

"THE LAND BEFORE TIME"

(THE LAND BEFORE TIME BEGAN)

REVISED

BASED ON MEETING APRIL 22 & 23, 1987
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INCLUDES NEW REVISIONS
PER G LUCAS TELEPHONE NOTES
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PER G LUCAS / S SPIELBERG NOTES
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Sequence 001 "THUNDERFOOT'S BIRTH"

ANGLE - DARKNESS

A burst of bubbles from below tells us that we are beneath the surface of a primeval lake. A small salamander floats up into view. He catches a glimpse of a small, wiggly shrimp larva, a few yards away. In a burst of bubbles, the salamander pursues and gulps the tiny shrimp down. Satisfied and content with the meal, he swims on to find another. He is ambushed and nearly eaten, himself, by a giant prehistoric pike. The frightened salamander escapes and joins a small menagerie of fish, frogs, eels, and other strange water life in their bizarre evolutionary stage. All slowly wiggle upwards between the stalks of water plants.

ANGLE - UNDERWATER

Through translucent strands of underwater vegetation, a large Duckbill (Anatosaurus) mouth enters from the surface above, biting a mouthful of the plants and exits top screen.

ANGLE - UNDERWATER

Through the dm blue and green underwater luminescence, we see a procession of sea turtles, effortlessly gliding through the water making graceful, interlacing patterns as they enter a great, hollow log.

ANGLE - ABOVE WATER

Peering from the opening of a hollowed out tree, we watch a group of small salamanders break the surface of the nearby water, as they leap into the air in an arc pattern and vanish into the water again.

ANGLE - FOREST

We drift (PAN RIGHT) through a dense, but strangely defoliated, forest. We hear a distant bellowing (SCREEN RIGHT) as we linger on a clump of trees next to an open space. The trees seem to stir. Then two large, apparent tree trunks step out of the camouflage into the clear. They are two gentle-eyed Apatosauruses, sniffing the air, curious to see what is coming. The bellowing sounds get louder.

CUT TO: ANGLE - ROLLING HILLS AND PLAIN - LATE AFTERNOON

A herd of Triceratops are migrating over a plain of dried, dead grass towards the setting sun.

CUT TO: ANGLE - A LARGE HERD OF ANATOSAURUSES - VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE

A line of migrating Anatosauruses that extends far into the distance, occasionally being lit by the glow of a nearby erupting volcano.

Sequence 001 "THUNDERFOOT'S BIRTH" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: ANGLE - EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE

On the distant horizon, under a bright moon, we see the silhouette of a pathetically small herd of three Apatosauruses.

CUT TO: MEDIUM SHOT - THE THREE APATOSAURUSES ON THE MOVE

Two of them are elderly, a male and a female. The third, a female, is much younger.

CUT TO: ANGLE - ANATOSAURUS NESTING - MARSH LANDSCAPE

A group of adult Duckbills are feeding on plants. They sit waiting, next to a small, hollowed out mound, in which lay a dozen or so eggs.

ANGLE - CLOSE UP - EGGS

A single egg, rocks and bounces, a tail breaks through the shell, then a head. It is a tiny, female Anatosaurus (DUCKY).

CUT TO: CLOSER SHOT

A butterfly flutters up to the nest and catches her attention, and flutters off. DUCKY, still wearing her shell, bounded up and leaps off the pile of eggs.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

The butterfly flutters away. DUCKY rolls down the side of the nest in pursuit, bouncing and hopping as she goes.

CUT TO: CLOSER SHOT

DUCKY catches up to the fluttering butterfly and tries to grab at it, but misses. The butterfly flutters away into a hollowed out log. DUCKY bounces up and continues the pursuit.

CUT TO: INTERIOR OF LOG

The butterfly flutters (SCREEN LEFT) quickly forward, trying to escape the little Anatosaurus, who is bouncing in hot pursuit, just behind.

CUT TO: END OF HOLLOW LOG

As DUCKY exits the log, she loses the butterfly, and breaks her shell. She lands on a small, furry rodent that squeaks and runs away. This immediately captures DUCKY's attention and she chases after it. The rodent races by a very big turtle. Naively, DUCKY stops to inspect, and sticks her head into the snapping turtle's opening jaws. But, just in time, she is lifted away before the turtle's jaws snap shut.

Sequence 001 "THUNDERFOOT'S BIRTH" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: ANGLE - DUCKY'S MOTHER

Holding her baby in her mouth, Mama Anatosaurus places DUCKY back in the nest with her newly-hatched brothers and sisters. Mama leans down and gently nuzzles baby DUCKY. DUCKY cuddles Mama's bill and nuzzles back.

