

THE LOCUST AND THE CARPET-SNAKE.

In Yamminga time, Moolgu-roorung, the Locust, was a womba, (man), and he was the first man to come kalbu (high) out of Jim-bin (the country under the ground).

Every time Moolgu-roorung died, he used to go down to his own boo-roo (ground) and get a new skin, and come up again nice and new. Bye-and-bye Banning-booroo, the Carpet Snake, who was also womba, (man), came along and saw Moolgu-roorung changing his skin and coming up again after he had gone into the ground. Moolgu-roorung used to say "M-m-m-m!" when he came up again.

When Banning-booroo saw Moolgoo-roorung coming up out of the booroo fresh and new, he said "You must not do that. When you go into the ground you must stay there, and not come out again."

Banning-booroo only said this because he was jealous of Moolgu-roorung being the same as himself, for Banning-booroo also went into the ground and came out with a nice new skin.

So he bit Moolgu-roorung in the middle, and now Moolgu-roorung is only a little fellow, and when he goes into the ground he has to stay there, for he cannot put on a new skin since his back was broken.

So now snakes are the only people who can go into the ground, and get a new skin, and come up nice and new.

If Banning-booroo had not bitten Moolgu-roorung, womba (men) would be able to come up again after they go into the ground.