

Why Earth Changes

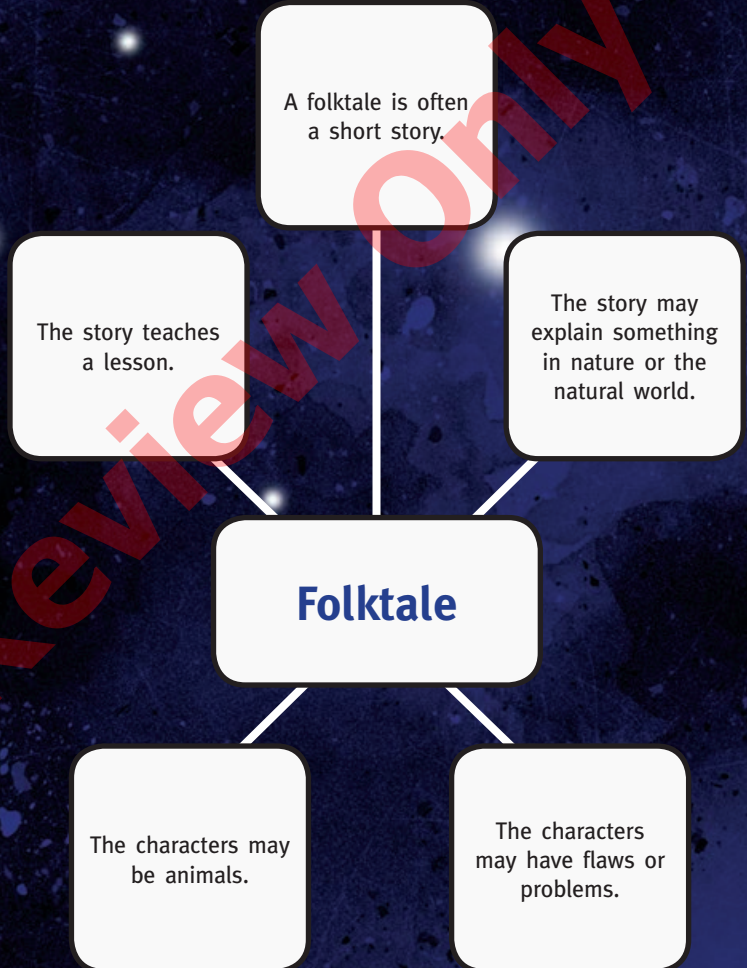
A Modern
Folktale



by Alysa Wishingrad • illustrated by Charlie Alolkoy and Patricia Tejada

Folktales

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



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Long ago there was a planet covered in rocks and soil. Her mother, Sky, named her Earth.

When Earth got cold, Sky gave her Sun to warm her. When Earth got sad, Sky showed her Star, who twinkled brightly. When Earth got lonely, Sky gave her Moon to be a friend.



One day Earth said, “I am just a pile of rocks, sand, and clay. I wish I shone like Star or glowed like Sun. I wish I had mountains and deep valleys like Moon.”

Sky heard Earth’s wish.

“If you want to change, I will send you some helpers,” Sky said.





The first helper to arrive was Air.

“I am all around you,” said Air.

“I can be calm and still. Or I can blow and make wind.”

“Wind blows my soil around and sends my smallest rocks flying. But how can it change me?” asked Earth.

“I’ll show you,” Air said.

Air huffed and puffed and blew up a strong wind. Tiny grains of sand flew toward a tall rock in the desert.