CUT TO: ANGLE - TRICERATOPS NEST

In the nest are half a dozen eggs in various hatching stages. One has four legs coming through the shell and is running around, butting into the other siblings. It runs out of the nest, stops, paws the ground, and charges into its Mother's snout.

CUT TO: CLOSER SHOT

The charging egg bounces back, turns and immediately charges into Papa Triceratops. It hits hard and bounces back. The shell shatters and there sits CERA TOPPS, rubbing her arching head. A clap of thunder from an approaching storm, scares CERA and she scrambles to join her brothers and sisters who are hiding beneath Mama.

ANGLE - A STORMY NIGHT SKY

A bolt of lightning crackles and explodes through the dark, stormy sky.

CUT TO: ANGLE - APATOSAURUS NEST - MARSH LANDSCAPE

Amidst a gentle shower, three Apatosaurus wait patiently.
- PAN to their nearby nest bearing a single egg.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP OF NEST

One surviving egg, lying in a nest, littered with the remains of smashed and cracked eggshells. The egg is bouncing and rocking. It is a tough birth. The egg hops clear out of the nest and rolls down the nesting mound to the shallow water by its Mama's tail.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT - MAMA'S TAIL AND ORNITHOMIMUS

A bug-eyed, long-fingered ornithomimus appears from out of the bush and leers hungrily at the vulnerable egg. Suddenly, he leaps towards it.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP OF EGG AMIDST MARSH REEDS

Long, bony, clawed fingers enter and snatch the egg up.

Sequence 001 "THUNDERFOOT'S BIRTH" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: MAMA WATCHING

While running away with the egg, the Ornithomimus is struck from behind by the Mother's powerful neck, jarring the precious egg from the interloper's hands. The Ornithomimus streaks off in one direction; the egg bounces and rolls down hill, skipping over the rib-bones of a dinosaur carcass. Hitting limbs and flowers, it rolls down branches and sends startled lizards scampering. It half-rolls, half-floats down a shallow rivulet, is carried over the edge of a steep waterfall. It falls into a bed of soft sand and twigs, sending more wiggling, little creatures running. It lays suspiciously still and lifeless. Mother enters and very gently nudges it with her nose.

As the Mother, Grandmother and Grandfather over breathlessly over the apparently, lifeless egg, it begins to crack. Pieces of the shell explode and out pops a wagging tail, followed by two hind legs that wiggle their way out of the disintegrating egg. And then we see the face of our hero, THUNDERFOOT. He is peering backwards through his legs. He looks quite bewildered. (What is this world he has just been born into?)

THUNDERFOOT sits up and grins. Hearing the approving coo of his Mother, he glances up. An immediate look of innate love passes between them. When Mother begins to lower her head (THUNDERFOOT POV) for a closer inspection of her offspring, baby THUNDERFOOT rocks backwards in fear, unsure of what she plans to do with him. He buries his head to protect himself as Mother unfurls her enormous tongue and gives her baby a loving lick. THUNDERFOOT curiously raises his head (That felt kind of nice). Mother does it again. THUNDERFOOT marches closer and returns the favor, planting a loving lick on the edge of Mother's nose.

Grandmother and Grandfather look to one another, beaming proudly. Grandmother nods her approval and gazes back down at baby THUNDERFOOT.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP OF THUNDERFOOT CLINGING TO MAMA'S SNOUT

THUNDERFOOT is startled by two small creatures who eye him curiously. The frightened THUNDERFOOT climbs down and scurries around behind his Mother's front leg.

THUNDERFOOT glances around to see many more creatures coming out of the tall grass to pay their respects to this new arrival, the last apatosaurus. They stand in reverential clusters, checking him out, whispering and gossiping among themselves about their new neighbor.

The creatures catch up to him and assemble around, just as Mother bends her long neck and picks THUNDERFOOT up by the loose skin between his shoulder blades.

Sequence 001 "THUNDERFOOT'S BIRTH" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: THUNDERFOOT AT FOOT OF MOTHER

THUNDERFOOT snuggles closer to Mother and yawns. A small lizard scampers up to watch the sleepy-eyed baby. THUNDERFOOT is startled by this and notices a few more curious creatures closing in on him. He slowly backs up and breaks into a run (SCREEN LEFT), but not quite able to coordinate his feet yet, he trips and rolls to a stop.

CUT TO: CREATURES' POV OF THUNDERFOOT

THUNDERFOOT giggles as he is raised higher and higher.

CUT TO: DOWN SHOW - OVERHEAD OF MOTHER HOLDING THUNDERFOOT

After gazing down at the gathering of small animals below, THUNDERFOOT looks up lovingly at his Mother and smiles.

