



A few days after Nokomis had brought Little Growing Bird and Fanny Yellow Hair from the Indian village back to the Wigwam in Windigo Land she thought she would make some baskets and other pretty things to please the little White Girl. She found, however, that she had no colors to paint the pretty stripes and figures on the things she wished to make. Big Bear was not around just then, so she asked Little Growing Bird to get her some of the nice Paint Roots that grew in the woods near the Wigwam. Aundak, the Crow, knew all about the places where such things grew, so off he started, saying he would show the way.



They soon came to the place where the Paint Roots grew and Little Growing Bird dug up a good supply. Yellow Hair wanted to know how the Indians got the dye-stuff out of the roots, and the little boy showed her how to crush them and get the juice out. Then he took a queer-looking root and rubbed it on the upper part of his face, which soon turned to a Bright Green color! Yellow Hair thought that was fine fun, and began painting her own cheeks with the juice of a bright scarlet root. Then she painted her forehead with another kind of root, which turned the skin to the color of the bow in her hair—a Bright Blue!



Now, Ukee-wenee Ahjid-uhmo, the Ground Squirrel, or "Chipmunk," was very soft-hearted, and as soon as he cast eyes on the pretty Dolly, he thought he had never seen anything so beautiful in his life and fell in love with her on the spot! He came out of his hole and very politely asked Little Growing Bird if he might have the little "Girl Fairy" for his wife!



Fanny Yellow Hair was afraid that the little boy might give her pretty Dolly to Mr. Ground Squirrel, so she grabbed her up very quickly. But Little Growing Bird thought it would be great fun to play a joke on Chipmunk, so he told him that he was too homely for such a pretty "Girl Fairy." Then he began to make broad stripes down Chipmunk's back with the Paint Roots, and—



Ground Squirrel was as pleased as he could be with his nice striped coat. He bowed to the little Dolly, and, putting his hand on his heart, asked her if she'd marry him! But the Dolly only stared and said not a word! It tickled Aundak, the Crow, so much that he had to laugh right out, but it made Chipmunk quite angry to get no answer at all, so—



He went back to his hole, much offended, and "let on" he did not want her anyway! "She's too proud and stuck up," he said. So Yellow Hair just marched off with the Dolly in her arms, and Little Growing Bird put the Paint Roots in his Medicine Bag, and they started to go home. When they were almost there they spied Big Bear taking a nap behind the Wigwam. Little Growing Bird thought it would be great fun to steal up on him and frighten him by yelling and making faces at him before he knew who they were. Well—



They crept up very softly and, when quite close to him, they cried out "Boo!" and also "Waugh!" (which means about the same), saying they were Wild Indians. Big Bear jumped up with a start, but when he saw who they were he ALMOST burst out laughing. But he didn't like to spoil the play. So he cried out as if he did not recognize his little friends and pretended to be scared almost out of his wits. Now, that is how the Indians get the pretty colors with which they stain their baskets and other things—and you can easily guess how Chipmunk got the nice striped coat he wears!