Fortunately, I am a Rock:

Tantalizing Tales of the Rock Cycle.

By

Sarah J. Miller
For my pet rock Sharon

Your strength and resilience are an inspiration.
Fortunately,
I am a Rock. I have been many places and seen many things. I am constantly changing through a process called the Rock Cycle. I used to live on top of a tall mountain. Every day I was able to look out and gaze upon the beautiful Earth. I was the luckiest Rock in the entire world!
Unfortunately,
It was really windy, cold and wet on top of the mountain. For years and years I was weathered. Raindrops pelted me, ice tried to crack me and the wind kept whipping at me. One day, the wind blew so hard that it finally pushed me right off of the mountain.
Fortunately,
I landed in a small stream. I rode with the current, skipping and swimming along, as the stream carried me for miles and miles.
Unfortunately,
The stream turned into a raging river!! I was thrown here and there, tossing and tumbling about. In all of this jumble, pieces of me kept breaking off until I was no longer a whole Rock, but just a bunch of sediments.
The river flew into the ocean. I was finally able to settle down and take a rest on the ocean floor.
Unfortunately,
The river continued to push more and more sediments on top of me, so things started to get pretty crowded. After a while, I could no longer see the ocean and all of the sediments upon me were getting very heavy.
Unfortunately,
After being pushed and smashed together for many years, something strange began to happen. All of the sediments compacted together to form a new type of rock. I was now a Sedimentary Rock. I had many layers of different colors. I was the most beautiful Rock in the entire world!
Unfortunately,
There was a terrible landslide so even more rocks and sediments were piled on top of me. I was now deep inside the Earth. It started to become very hot and there was so much pressure from the weight of the Earth pushing down on me.
Fortunately,
The heat and pressure began to change me. Like a butterfly, I went through a metamorphosis. I emerged as a Metamorphic Rock. I was a tough Rock with a solid crystal structure. I was deep within the Earth where no wind or water could weather me. I was the strongest Rock in the entire world!
Unfortunately,
The Earth began to tremble and shake. EARTHQUAKE!!! Pieces of me started to break and crumble as I was pushed even further into the depths of the Earth.
Fortunately,
It was extremely hot this deep inside the Earth. In fact, it was so hot that I melted into magma. I had been a solid Rock for so long that I forgot how fun it was to freely flow around.
Unfortunately,
I began to be thrust upwards against my will. I was pushed and shoved until the next thing I knew, I burst right out of a volcano and into the sky. I flew for hundreds of feet until I started hurtling toward the ground.
Fortunately,
I finally landed in a cozy spot on the top of a mountain. It was much cooler out here on the Earth and I quickly began to harden. I am now an Igneous Rock. I am black and very glossy. I am the shiniest Rock in the entire world!
Unfortunately,
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Fortunately,
I am a Rock. I have been many places and seen many things. I am constantly changing through a process called the Rock Cycle. I wonder where my next journey will take me. Do you?
Not

The End
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