CUT TO: LONG SHOT OF MOTHER, GRANDPARENTS, THUNDERFOOT AND ASSEMBLY OF PREHISTORIC ANIMALS

Mother swings her head slowly around and over her back, as both grandparents watch proudly.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP OF MOTHER'S BACK

Mother gently lowers THUNDERFOOT onto the back of her neck. He slides down and begins to trounce around and around (like a dog trying to find a comfortable spot). He nuzzles down in the soft skin between his Mother's shoulder blades. Mother's head comes closer.

MOTHER

Be gentle, you little Thunderfoot.

THUNDERFOOT looks up through sleepy eyes and manages a droopy smile.

Grandmother and Grandfather move in closer to their daughter to get a more intimate view of their only heir.

THUNDERFOOT finally settles in, nuzzling up against her neck. He emits a giant yawn, and then a contented bleat that sounds remarkably like "Mama." His eyes close. Mother's head appears in frame and she gazes at him with the kind of love only a Mother can know.

FADE OUT:

Sequence 002 "THE TREE STAR"

FADE IN: FIVE YEARS LATER, WIDE SHOT, MEADOW FULL OF HERDS (LATE AFTERNOON)

ANGLE - THE APATOSAURUSES IN A COPSE OF DENUDED PINE TREES

THUNDERFOOT'S doting Mother and Grandparents are breaking off high branches with sparse sprigs of pine needles. THUNDERFOOT chews these like a kid eating spinach.

THUNDERFOOT
(chewing, mouth full)
Mother, is this all there is to eat?

MOTHER
I'm sorry, dear, the land has been changing.

ANGLE - WIDER SHOT

Mother moves into cathedral-like setting of non-pine trees. THUNDERFOOT follows.

MOTHER
(continued)
That is why we must walk as far as we can each day... until we reach the Great Valley.
(Gasp)
Thunderfoot... look, a tree star!

Mother extends her long neck up, reaching up into the apex of the arched trees, to reach for one lone leaf at the end of a barren branch. And what a leaf it is! It's large, star shaped and a bright luminescent green. Mother lays it gently at THUNDERFOOT'S feet.

THUNDERFOOT
(excited)
A tree star!

He happily rubs his face against it, nuzzles it, licks it, and thoroughly enjoys it.

CUT TO: TWO SHOT - GRANDPARENTS

They chuckle, bemused by the young Apatosaurus' delight.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT - MOTHER LEADS THUNDERFOOT AND GRANDPARENTS TOWARD THE SETTING SUN

MOTHER
The Great Valley is filled with green food like this. More than you could ever eat, and more fresh cool water than you could ever drink. It is a wonderful, beautiful place where we can live happily with many more of our own kind.

Sequence 002 "THE TREE STAR" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT
(awe inspired)
Gee! When will we get there?

WIDE SHOT

Mama leads THUNDERFOOT from the tree setting onward towards the glowing setting sun.

MOTHER
The bright circle must pass over us many times. And we must follow it... follow it each day to where it touches the ground.

CUT TO: TWO SHOT - 3/4 REAR MOTHER WITH THUNDERFOOT BELOW TAIL

THUNDERFOOT
Mother, have you ever seen the Great Valley?

MOTHER
No.

THUNDERFOOT screws up his face like a confused puppy.

THUNDERFOOT
Well... how do you know it's really there?

MOTHER
Some things you see with your eyes; others you see with your heart.

THUNDERFOOT
I don't understand, Mother.

MOTHER
(smiling)
You will.

She nudges the tree star leaf towards him (he'd almost forgotten about it). He opens his mouth wide to take a big healthy bite, but is suddenly distracted by a playful, female giggle (OFFSTAGE). It comes from behind a stand of reeds. THUNDERFOOT goes to investigate, poking his head through the reeds.

ANGLE - CLEARING - CERA TOPPS

She's a playful, tomboyish Triceratops, ready to charge anything and everything to take out her budding horns. Whenever she charges, she makes a distinctive battle cry. We will come to know it as her trademark. (When you hear it, look out! CERA's coming through!)

Sequence 002 "THE TREE STAR" (CONTINUED)

CERA
(battle cry)
Aaargh!

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

CERA charges her sisters from behind, knocking them over. THUNDERFOOT reacts gleefully as he observes this aggressive personality - what a great playmate - he thinks.

CUT TO: TWO SHOT AS CERA BUTTS INTO HER FATHER'S SNOUT

She is attracted by a small furry prehistoric insect and bounds playfully after it. The bug is dodging this way and that. CERA pursues, allowing nothing to distract her, crashing right through rocks, knocking herself dizzy. But she does not give up. At last she corners it against a rock. The bug flips around, raises its tail, and squirts a yellow liquid right into CERA'S face.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP - THUNDERFOOT AT REEDS

THUNDERFOOT giggles at CERA'S predicament.

