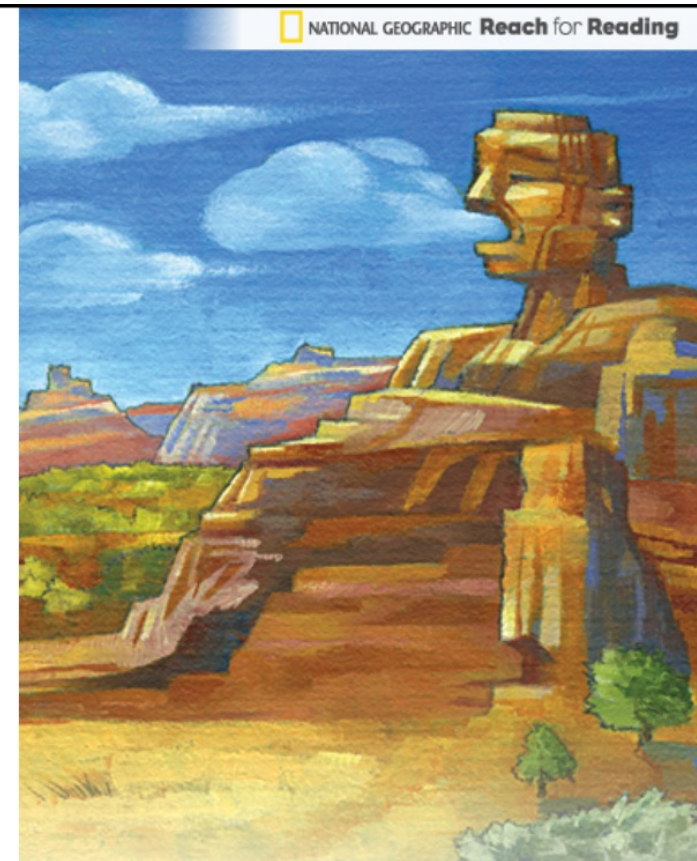# The Giant Cloud-Swallower

### A Zuñi legend retold by Georgia Byrne

Long ago, a giant named Cloud-Swallower lived on the cliffs, greedily gulping down any cloud that floated over the canyon. Without clouds, there was no rain, and the region was bone dry. "We need water!" cried the people.

**Highlight in yellow sentences that describe the setting.**

**Highlight in green words that describe the problem.**

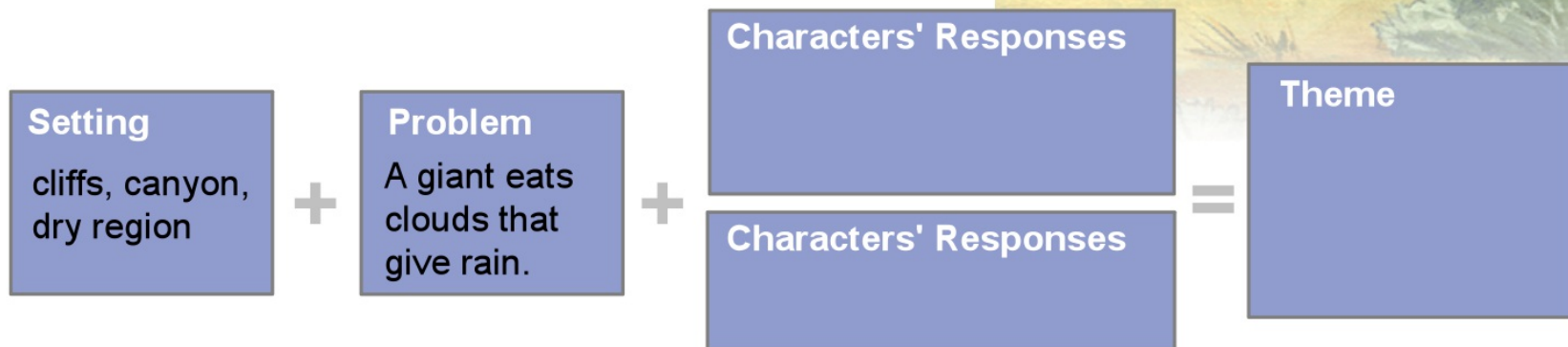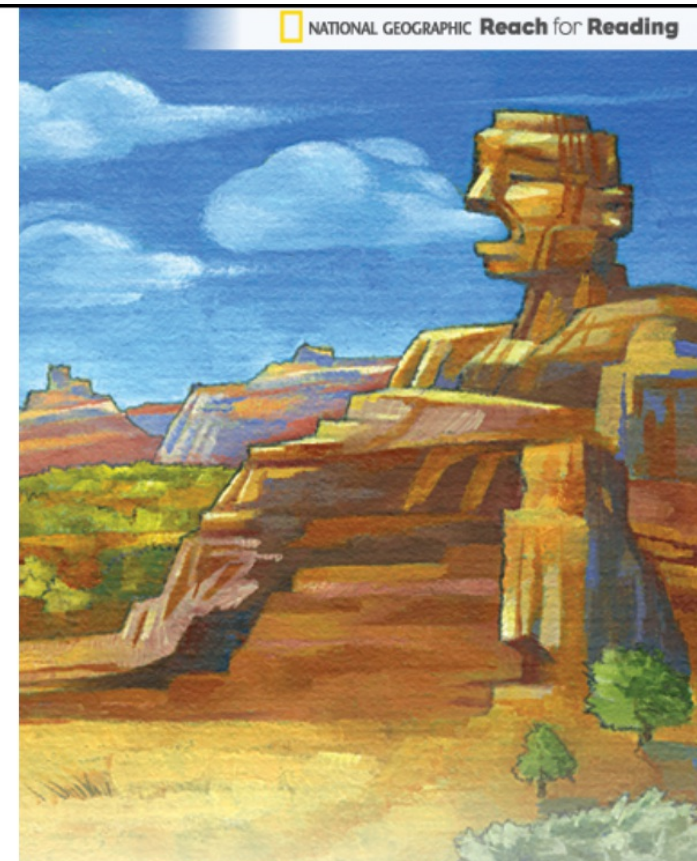Setting + Problem + Characters' Responses / Characters' Responses = Theme

