

# The Story of Running Deer

*The Cast (respond when these words from the story are said aloud):*

*Old Chief: Stand, raise right hand and give a hearty "HOW!" in a low, loud voice.*

*Running Deer: Place open hands on side of head to make deer antlers, and stomp feet as if running.*

*Falling Rock: Stand, make a short whistling sound, then sit down abruptly with a loud "BOOM!"*

*Wilderness: One group howls like wolves; another raises sway- ing hands above head and make sound of wind blowing through the trees.*

*Babbling Brook: (Standing in front of audience for the entire storytelling) Gargles water with head back until the story narrator says . . ."Above the Waterfall."*

*Outdoor version. Spray gargled water onto the ground in front of audience.*

*Indoor version. Have a bucket or pail to catch water coming out of the "Babbling Brook's" mouth.*

**The Story:**

Long ago, there was a small Indian (Native American) village. In this village lived an Old Chief with his two sons, Running Deer and Falling Rock. This village was situated deep in the Wilderness, next to a Babbling Brook [pause], Above a Waterfall.

The Old Chief, knowing he would not live forever, decided it was time to choose one of his sons to take his place when the time came to pass on. "But, which one?" pondered the Old Chief. And he devised a plan: Running Deer and Falling Rock were sent off into the Wilderness, far from the village-next to the Babbling Brook [pause], Above the Waterfall. The Old Chief had told the lads, "The one of you who is able to live out longest in the Wilderness will take my place as Chief."

Much time passed. The Old Chief feared the worst, and began to worry. "How long will it be before the return of Running Deer and Falling Rock?" thought the Old Chief. Soon after, a member of the tribe announced the approach of the beloved son, Running Deer. The Old Chief was very happy, and threw a grand celebration. For his first son, Running Deer had returned to the village - next to the Babbling Brook [pause], Above the Waterfall. The

ordeal was over, and scouts were sent out into the Wilderness to find and return Falling Rock to his village, where he would become Chief someday.

Many moons went by (as happens in Native American stories). The Old Chief, now passed on (sorry), never saw the return of his younger son, Falling Rock. Falling Rock has never returned from the Wilderness to his village-next to the Babbling Brook [pause], Above the Waterfall. His brother, Running Deer, still looks for him.

We know this because, all along the highways and byways of New Hampshire and Vermont, we still see the signs [show sign if you made one]:

### **WATCH FOR FALLING ROCK**

Alternative Ending is to add this part:

Have an audience member raise a hand, and with a serious look say in a voice that is loud and clear, "I know where he lives!"

The narrator of the story asks, "Where?"

The answer comes back, "He's in [Pick a town]!"

The narrator of the story asks, "How do you know?"

The child had been touring with family and had seen this sign [show sign if you made one]:

### **FALLING ROCK AHEAD**