

I looked up the slope. I could hear the others  
some way above me. Further up still, I could see Bald Peak.  
It had to be the spot where Dad would meet us.  
If I took a shortcut, could I get there before they did?  
That would show them!





**I scrambled off the trail into the dense undergrowth. Right away it was tough going. Loose rocks tilted beneath my feet. Fallen branches grasped my legs. Maybe this wouldn't be as fast as I'd thought ...**