

The Top of the Hill

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The Top of the Hill



Old Bob sits on his porch in a beat-up old chair.
And to all who pass by he says, "Hey! You there!"
"Have you ever climbed to the top of Gigantimost Hill?"
"There's a prize at the peak that will give you a thrill."



“It’s not silver or gold or electronic toys.”

“It’s something for girls and something for boys.”

“I know that you’ll love it, I think everyone will.”

“But to get it, you must reach the top of the hill.”



And then the cousins come by, they number so many.
There may be forty, or nineteen, or seven or twenty.

They asked old Bob if they should climb to the peak.
“We should try to do it.” He heard one of them speak.

But Old Bob said “Hold on, this is not for the meek.
I’ll tell you a story about a Thursday last week.”



*On that day, people walked by me and let out a sigh,
“Old Bob is so crazy, and that hill is so high!”*

*But I wasn’t bothered, I knew
someone would hear.*

*So, I shouted out to a girl named,
Zippy McClear.*



“Zippy, take on the hill! There’s a prize there for you!”

Young Zippy responded, “That seems easy to do.”

“I’m faster than fast, in fact, I’m a rocket.”

“I’ll fly up the hill and put the prize in my pocket.”



***Zippy said with excitement, "I'll get there in a flash."
But I warned the young girl, "This isn't a dash."***

"The hill is so high, with trees, rocks and a creek."

"They can get in the way, and make you feel weak."

"The path is so long; you really can't see the end."

"As the top of the hill follows bend after bend."

Yet off Zippy went, running quick as a bunny.

She hoped, oh, she hoped, that the treasure is money!



Moving this way and that; Zippy sprinted ahead.

Running and running, up the path she was led.

She kept moving her legs trying hard to go fast.

But soon she slowed down, breathless at last.

She was thirsty, yet she didn't bring water to drink.

And she was far from the peak, she started to think.

"There's a long way to go to the top of the hill."

"I don't think I can make, no one can, no one will."



*And she slumped to the ground, rolled down the trail.
And fell to the bottom with a moan and wail.*



*I have to admit I was somewhat
concerned.*

*But Zippy is young, and soon
she will learn.*

*And like Zippy there something,
you all need to know*

*It doesn't really matter how
quick you can go.*

*Getting there's more important,
even if you go slow.*

*On that same day I met a girl, Wilma, the wait-er.
Whatever needed done, Wilma said, "Uhhhh, later."*



*"Later." she said, when needed for cleaning.
And "Later" again when she's just busy preening.
"Just a minute" she said when she's on the phone.
She even makes herself wait when she's all alone!*

*The thought of a bounty made her think and then say,
"Maybe this is something I should start at today."
So, Wilma wrote down a list. "What do I need?"
"This requires some planning before I proceed."*

"I'll need food and water and maybe some candy."

"And for rain, an umbrella would be very handy."

"My shoes aren't quite right; and I'll need a big hat."

"A little nap would be nice before climbing like that."

"I should eat a big breakfast. Pack a snack and a lunch."

"That's so much to take, it seems like a bunch."



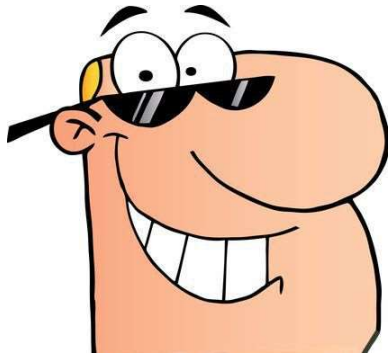
"After all, it's a long way to the top of the hill."

"I must be ready to make it, or I never will."

So, if you come to my porch any day around noon.



You'll hear Wilma say, "Not today, but real soon."



*Later that morning, I met a
very strange guy,*

*He had a really big head, as
big as the sky.*

*I found out his name was
Barry the Boaster.*

*Who claimed he invented
the thirteen-slice toaster!*



Barry puffed proudly, "I can do this so well."

"I've climbed fifty mountains and never once fell."

"I've run in a marathon and sailed seven seas."

"I've even battled a shark. It was a breeze!"



*"I was once
named THE
GREATEST
PERSON ALIVE."*

*"A hill in this
town? I know, I'll
survive."*

*"Let me tell you my friend..." Barry talked for an hour.
About the things he has done; his wisdom, his power.
He wrapped up and smiled and bid me goodbye,
But hike up the hill? Barry never did try.*

*I want you each to remember, and know it is true.
It's true as can be, as true as true blue!*



*It's easy to say what you did or
would do.*

*It's harder to do it and see it all
the way through.*

***Let me tell you my friends there were others that day.
A young boy named Harry with Lilly and Tre.***



***Harry walked by with eyes
fixed on his phone.***



***Tre and Lilly were there, yet he
was alone.***

***Harry couldn't see what's in front or what was behind.
He was wearing these earbuds; it was like he was blind.***

*Good morning! I yelled to get their attention.
There's a big game, I think I should mention.
Harry looked up and exclaimed, "What did you say?"
"You say, there's a new game that we all can play?"*

*I told them, climb the big hill and get a surprise!
And they listened to me with wide open eyes.*



*They looked at each other,
"Let's do this for a while."*

*"We might win some cash."
Harry said with a smile.*

*So, off the three went playing tag 'long the way.
They played hide and seek 'til they couldn't find Tre!*

Soon Harry's phone buzzed, a message from Lilly.

Lilly

Climbing this hill is just
crazy and silly.

Gigantimost Hill is too
high to measure.
Let's just forget about
getting a treasure.

Harry

Maybe there's an app
called, *Top of the Hill!*
I think I could win it, but
for real? No one will.

