



## CHAPTER TWELVE & THIRTEEN

### Paying Attention



In *The First Flame*, the Spark Riders travel past old roads, historical markers, stagecoach stops, mining towns, and places where people traveled long before they did.

Then they meet Tulio.

Tulio notices things other people might walk right past—a tired grapevine, an owl waking in a tree, bees preparing to move, an old bird's nest, the wind changing, and chimes that don't sound quite right.

There are clues all around us.

Some were left hundreds of years ago.

Some appeared five minutes ago.

The trick is noticing them.

#### 1. What Did You Miss?

Stop and look around you for one minute.

Find three things you didn't notice before you started looking.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

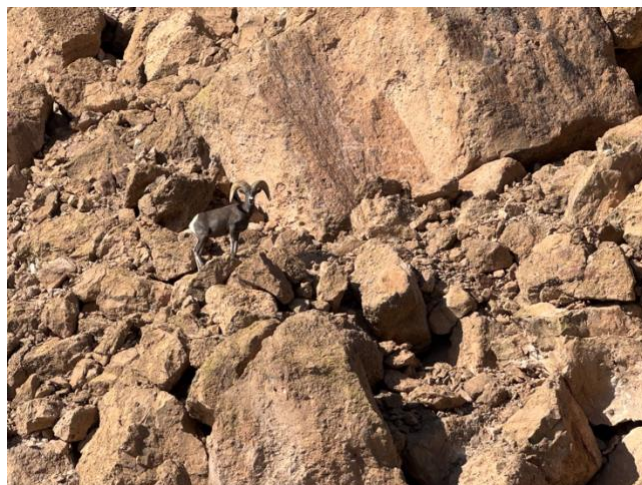
2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Which surprised you most?

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#### 2. Clues from the Past



In Chapter Thirteen, the Spark Riders discover old roads, stagecoach stops, historical markers, mining towns, and other clues about people who traveled through Arizona before them.

Is there anything old where you live?

Building • Road • Trail • Bridge • Tree • Sign • Monument • Mine

What do you know about it?

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What would you like to know?

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### **3. Tulio Notices**

Tulio looks at a grapevine and knows one stem needs clipping.

Mei asks how he knew.

“It looked tired,” Tulio says. “I’ve been watching it for a few days.”

What are you good at noticing?

It might be something about animals, plants, weather, people, machines, music, sports—or anything else.

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### **4. Draw a picture where you live.**

The photos in this exercise were taken in Apache Junction, Arizona. The cardinal was at Superstition Acres, the desert big horn sheep was at Canyon Lake, Arizona in 2026.

Draw a picture of animals or birds that are in your surroundings every day. Will you pay more attention to them now?

