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Rowan of Rin

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Rowan is a small, shy, maybe even cowardly boy. He feels useless to his widowed mother because he can't do any hard work, only watch over the bukshah herds. But there is trouble in the Land of Rin because the waters that flow down the nearby mountain have mysteriously stopped. The strongest and wisest people of Rin need to embark on a journey to find out why the river from the mountain isn't running. In a seemingly cruel joke, Rowan must accompany the bravest and strongest on the trail, for he is the only one who can read the enchanted map.

The mountain is an evil, magical place, and one by one it defeats every member of the party until it is up to Rowan to face the dangers of the mountain, and his own fears, to keep the village and his family safe. This would be a good book to recommend to a 4th or 5th grade boy interested in adventure and fantasy books.