

Name _____

DIRECTIONS: The paragraphs below are adapted from *The Book of Nature Myths* by Florence Holbrooke. For each paragraph, identify the the source of confusion arising from the pronoun and say how it ought to be fixed.

A. Long, long ago, when the earth was very young, two hunters were traveling through the forest. They had been on the track of some deer for many days, and they were now far away from where they lived. The sun went down and night came on. It was dark and gloomy, but over in the western sky there came a bright light.

B. There were flames in the mountain. And one night when all the people in the village were asleep, they had a great frolic. They danced upon the sea of fire as warriors dance the war dance.

C. The first humming-bird sprang from the heart of the mountain. It has all the beauty of the colors of the flame, but it is gentle, and every child in all the earth loves it and is glad to see it fluttering over the flowers.

ANSWERS

- A. Does “they” refer to the deer or the hunters? Change one of the pronouns to a noun, or add words that would clarify whether it is the deer or the hunters who are far away from where they live.
- B. Who danced, the flames or the people in the village? Replace the pronoun with a noun, either the flames or the people.
- C. What was beautiful and gentle, the hummingbird or the heart of the mountain? You could reverse the first sentence to say, “From the heart of the mountain sprang the hummingbird, which....”