑰匙，媽媽要怎麼進來呢？小凱擔心地想。但是當他再次縮小走出鑰匙孔到媽媽的手掌上時，笨重的木門竟然輕巧地打開

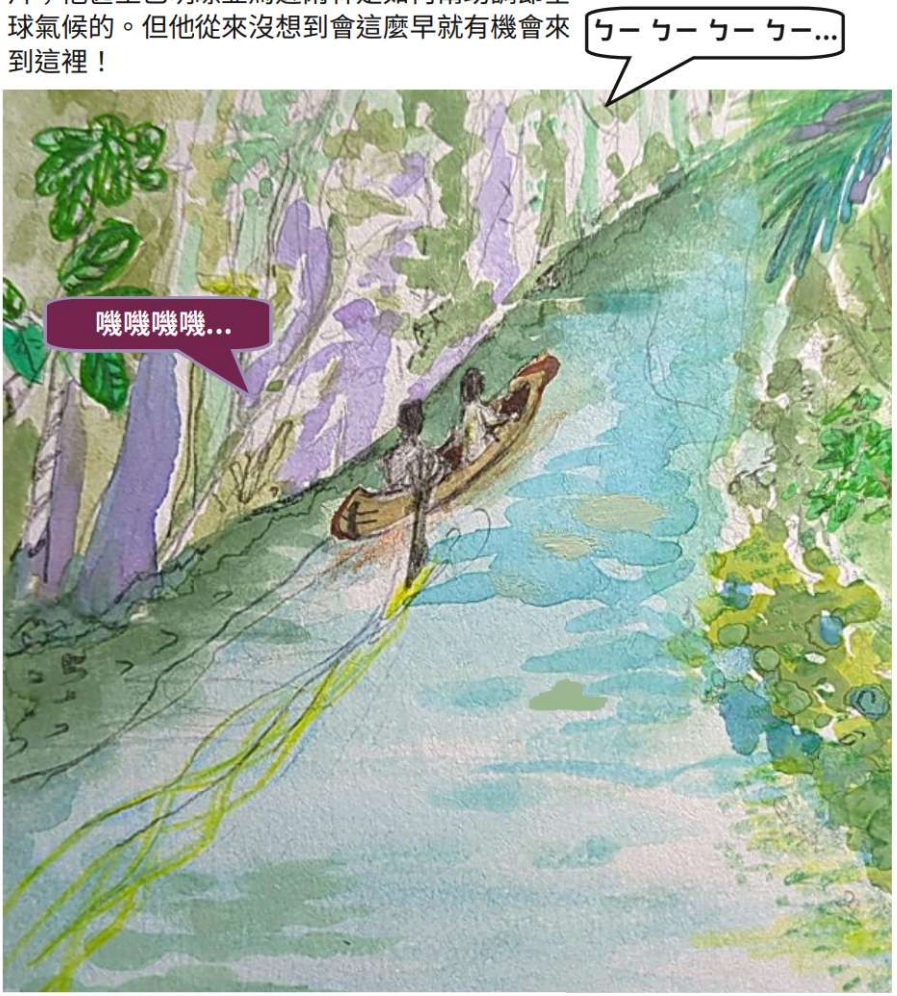


20-foot-high stone ceiling. Pointing the flashlight upwards, he saw clumps of fog-like moving objects floating close to the ceiling.

"Say, are those clouds?" Kai shined his light on them to see them better. But something else shimmering in the distance caught his attention. **"Wait, is that a fire?!"**

"This is the room, Mom!" Kai vigorously tugged the rope twice. *There's no key, though; how would Mom get in?* Kai thought. But when he shrank again to walk beyond the keyhole onto Mother's palms, the heavy wooden door opened swiftly. Mother and Kai looked at each other in surprise.

片；他甚至已明瞭亞馬遜雨林是如何幫助調節全球氣候的。但他從來沒想到會這麼早就有機會來到這裡！



documentaries about habitats in the region, he even understood how the rainforest plays a crucial role in regulating global climate patterns. However, he never thought he would visit here so soon!

As they rowed, jungles on both sides of the river were alive with unique animal and bird communication calls. Mr. Luiz asked,

Hear Amazon rainforest sounds: tinyurl.com/54ceuzfh

一路上亞馬遜河兩岸的叢林裡不時地傳出奇特動物和鳥類們的“交談”聲。路易斯先生邊划邊問：**「你們知道我們為甚麼會選擇划獨木舟而不是開快艇呢？」**



「應該是快艇比較吵吧？一定會打擾到生態對不？你覺得呢凱凱？」媽媽低頭問小凱。

「嗯… 還是因為這是你們部落的傳統？」小凱猜。

路易斯先生說：**「你們都對呦！我們和許多其他原住民部落都選擇使用來自於森林的材料來造船，不僅是因為依我們方法製造的船會有很長的壽命，**

“Can you guess why we chose wooden canoe over speedboat for our travel?”

“It was probably because speedboats are noisy, so they would disturb habitats here? What do you think, Kai Kai?” Mother looked down and asked.

“Was it because it was your tribe’s tradition?” Kai guessed.

