Let's now read our story...

The Stone Trolls

On the southern coast of Iceland, near the small village of Vik, there once lived a band of trolls. They were huge, ugly creatures who were feared by humans and hid away underground in the dark caves of the nearby ice-covered volcano. All trolls knew that if they ever got caught outside in the daylight, they would immediately be turned to stone. So, each night, under the **cover of darkness**, they would **venture** outside to hunt and fish.

One stormy night, two **mischievous** trolls called Skess and Landra perched together on the craggy cliff, watching. Below, the sea bubbled and foamed. Above, the full moon glared down, casting a long shadow across the **ebony** beach. In the distance, they could hear the low rumble of other trolls, feasting on their **hoard** of freshly caught fish.

Suddenly, Skess jumped up, pointed at the horizon and roared. "Landra, look, a three-masted ship. I think it's in trouble!" Landra followed his gaze and stared at the magnificent ship, **pitching** and rolling on the bubbling sea. "Let's **wade** out and pull it into shore," Skess said, setting off down the beach. Landra frowned as it was already very late and the sun rose earlier and earlier in late spring, but then he jumped down from the cliff and followed close behind.

Slowly, they waded out into the sea until, at long last, they reached the **stricken** ship. Together they started to haul it towards the distant shore, which was now just a strip of silver moonlight.

For the rest of the night they heaved, and they heaved, and they heaved , but the ship was **hefty** and the sea was rough. Time passed. The two trolls didn't notice the moon slipping slowly away. Finally, they reached the blackened beach where the sailors quickly **clambered** to safety.

At that moment, the first glimmer of sunlight appeared. Shocked, Skess and Landra **shielded** their eyes and then stared at each other in horror. Their mouths widened. Their legs stiffened. Their arms ground to a halt. Their eyes closed. Both trolls and the remains of the ship instantly turned to stone … forever.

To this day, what remains of the stone trolls and the ship can still be seen just off the coast of Iceland near the small village of Vik.

Photo by Rostyslav Savchyn on Unsplash

The rocks in the distance are actually **basalt sea stacks.**

Glossary

basalt: volcanic rock. Here it is very dark in colour.

sea stacks: pillars of rock, formed by the wind and the waves. These were once thought to have been arches of rock attached to the nearby cliffs.

These rocks or sea stacks have real Icelandic names:

Skess in the story is actually called *Skessudrangur* in Icelandic.
Landra in the story is actually called *Landdrangur* in Icelandic.

Innovating Ideas

What happens in Stone Trolls	The Underlying Plot Pattern
• Trolls hiding from people in caves • Shouldn't go out in day light because they will be turned to stone	• Group of characters warned not to do something
• One stormy night, Skess & Landra go to cliffs by beach	• 2 main characters (MCs) introduced and the setting is described
• Skess sees ship in trouble at sea • They decide to go and rescue ship	• MCs see someone or something in danger in the setting
• Skess & Landra save crew of ship	• MCs save them
• Suddenly, morning arrives – trolls turned to stone • This explains stone pillars on beach	• Terrible things happen to MCs because ignored warning • This explains feature in landscape

Now, let's think about writing a new version of the story.

The 'Stone Trolls' could be described as a 'Warning Story'.
The trolls are hiding from people and are warned not to go outside in the day light as they will be turned into stone. They ignore this warning!

In the 'Stone Trolls', the story explains where the rocks on the beach came from.

There are other interesting things on the land that you could pretend were once trolls that tried to help people but were caught out when the sun came up!
Here are some new story ideas:

Idea 1
The volcano
This could have once been a troll who was furious when the sun came up!
Troll was trying to save some walkers lost in the mountains.

Idea 2
The cave
This could have once been a shocked troll caught with their mouth open when the sun rose!
Troll was trying to save some people walking near the edge of a cliff.

Idea 3
The waterfall
This could be the tears of a very sad troll caught as the sun came up!
Troll was trying to save people swimming in the river.

Idea 4
The tallest rock on the cliffs
This could once have been a very helpful king of the trolls who was rooted to the ground when the sun rose!
King Troll was acting as a lookout.

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Here is the underlying plot pattern again with my new story idea

Stone Trolls plot	The Plot Pattern	My new story plan
• Trolls hiding from people in caves • shouldn't go out in day light because they will be turned to stone	• Group of characters warned not to do something	• Trolls hiding deep in forest away from people • Warned not be out in rain because will turn into tall trees
• One stormy night, Skess & Landra go to cliffs by beach	• 2 main characters (MCs) introduced and the setting is described	• One summer day, trolls, Fir & Oak, out walking in forest, looking for food
• Skess sees ship in trouble at sea • They decide to go and rescue ship	• MCs see someone or something in danger in the setting	• Fir sees children climbing trees – one is stuck • Oak Fir decide to climb tree to save them
• Skess & Landra save crew of ship	• MCs save them	• Fir & Oak save children
• Suddenly, morning arrives – trolls turned to stone • This explains stone pillars on beach	• Terrible things happen to MCs because ignored warning • This explains feature in landscape	• Suddenly, there is crack of thunder and it starts to rain. Fir & Oak turned into tall trees

Idea 5
You could use where you live. Are there any interesting buildings, hills, rivers etc that you could imagine were once trolls? Is there anyone you want to turn into a stone troll!

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Now Plan your Story!

★ Use the planner below to jot down some ideas for your own version of the story.

★ You could use my story idea above or the other ideas.

Stone Trolls	The Plot Pattern	Your new story plan
• Trolls hiding from people in caves • shouldn't go out in day light because they will be turned to stone	• Group of characters warned not to do something • *See new story ideas!*	• Trolls hiding from people. • They shouldn't ……. because they will be turned into ……..
• One stormy night, Skess & Landra go to cliffs by beach	• 2 main characters (MCs) introduced and the setting is described • *Think of some good troll names.*	
• Skess sees ship in trouble at sea • They decide to go and rescue ship	• MCs see someone or something in danger in the setting • *What might be a dangerous thing to do in your new setting?*	
• Skess & Landra save crew of ship	• MCs save them	
• Suddenly, morning arrives – trolls turned to stone • This explains stone pillars on beach	• Terrible things happen to MCs because ignored warning • This explains feature in landscape	

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