

# **JONATHAN'S JOURNEY TO MOUNT MIAPU**

**By Ellen Wolfson Valladares**

## **Synopsis**

Jonathan Goodman is a typical 10-year-old who quietly suffers from a debilitating fear of the dark and inwardly laments that he is different from other kids his age. On one sunny Florida day, Jonathan feels on top of the world after hitting a home run in a game of baseball with his friends. Nothing can ruin this perfect day, or so he thinks. Moments later, he finds himself facing “payback” from two neighborhood bullies. He is trapped, alone, and paralyzed by his fear of the dark. When he finally emerges from the darkness, he finds himself on a strange but beautiful mountain (“There are no mountains in Florida!” he thinks).

So begins an adventure-filled journey for Jonathan, who must somehow find his way home. Along the way, he learns that a “Great Shadow” is threatening to destroy the idyllic Mount Miapu and discovers that he has an important role to play in the mountain’s fate. With the help of the young, enchanting Ariella, her wise Grandma Trudy, Chief Atitlan of Mapichu Village, and a brave, red-tailed hawk, Jonathan eventually finds his way to the one person who can help him get home: Cornelius at the Temple of the Records.

It is here that Jonathan learns that he is one of a special group of children, the Children of the Light, who can travel between earth and other realities. Before he can get back home, however, Jonathan must complete his training with Cornelius and fulfill the destiny written in The Records. At the Pond of Reflection, Cornelius helps Jonathan learn “how to maintain stillness, peacefulness, and calm no matter what is going on around you or inside of you.” And in the Hall of Wisdom, Jonathan learns “That upon which you focus becomes your truth.”

Jonathan’s training is soon put to the test as he must single-handedly fend off the malicious talking tiger, Seebolt, and struggle to the top of Sentinel Peak to join with the other Children of the Light in the hope of defeating the Great Shadow and saving Mount Miapu.

In this tale of self-discovery, Jonathan finds courage, confidence, and power in the knowledge of who he really is – a child with unique gifts and a special mission to help the earth and humanity. Still, as Cornelius tells him when he is finally about to return home, “your journey is far from over, Jonathan. It’s just beginning.”