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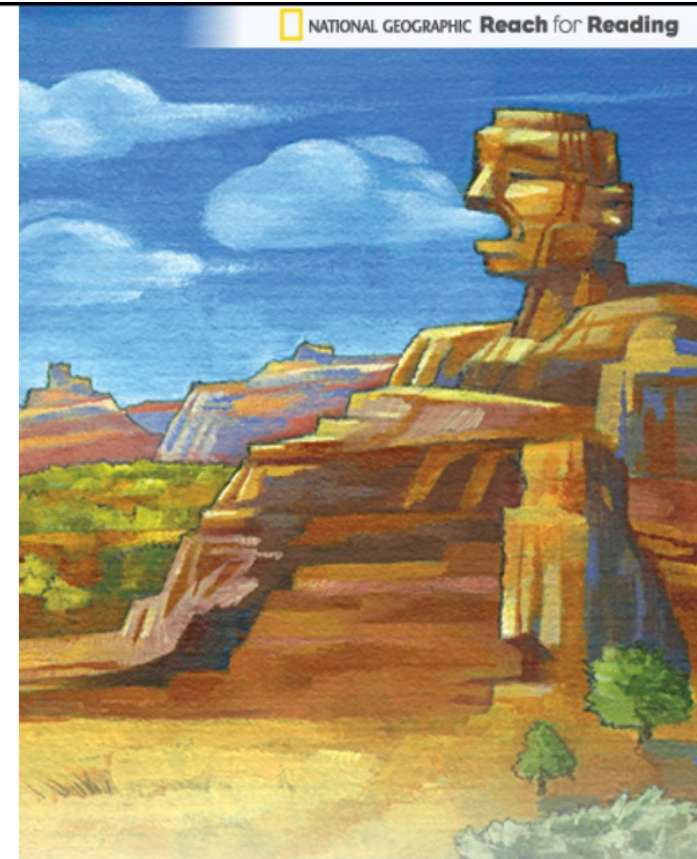| Setting | | Problem | | Characters' Responses | | Theme |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| cliffs, canyon, dry region | + | A giant eats clouds that give rain. | + | Characters' Responses | = | |

# The Giant Cloud-Swallower

(continued)

Many went alone to slay the giant, but none returned. Then one day, Mátsailéma said to his twin, Áhaiyúta, "No one alone has been able to defeat the giant. To slay him, we must try a new strategy, so let us go together."

Áhaiyúta agreed, adding, "We should ask wise Spider for help, too."

"I know what to do," said Spider, and as Cloud-Swallower dozed, she wove a thick web across his eyes.