*So, there are things that you might have to face.
Are you ready to reach the peak of that place?*



*There's something for you when you all
reach the end.*

*On the trail that goes bend after bend
after bend.*

Old Bob ends up his story and sits very still.
Will the cousins climb up Gigantimost hill?
The cousins say yes! They will start out so strong.
They'll have water and food to make sure they last long.

The cousins are babies,
teens, kids of all kinds.

All the cousins are
there, not one left
behind.



**When someone gets sleepy and can't stay awake,
Or gets bothered by bugs or has a backache.**



**Their legs feel like rubber, or they're wet from a storm.
The cousins snuggle and bundle, just to stay warm.**

**They encourage each other, so they don't get sleepy.
And rub all the sore spots so nobody's weepy.**



When the trees are real bushy
and get quite annoying,
They make sure there's a path
to keep the climb going.

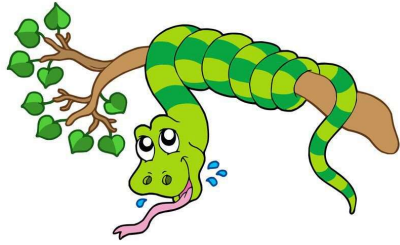
When young ones get weary,
they ride on other kids' shoulders.

When big rocks block the way,
they all push the boulders.

When someone is falling, slipping off of the trail,
Another will catch them, not a cousin will fail.

Through a hailstorm and bug
swarm, past a giant loud frog.
Climbing up through the wind,
pushing through the thick fog.





Through a stripy snake forest,
and a cold mountain stream.

The big and the small ones, to
the top, as a team.

Something no one has done
since at least last December.

Something each one will do
they will always remember.



Every cousin keeps climbing and round the last bend.

To the top of the hill, where they all reach the end!

But instead of the treasure that is supposed to be there,
Sitting up on the hill is Old Bob in his chair!



"You made it!" He shouts. "You did all you could do!"

"You each reached the top. You did it. Yes, you!"

He shakes everyone's hand and
hugs each to his chest.

"You all helped each other,
you're great, you're the best."



But the cousins are wondering about the big prize.

The look all around with wide wandering eyes.



"Where is the treasure? It's not here and not there."

"There's nothing to see but you, us, and the chair?"

"We expect lots of candy, games and some toys."

"And fun little gadgets that make lots of noise."

Old Bob smiles and tells them, "It's there in your heart."

"The treasure's been with you, right from the start."

"You feel it. You're proud. You worked hard and together!"

"You beat back the frogs and the trees and the weather."



***“You’re here at the top,
look at what you can do.”***

***“You did it. You did.
YOU feel good about YOU.”***

***“And no one or
nothing can take it
away.”***

***“You can’t waste it or
spend it, it’s there,
every day.”***



*Old Bob gives each cousin a simple small sticker,
To show off to friends and here is the kicker.*

The paper says plainly, as clear as can be.



Together the cousins say, "Now I can see!"

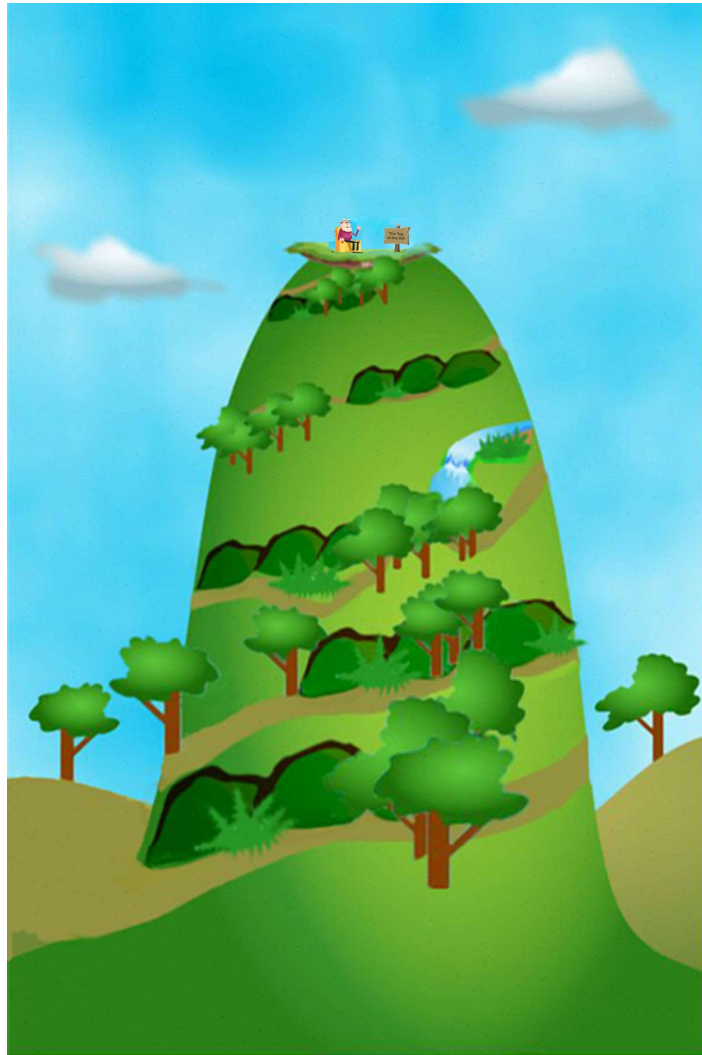
"The treasure is here. It's inside of me!"

"We all worked together, every girl, every boy!"

They each smile a big smile and shout out with joy.

"Some people said, No one can, no one will."

"But we climbed to the top of Gigantimost Hill!"



THE END