

Grade 7: Imagined Cities Compositions

CLEAR-WATER

The happenings of this day were quite remarkable. On our seventh day of travel we saw a shimmering pool. Our first thought was that it was just a mirage, but as we got closer we saw that it was indeed a large pool of water. As we approached it, and got within a five-minute ride of the glistening water, the sand slipped out from under our feet and we fell the distance of ten men standing on each other's shoulders, and landed with a splash in a gigantic underground pool of freezing water. When we bobbed up we saw a huge underground city built in an underground cave whose entrance had been covered in rocks and sand in an ancient sand storm. The underground spring that fed the overhead pool had also seeped through the rocks and created an underground lake.

We swam to shore, and shortly after, a young man walked up to us and tried to communicate. The only thing we understood was that the city was called Clear-Water, because when he said it he waved his hands around to indicate "this city."

The streets were covered with rich, thick carpets, and the buildings beyond the lake were made of thick, stained glass. The shops sold spices, gold, beautiful fabric, wonderful silks, silver, and jewelry. The cave was illuminated by huge overhead lanterns that were brightened and dimmed according to what time it was. All the food was grown in a special part of the cave where sunlight came in through many glass windows. The inhabitants were quite tall and spent all day working in shops. The children swam in the lake, and went to school, where the elders taught them. They were completely independent, and that is why no one had heard of this civilization. Before we left, the people asked us not to tell the world about them, by waving all around the city and then putting a finger to their lips.

—Acer Van Dis

JOURNAL ENTRY

We had just entered a small valley betwixt two large mountains... when all of a sudden there was a great rumbling, and then we were engulfed by an avalanche of monstrous proportions. Just before I passed out, I saw bear-like creatures coming down the slopes, on strange boards.

I awoke in a room made of glass, gold, and polished wood. I got up and moved toward one of the walls, which was made entirely of glass. I looked out upon a city like no other; and roaming the streets were those bear-like creatures walking amongst men, women and children in strange, but beautiful, garb.

Just then an old man came into the room, and following him was a white one of those bear creatures. The man explained that the creatures were in fact the Yeti of legend, and that they had saved me from the avalanche, but the rest of my group had not been so lucky. He then told me to look at the sky; I went to the glass wall and looked up and saw a cavern roof high above that was covered in glowing dots, like stars. He then explained to me that those glowing dots were rare crystals found only in this cave, and that we were deep within a mountain. He also finally told me the name of the city, but then made me swear not to tell anyone the name.

I remained in that wondrous city for another week or so before leaving. One night I went to bed and in the morning I awoke in Khanbaliq with a bag full of gold and jewels, and a note which said, "*Safe travels, my friend.*"

—Jasper Berryman Moore