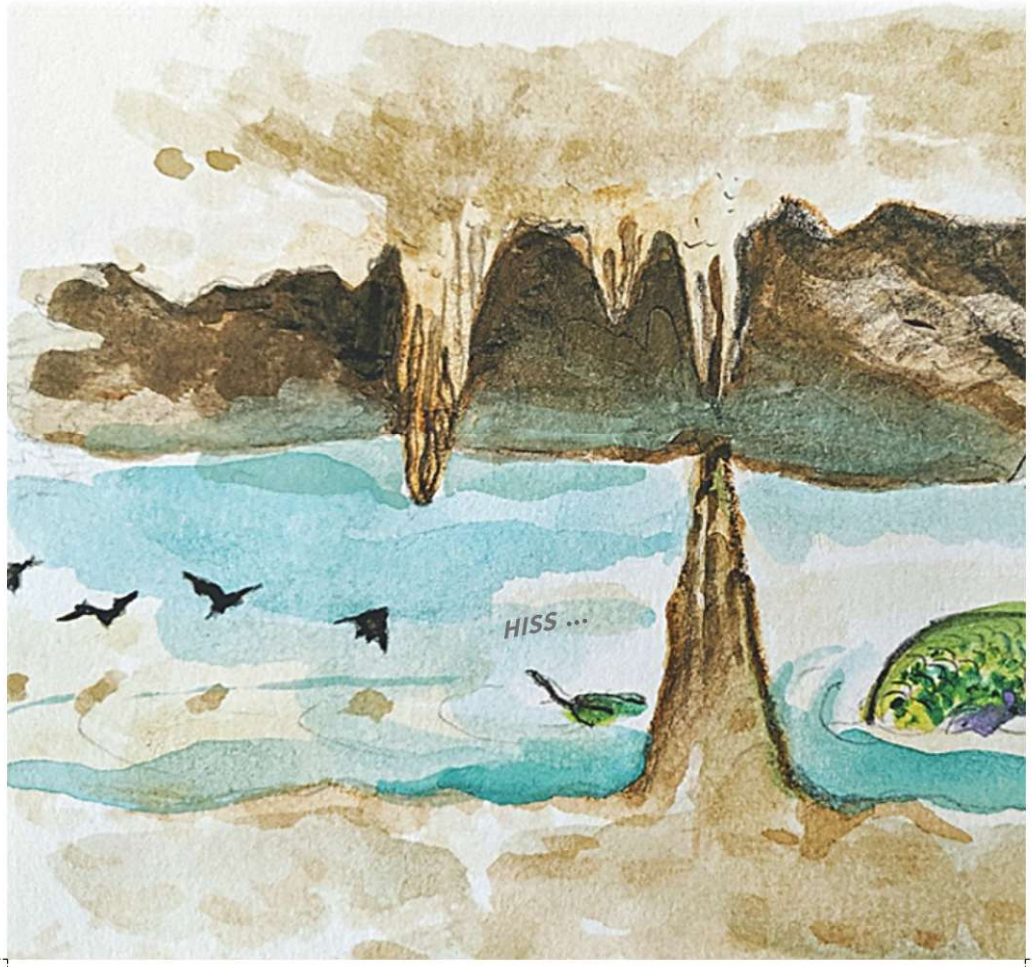
Mr. Luiz said, **“You are both correct! Ours and many other indigenous tribes chose to use materials we found in the forest to make boats, not only because we can make them last a long time, but also at the end of its life, it can decompose and go back to feed the earth instead of polluting it.”**

「啊，對不起！我忘了！」小凱抱歉地回答：**「可是我的迴聲定位跟我說前方有水源？」**

「沒錯，」一多先生說：**「我們會跟著水源走；但請保持警**

"Ah, sorry, I forgot!" Kai said apologetically, **"But … my echolocation tells me there's a water stream ahead?"**

"That's right," Mr. Edu said, **"We will be following the**



覺… 飛的時候不要離水面太近，因為大水蛇有時候會從外面地底下一系列連結的水道鑽進來。」

「知道了！」媽媽說；她堅決不要成為其他生物的佳餚。

還好有一多和以多先生帶路，因為洞穴走道幾乎長得一模樣，一不小心就會迷路！就如小凱所想像的… 地下洞穴應該是又漆黑又安靜，但那從上方石英岩床一直不定時滴答落下含豐富細菌水滴的迴響聲，讓小凱感到非常不安。



stream. Please stay alert and don't fly too close to the water; large water snakes sometimes find their way here from outside the cave through a series of interconnected underwater channels."

"Copy that!" Mother said. She was determined to not become someone's meal.

It was a good thing that Mr. Edu and Tito were guiding them, because those cave passages started to look alike, one could easily get lost! As Kai imagined… underground caves should be dark and quiet, but the constant, irregular, echoing dripping sound via bacteria-laden water drops from the quartz bed above was making Kai feel quite unsettled.

"Good, we are almost there; in just another 30 minutes, we will



「是的，這個星門是通往肉眼看不到的世界。對不起剛剛我們必須加速飛行；假如我當時慢下來，我們會墜入時光亂流的。」一多先生說完就轉身飛往遠方唯一的光源。

"Yes, this gateway opens to an unseen world… Sorry about speeding earlier; if I slowed down, we would have been lost in the fabric of space and time," said Mr. Edu as he turned to glide toward the only light shimmering in the distance.