

Storytime with Dad

Leandra and the Skyscorp

Welcome to Storytime with Dad! Today we will be reading Leandra and the Skyscorp.

In the little village of Sunvale, hidden in a valley surrounded by green hills and tall trees, lived a girl named Leandra. She was strong, fast, and very smart – everyone liked her a lot. But sometimes Leandra liked to show off. She always wanted to be the first to finish races, solve puzzles, or win games.

Her friends thought Leandra was amazing, but they wished she'd slow down and play with them instead of always trying to win. Sometimes they even invited her to go fishing or to pick berries, but Leandra usually said no because she wanted to practice and become even better.

One warm afternoon, dark clouds gathered above Echo Mountain near the village. The villagers felt nervous because dark clouds usually meant trouble. Elder Mia, the kind storyteller, looked up and said, "This feels strange. Something unusual might happen."

Suddenly, a loud roar shook the sky. Flying down from the clouds was a creature no one had ever seen before. It was called the Skyscorp. It had the body of a huge scorpion, wings like a giant bird, sharp pincers, and a big tail curled over its head.

"Oh no," whispered Elder Mia. "Stories say the Skyscorp comes when something important needs to be learned."

The Skyscorp landed softly in the village center and looked around. "Who will face me?" it asked in a deep, calm voice.

Leandra jumped forward right away. "I will!" she shouted excitedly. "I'm the fastest and strongest in Sunvale!"

The Skyscorp nodded. "If you win, I'll leave peacefully. If you lose, I'll stay here forever."

Leandra rushed toward the Skyscorp, sure she could win. She jumped high and ran fast, but every time she got close, the Skyscorp moved gently out of the way. It wasn't mean – it just quietly avoided her. Leandra tried again and again, but soon she got very tired.

Finally, she stopped, feeling worried and unsure. She looked at the villagers watching her. They all looked worried too and ready to help.

Elder Mia stepped closer. "Leandra," she said kindly, "maybe we can help you."

Leandra nodded slowly, feeling shy for the first time. "I can't do it alone. Can we all work together?"

Everyone quickly gathered to decide on a new plan. They remembered the old stories about teamwork that Elder Mia had shared, and suddenly they had an idea. Leandra would distract the Skyscorp, running and jumping to get its attention. Meanwhile, the villagers would quietly prepare something special.

Leandra moved quickly, making sure the Skyscorp chased her toward a group of tall trees. She ran around and between the trees, keeping the creature's attention. At the same time, some villagers gathered large baskets of sticky tree sap, while others collected soft but strong vines from the forest.

As Leandra jumped and dodged, the villagers spread the sticky sap onto the vines, creating long, strong, sticky ropes. They worked together quickly and carefully, quietly passing the ropes among each other so the Skyscorp wouldn't notice.

Leandra carefully led the Skyscorp closer to where her friends waited. When the Skyscorp stepped near them, the villagers quickly pulled the sticky vines across its feet, gently but firmly sticking the Skyscorp's legs to the ground. The Skyscorp tugged softly, surprised but not hurt. It was now safely stuck in place.

Other villagers carefully lit small torches to form a gentle circle around the Skyscorp. The creature looked around quietly, realizing the villagers had worked together very cleverly.

Leandra stepped forward softly. "You can go now," she said kindly. "Thank you for coming and teaching us something important."

The villagers carefully helped the Skyscorp free itself from the sticky vines. When it was free, the Skyscorp spread its wings wide and rose into the sky, disappearing into the clouds once again.

From that day on, Leandra still loved being strong, fast, and smart—but she didn't always try to win. Instead, she spent more time playing and laughing with her friends, fishing at the river, and picking berries. She learned that winning wasn't everything and that helping and being helped by others made life much happier.

In Sunvale, everyone remembered the day they worked together—not because they had to, but because together they were stronger, kinder, and happier.

The End.



Wow! Good grief! What did you think of that story? I, personally, really liked the Skyscorp! That idea came from my young listener Holden. Thanks for the great idea and your message, I hope you liked what I did with the creature you dreamed up!

Nature always seeks balance and nothing ever stays the same for long! It's either growing or it's dying, but it's always changing. Leandra had to learn that nature balances itself out and never goes too far in any direction for long. Her pride is what brought imbalance to the village and, well, a Skyscorp with it to teach them all a lesson. Once she learned that the world wasn't all about her, she and the village were able to overcome the challenge and get back to peace!

I've seen this same sort of thing happen in my own life time and time again - whether to me or to others. A hero emerges and thinks they can take on the world! But they quickly forget their

friends, make everyone feel like they're not good enough, and then our hero gets overwhelmed and they need some help. Thankfully, I've never had to fight a Skyscorp, but I have had my own challenges, and, well, monsters to overcome. But remember the lesson: if we are curious and not full of ourselves, then we will remember to look to friends and family for help. That's when we usually see what the right thing to do is. It starts with us finding humility, in other words not thinking we're better than everyone else even if we're very talented.

As for this story, heroes like Leandra are fun and they have a lot of talent. But, a whole village can clearly do much more than any one hero like Leandra can do on their own. Everyone you meet is important and valuable in their own way, and only together can we change the world. So treat people with respect and love, and that's one lesson you can learn from Leandra and not have to learn on your own.

Thanks for all your messages and for listening, and I'll see you again next time.

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Narrated by: Grant Dryden

