Firemaker
Told by Julia Pine
Written by Leroy Pine
Firemaker asked his friend, "Would you come along on a journey to search for food?" Then he said, "But I must warn you about the dangers of this trip. I was told we must be careful about crossing the big river, or the water serpent might catch us. I hope he is not around when we cross the river. Anyway, I will ask the Thunderbird in the sky to watch over us. Besides, we have fast horses and I have my ceremonial knife with me to protect us."
Firemaker and his friend both rode for many miles on their journey for food. When they came to the big river they remembered the warning and looked for a safe crossing.
They rode alongside the river and saw a place where the water was not deep and carefully rode across to the other side.
After they crossed the river safely they thanked the Thunderbird in the sky for watching over them and continued on their journey.
Finally, they met a friendly trader and bought some food. The friends packed the food on their horses and started back home. They wanted to be home before it was dark because they knew it would be dangerous to cross the river at night. They had heard that the water serpent is usually out at night.
Firemaker and his friend rode toward their home and decided to take a short cut. They decided to cross the deep water because they did not want to cross the river at night.
Firemaker said to his friend, "It is safer to cross this place by a raft." So they made a raft. They were not worried about horses because the horses could cross on their own.
When they started to row across the deep water they heard strange noises coming from underneath them. The raft started swaying back and forth. "Watch out! We are in great danger!" they shouted. Firemaker and his friend both cried out, "Please do something. The water serpent is going to get us!" They noticed that the water was rising on both sides, coming closer and closer. It looked like the wall of water was going to come down on them.
Firemaker was so scared he did not know what to do for awhile. Finally, he took his ceremonial knife out and put it across his mouth. Then he asked the Great Thunderbird and his messengers in the sky for help and protection.
Luckily, the Great Thunderbird responded to his call for help. Suddenly a small rain cloud appeared above them and bolts of lightning came pounding down. Loud thunder voices were heard from the sky for a few minutes. They could not see anything for awhile. The water was splashing around them where the lightning kept on striking.
Everything became quiet. The two friends thought they were sinking. All at once they hit the bottom of the deep river. The water was gone so they started to walk across where the river had been.
Firemaker and his friend looked up in the sky after they got across the river. "Look something is flying away," said Firemaker. What they saw looked like a huge bird with his claws on the huge ugly serpent. The serpent was squirming trying to free itself. They both disappeared.

The two friends knew they were safe and both called out, "Thanks" to the Great Thunderbird.
As they rode away they looked back once again and saw four riders and two hounds. They looked like they were watching them from the sky and then they disappeared once more.
When they reached their home they told everybody about their experiences and about how the huge water serpent almost caught them. Everybody was glad that they were safe and home at last.
Will anyone ever see the serpent monster again? Who knows?