

## Rainbow Man by Janet Selby

The earth had been made, almost as we see it now. The ocean had been formed and the mountain features carved, and the wind had been made guardian over all things.

But when Rainbow Man first appeared everything was grey. So grey that nothing could be seen - neither the ocean nor the mountain, because the world had not yet been coloured.

While he was thinking about what to do about it, he heard the sound of high-pitched voices.

“Who is there?” asked Rainbow Man.

“It’s us, the birds. Oh, please can you give us some yellow for our beaks and red for our feathers?”

“All right, you can have as much as you like.”

And the newly coloured birds flew high onto the dull, grey sky until . . .

Suddenly there came the loud noise of some twittering and squawking, and the birds fell back to the ground!

“I’ve banged my head against the sky! Can you give a little blue to the sky and some gold for the sun so we know they are there?”

“A little blue will not be enough” Rainbow Man replied. “The whole sky needs it all!”

So he gave all his blue to the sky and all his gold to the sun.

Next he met a hungry kangaroo.

“Rainbow Man, will you show me which is grass and which are stones so I don’t break my teeth eating the wrong thing?”

“We mustn’t let that happen!” said Rainbow Man. “I have given away all my blue and all my gold, but I have plenty of other colours left.”

Without hesitation he coloured the grass green, and also the flowers’ many hues.

Rainbow Man continued travelling around the world colouring things, making the world brighter.

Finally his colours began to dwindle, and when he had only a little pink left, he met a little girl.

“Do you have any colours left for me?” she asked.

“This pink is all I have left but you can have it all.”

And the girl was now pink.

Since all his colours were all used up, Rainbow Man simply disappeared.

Meanwhile the Pink Girl was so very happy that she danced rejoiced. She wanted to thank Rainbow Man, but when she called his name there was silence. He was nowhere to be seen.

So she set out determined to find him.

She asked the flowers “Have you seen Rainbow Man?”

“Was he violet like me?” asked the Violet.

“Was he rose like me?” asked the Rose.

The Pink Girl realised she didn’t know what he looked like.

So she asked the birds “Have you seen Rainbow Man?”

“Yes, he was blue like the sky” said one bird.

“No, he was gold like the sun” said another arguing as they flew off together.

The Pink Girl became confused. Sadly she could not find out what he looked like to find him.

“Oh how can I find him?” she sighed. “Will the world become grey again if he is gone?”

“Why don’t you ask me?” said a voice. It was the wind. He had been watching over the Pink Girl all the time.

“Can you tell me what he looks like so I can thank him?” said the Pink Girl, brightening up a little.

“Yes, I know what he looks like, and you can see him already” explained the wind.

“He is in all the things he has coloured because that’s what he looks like. That’s what he IS!”

So the Pink Girl was relieved to know that Rainbow Man is everywhere to be seen where there is colour.

And even today she is still thanking him, rejoicing.