The Sun and the Wind

An Aesop Fable

The sun and the wind were having an argument. Each claimed to be the strongest. “We should have a contest to see who is stronger,” said the sun.

Just then they saw a traveler strolling down a dusty country road. “I know what we can do,” said the wind. “Let’s see which of us can make the traveler take off his coat.”

They agreed to take turns, and the winner would be declared the strongest.

The wind went first, blowing as hard as it could. The traveler buttoned his coat and turned up the collar around his neck. Harder and harder blew the wind, trying to blow off the traveler’s coat. But the harder he blew, the tighter the traveler held on to his coat. After half an hour, the wind had to give up.

Now it was the sun’s turn. The sun beamed down upon the traveler. Soon the traveler unbuttoned his coat and turned down his collar. Then the sun began to shine even brighter. The man soon found it too hot to walk. He stopped and pulled off his coat. The traveler sat down on a large boulder under a shade tree to cool off.

In only a few minutes the sun had won the contest.
Questions about
The Sun and the Wind

1. What were the sun and the wind arguing about?

2. How were they going to decide which of them was stronger?

3. What did they each do to try to win?
   the wind: ________________________________
   the sun: ________________________________

4. What finally made the traveler take off his coat?

5. What do you think? Is the sun stronger than the wind? Explain your answer.

6. Which lesson did the wind learn?
   a. Blowing harder would prove the wind was strongest.
   b. Force isn’t always the best way to win.

Think About It

On another sheet of paper, think of another way to get someone to remove his or her coat.

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