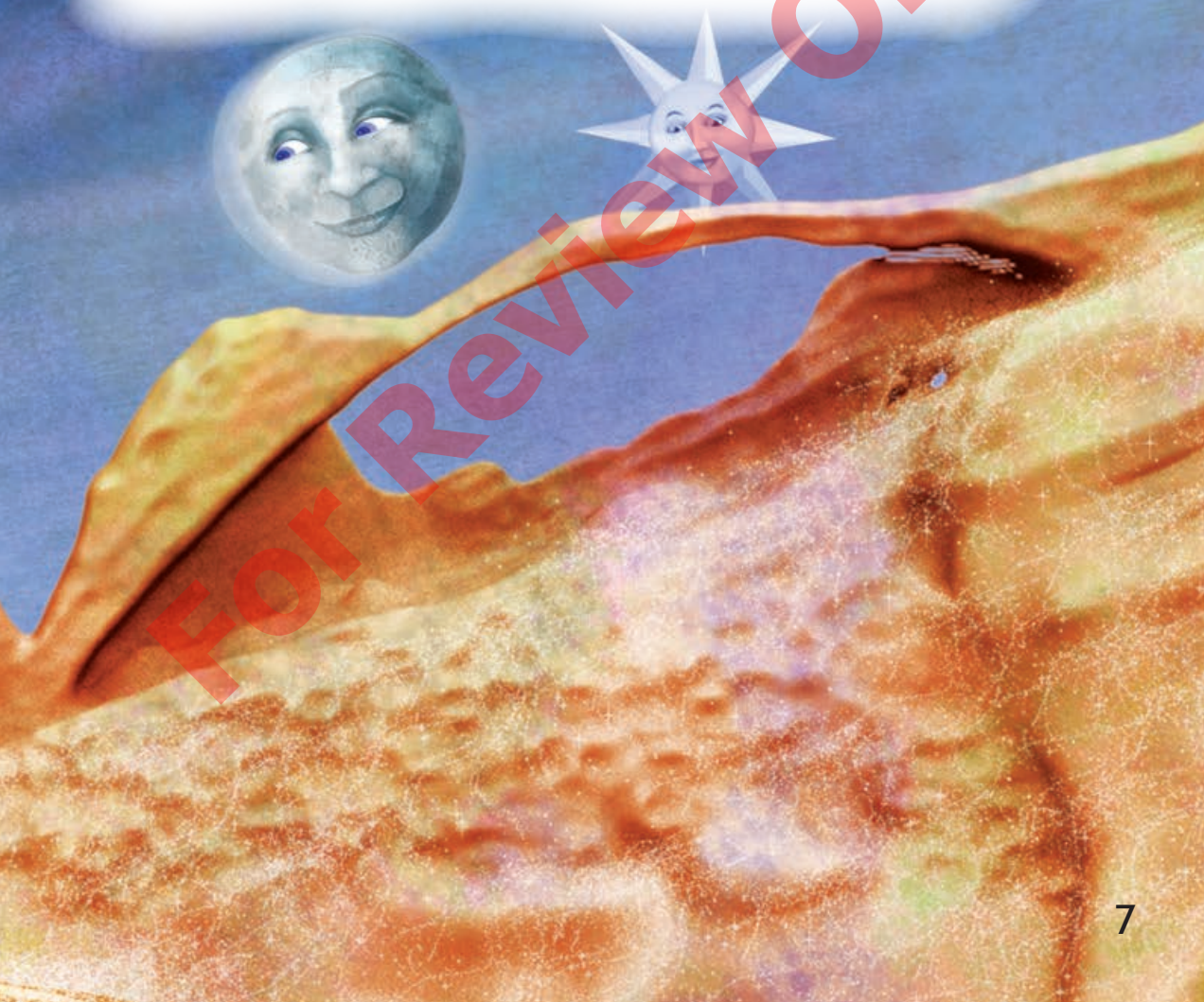
Over time, the rock slowly began to change shape. The blowing sand wore away the rock until it looked like a bridge.

“Look at the bridge!” Star said. “The wind blew the sand. It wore away the rock and shaped a beautiful bridge. It also made beautiful patterns in the desert that sparkle!”



Earth smiled. The wind had made her
twinkle like Star.

But Earth still didn't look like Moon.
“How else can I change?” Earth asked.



Sky sent other friends to help.

“We make the rain,” said the Clouds.
“We will shower your surface with water.”

“Water is soft and wet,” said Earth.
“How can it change my plain, hard rocks?”

“We’ll show you,” the Clouds said.



The Clouds grew dark and poured water down on Earth. The rain filled up the holes and cracks on Earth and overflowed onto land. The water raged, sending waves rushing over Earth's rocks.

