

ZUNI STORY OF OLD LADY AND HOW HER GRANDSONS KILLED MONSTER WHO
HAD SWALLOWED RAIN CLOUDS

Birdie Burns: I'm going to tell you about an old lady. She lived in a village. Or it could be a big camp. And this old lady raised her two grandsons. They were orphans. And when she first had them, they were very small. And they got to be old enough to go out and play around. And some people would come and complain to this old lady that her grandsons were fighting their children. Other people's children. And when the boys come home, their grandmother would get after them. "You can't be doing that," she said. "We're the poorest people in this village. You're orphan boys. I'm old. We can't help ourselves. These people are going to gang on us. You better not fight." So they go out again next evening. And maybe they hurt somebody else. And it went on and on like that. And then one of these boys said, "I'm going to show them we are tough," he said. He got one of the boys--I guess he had already planned it with his brother how they were going to do it. So his brother got one of these playmates and he told them, "You take him out there and you race from there. Go so far. After you get about even with where I am," he said, "I'm going to hit you." He was carrying a knife. Nobody knew he had it. I guess he stole it from his grandmother. And these two boys come racing down in front of him and as soon as they got even with them, this boy threw this knife. It cut this boy in two. And the little boys all scattered and got scared when they saw this little boy laying there in two. And he walked over there where he was laying and put him back together. He said, "Go on." But this little boy said, "I already went home and told what--this little boy did to this little boy." They thought he killed him. And sure enough, people were going to gang up on them with their grandmother. Well, they told this old lady what