

Rock Climbers

A STORY BY ARKEDELIC



BUILDING BEAUTIFUL INSIDE

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The afternoon sun beat down on the cliffs at the edge of Booshkata. The rocks shimmered like fire, daring anyone to climb.

Zip the hare's nose twitched with excitement. "Look at those ledges! Bet I can jump higher than both of you."

RJ the lion cub stretched his paws and growled playfully. "Ha! I'll climb past you and roar from the top."

Tiara the bushbuck tossed her head, hooves scraping the ground. "I may not roar, but I'll leap where neither of you dares."

And just like that, the challenge began.



Zip dashed first, bounding up from stone to stone.

His feet went **thup-thup-thup**, each spring taking him higher. “See? Light and fast!” he shouted down.

RJ scrambled after him, claws scratching.
“Not so fast, long ears. I’ll beat you yet!”

His roar echoed, bouncing off the cliff face.

Not to be outdone, Tiara leapt with a powerful spring.
Her hooves clattered, her body sailed upward.

“Top that!” she called, her voice full of pride.



The three laughed and shouted, but beneath the fun,
pressure built.

Each felt they had to go higher, to prove something.

Zip panted, eyes darting up. “They’re both ahead.
I’ve got to push harder.”

He leapt too far and slipped, scrambling back just in time.

Tiara landed on a sharp rock, stumbling.

“Ow!” she hissed, but forced a smile.
“I’m fine. I can go higher.”



RJ's paws ached, his chest burned, but he snarled.
"Can't stop now. I have to win."

Above their heads, hidden in a crack of stone, a faint cheep-cheep carried on the wind. None of them noticed—yet.

Then Tiara wobbled on a narrow ledge, stones scattering under her hooves. "Help!" she gasped.

RJ froze, fear flashing in his eyes.

Zip's ears drooped, unsure what to do.

That's when a heavy thoom shook the ground.



BigBlack the bison appeared at the base of the cliff, his shadow huge against the rocks.

His deep voice rumbled, steady as earth. “What are you chasing, little ones? Rocks don’t measure worth.”

They looked down at him, panting, scraped, and embarrassed.

BigBlack lifted his head, pointing with his horn. “Look higher. Do you see?”

They followed his gaze. Just above them, a tiny bird flapped weakly on a ledge. One wing drooped, feathers ruffled—it had fallen from its nest and couldn’t climb back.



The three friends stared, shame washing over their faces.
Their race for glory had blinded them.

Zip twitched his whiskers.
“We were so busy proving ourselves...”

Tiara lowered her head. “We didn’t even notice.”

RJ’s tail drooped. “We forgot what matters.”

BigBlack’s eyes softened. “Strength isn’t in beating each other. True strength is in seeing beyond yourself.”

The three nodded, hearts thumping for a different reason now.



RJ steadied his paws.
“I can climb closer and make space for Tiara.”

Tiara nodded. “And I can leap across to shield
the bird if it slips.”

Zip’s ears perked.
“I’ll hop down fast to fetch leaves for a soft nest.”

Together, they worked. RJ’s strong paws dug into the rock,
helping Tiara balance on a ledge. Tiara stretched, steady
and sure, blocking the bird from falling.

Zip zipped up and down, piling soft leaves and twigs.



Slowly, carefully, they lifted the little bird into the makeshift nest. The chick gave a tiny cheep, safe at last.

The three friends looked at each other, sticky with dust and scratches but smiling.

RJ grinned. “That felt better than roaring from the top.”

Tiara’s eyes shone. “Better than the highest leap.”

Zip thumped his feet happily. “Better than winning anything.”

BigBlack’s deep rumble rolled across the stones. “Remember, little ones: Climbing to win is good, but climbing to help is greater.”

This time, none of them argued. They only nodded, standing together as the sun dipped low, warming their hearts more than the rocks ever could.

—THE END—



ACTIVITY

The Rope of Kindness Challenge

YOU'LL NEED:

- A long skipping rope, scarf, or piece of string
- A few cushions, chairs, or boxes to form a small “rock path”
- Optional: a soft toy (to represent the “bird” from the story)

HOW TO DO IT:

1. Lay out the cushions or boxes in a winding path — this is your “cliff.”
2. Tie the rope loosely between start and finish, slightly above the ground. This is the “climbing rope.”
3. Explain: “Everyone must move along the path, one by one — but you can only balance if you use the rope together.” One person holds the rope steady while another crosses.

ACTIVITY

The Rope of Kindness Challenge

4. Switch roles — sometimes your child will climb, sometimes they'll support.
5. Once everyone's crossed safely, place the toy somewhere along the path and say, "Now, someone needs our help!" Work as a team to reach it calmly and safely.

What it builds:

Children learn that climbing or leading is not about rushing or proving strength — it's about trust, patience, and awareness of others. This playful challenge mirrors the story's heart: success feels greatest when shared. It encourages teamwork, humility, and mindful movement — reminding kids that helping each other reach safely is the highest climb of all.

5 FUN FACTS

About Masters of the Climb – Nature’s True Climbers



Mountain Goats That Defy Gravity

Mountain goats can climb almost vertical cliffs! Their split hooves and rough pads grip tiny rock edges that are barely wider than a coin. Imagine walking up a wall just to eat dinner – that’s how fearless they are!

Geckos with Sticky Feet

Geckos have millions of tiny hair-like pads on their toes that help them stick to glass, walls, and even ceilings – without glue! The hairs create a microscopic grip using natural forces. Imagine walking upside down to surprise your friends!



Spiders with Silk Safety Ropes

Climbing spiders always tie silk threads behind them – like invisible seatbelts. If they fall, they can climb back up safely on their own thread. Imagine never being afraid to fall because you carry your own rope everywhere!

5 FUN FACTS

About Masters of the Climb – Nature’s True Climbers



Humans Who Touch the Sky

The highest mountain ever climbed is Mount Everest, standing at 8,848 meters (29,029 feet). Climbers face freezing winds, thin air, and exhaustion – but teamwork, training, and patience help them reach the top. Imagine standing so high that you can see the curve of the Earth!

Plants That Climb with Patience

Some vines, like ivy and morning glory, climb other trees by wrapping and twining their stems toward the sunlight. But the banyan tree does the opposite – it sends roots downward from its branches, forming new trunks until one tree becomes a whole forest.

Imagine climbing not with legs or paws, but with patience that turns one tree into many!



The Tower Game

Complete the Story

Rae, Finn, and Mira were building the tallest tower they could – stacking books, boxes, and cushions in the middle of the living room.

“Higher!” said Rae. “We can beat yesterday’s record!”

Finn added another box, wobbling on tiptoe. “It’s leaning!”
Mira warned, but no one listened.

The tower swayed, then collapsed with a soft thud, scattering books everywhere.

They froze – quiet, frustrated, and a little embarrassed.

Then Mira pointed to a paper bird that had been sitting on the top. It had fluttered safely onto the floor.

“We didn’t even notice it there,” she said softly.

“Maybe we were climbing for the wrong thing.”

What happens next?

- Do they rebuild the tower together – slower and steadier this time?
- Do they decide to make something different that everyone can reach?
- Or do they realise that teamwork, not height, is what makes something stand tall?

See you next Monday
with another interesting story!

Got feedback or a suggestion? We would love to hear it!
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