

and picked a shady spot under a nearby tree. Nick sat down under the tree, leaned back against the trunk, and shut his eyes.

Suddenly he heard a loud roar behind him. He looked up and began to shake when he saw a giant. The giant's hair was as red as fire. He was standing on the edge of the next hill. He was holding a big boulder in one hand, as if it were a little rock.

The giant tossed the boulder down the hill and watched it roll. Then he let out a mighty laugh.

"This is a very amusing game. Very amusing indeed," laughed the giant. "That rock will scare the people down in the valley."

Nick was so frightened that he could hardly move. Somehow he was able to crawl behind the tree so the giant couldn't see him. When all was quiet again, Nick peeked out from behind the tree. The giant had disappeared. "The giant must have gone into the woods," Nick thought to himself. "What should I do now?"



Nick had to think of a plan. He knew that he would never be able to overcome the giant and drive him from the land. He was just too cowardly.

"I can't do it," Nick thought. "I'll just hide in a cave and wait for a day or so. Then I'll return to New Derry. I'll tell the king that I couldn't find the giant. Then he'll have to send someone else up here."



Nick carefully looked around until he spotted a cave. Then he ran as fast as he could into it. Inside the cave it was as dark as night. Nick felt his way along the sides. When he was well inside the cave, he sat down.

"No one will ever find me in here," he thought. "I'll make a fire and just stay here and doze all day."

Nick picked up a few sticks that were close by and made a fire. He leaned back on the cave wall to watch the fire glow in the darkness. Soon he began to doze. Before long he was sleeping soundly.

Nick woke up coughing. The fire had burned