**Highlight in pink descriptions of how the characters respond to the problem.**

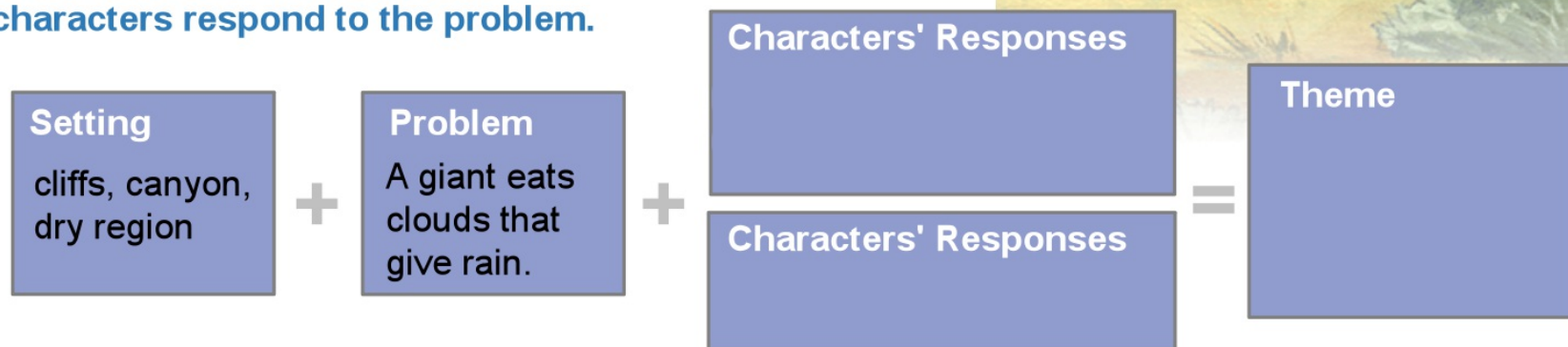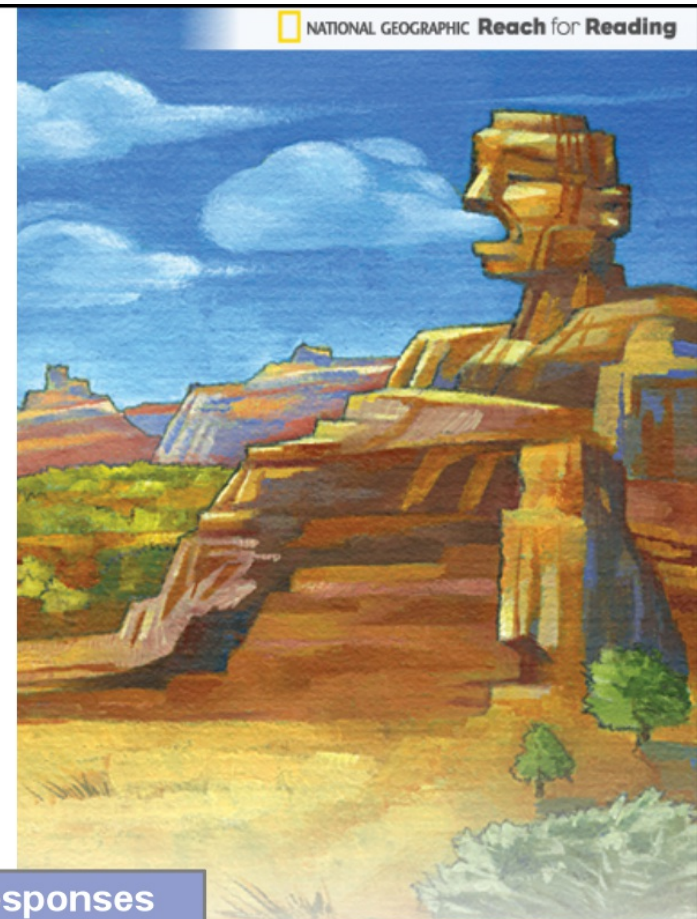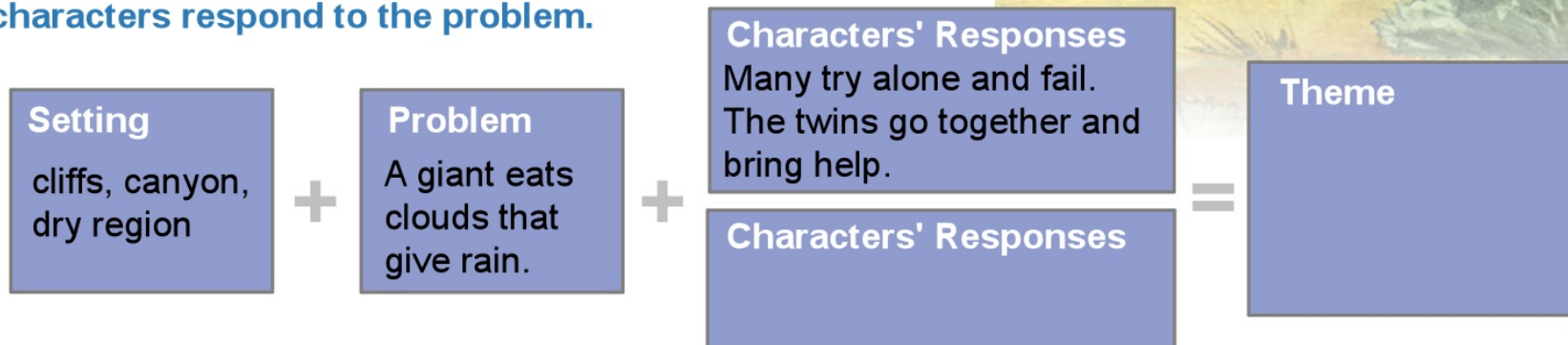| Setting | | Problem | | Characters' Responses | | Theme |
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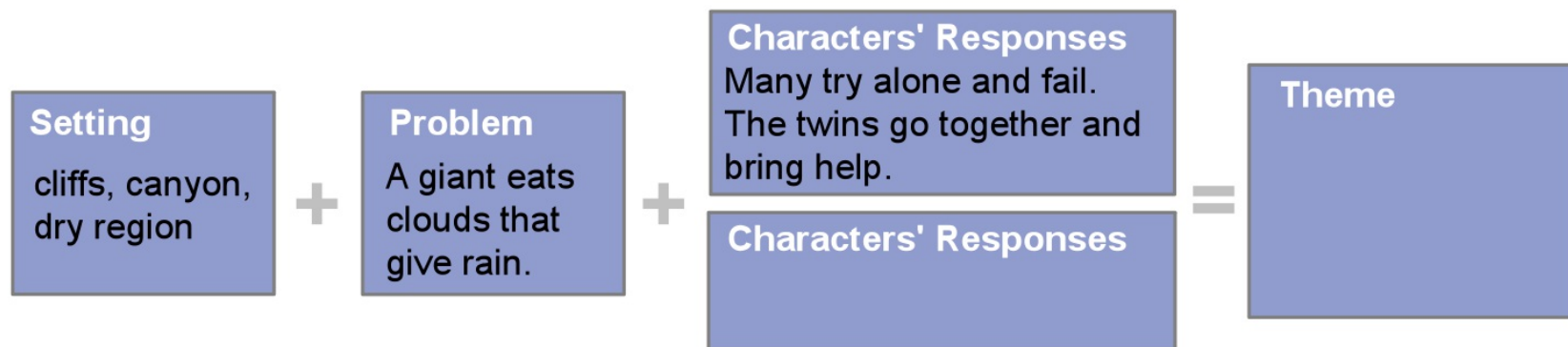| Setting | | Problem | | Characters' Responses | Theme |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | | | Characters' Responses | |

# The Giant Cloud-Swallower (continued)

As the twins approached, Cloud-Swallower heard them and woke, thundering, "Have you come to slay me?" Jumping to his feet, he realized he was blinded. He whirled wildly, shouting, "Where are you?"

"We are here!" called Áhaiyúta, from the cliff's edge. Cloud-Swallower charged him, but Áhaiyúta dodged, leaving Cloud-Swallower teetering on the edge. Mátsailéma gave the giant brute a great shove, and Cloud-Swallower tumbled into the abyss below, defeated.

"Our people thank you for your assistance," the brothers said to Spider. "Now the rains will fall freely!"

**Highlight in pink the characters' response to the problem.**

| **Setting** | + | **Problem** | + | **Characters' Responses** | = | **Theme** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| **Setting** cliffs, canyon, dry region | + | **Problem** A giant eats clouds that give rain. | + | **Characters' Responses** Many try alone and fail. The twins go together and bring help. **Characters' Responses** They defeat the giant. | = | **Theme** It's easier to solve a problem when people work together. |