THUNDERFOOT
(giggles)

CUT TO: MEDIUM CLOSE UP - CERA

CERA stares right at him, then smiles broadly. Charge!

CUT TO: REEDS

THUNDERFOOT has emerged from reeds. This is fun! Now THUNDERFOOT charges CERA, emitting a yell of his own.

THUNDERFOOT
(screams)

CUT TO: DADDY TOPPS AND MAMA TOPPS

They are startled by an unfamiliar battle cry. They look in CERA'S and THUNDERFOOT's direction. Papa wheels and begins to run in their direction.

CUT TO: TWO SHOT - 3/4 ANGLE - CHILDREN

Children heading directly towards one another. Just before THUNDERFOOT reaches CERA, his eyes go wide and he skids frantically to a stop. Daddy Topps has entered scene, stopping between the two charging children. His huge, ugly, sour face is glowering down. THUNDERFOOT skitters backward, tripping over his own tail. Daddy just nudges CERA away.

DADDY TOPPS
Come, Cera, three-horns never play with long-necks.

Sequence 002 "THE TREE STAR" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: MEDIUM CLOSE UP - CERA AT PAPA'S FEET

CERA defiantly sticks her tongue out at THUNDERFOOT, spitting out raspberry noises, as she aggressively forces THUNDERFOOT to retreat.

CERA
(raspberry noises)

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

Before she becomes more obnoxious, Daddy Topps and Mama Apatosaurus separate the children by lifting them by their tails, high into the air, and walking in opposite directions.

CUT TO: MEDIUM CLOSE UP - MAMA WITH THUNDERFOOT

THUNDERFOOT
(to himself)
Long-neck?

THUNDERFOOT, dangling by his tail, pulls himself up onto Mama's head.

THUNDERFOOT
(to Mother)
Mother... what's a long-neck?

MOTHER
Why... that's what we are, dear.

THUNDERFOOT
Ooh.
(Pause)
Why can't I play with that three-horn? We were having fun.

CUT TO: 3/4 REAR

Mother with THUNDERFOOT on head, continues in direction of setting sun.

MOTHER
Well, we all keep to ourselves... the three-horns, the spike-tails, the swimmers, the flyers... we never do anything together.

THUNDERFOOT
Why?

CUT TO: DOWN SHOT (VERTICAL PAN)

Looking down on THUNDERFOOT, Mother and Grandparents as they trek onward towards the Great Valley. We PAN up to reveal a red, setting sun.

Sequence 002 "THE TREE STAR" (CONTINUED)

MOTHER

Well... because we're different.

THUNDERFOOT

Why?

MOTHER

(laugh)

Don't worry. When we reach the Great Valley, there will be many, many long-necks for you to play with.

THUNDERFOOT

(bored)

I wish we were there now.

MOTHER

Well, it's a long way yet... past the great rock that looks like a long-neck and past the mountains that burn... a very long way. Once there you'll hardly remember the journey.

As she says this, in background, six different species of dinosaur travel toward the sun together.

FADE OUT:

Sequence 003 "FROG IN THE MUD"

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT, MOTHER AND GRANDPARENTS

A dragonfly enters in the camera and flies quickly over to THUNDERFOOT who is sleeping beside his Mother. He is using his special tree star as a pillow. We hear the ribbet of a frog. The dragonfly flutters too close to the frog; he snaps up the dragonfly, hops immediately in front of THUNDERFOOT, and begins chewing the insect in his face. The frog then leaps over THUNDERFOOT and disappears out of frame. Intrigued by this odd-looking critter, THUNDERFOOT jumps off to give chase.

ANGLE THUNDERFOOT AND FROG

The frog has landed and curious THUNDERFOOT enters behind him. Suddenly CERA comes between THUNDERFOOT and his quarry, objecting.

CERA
Go away, that's my hopper!

THUNDERFOOT
I saw him first.

CERA
He's in my pond.

CERA wheels around and chases after the hopper. Skidding down a muddy slope into a marsh, CERA bumps into the hopper, who disappears into the muddy water. THUNDERFOOT slides down the same slope and collides with CERA.

EXT. MARSH

The frog disappears below the swampy surface. A bubble erupts with a "ribbet". CERA goes splashing into the water attacking the bubble. It bursts. A few feet away, another large bubble erupts. (Each successive bubble is accompanied by a "ribbet.") CERA dives after the bubbles, making a frolicking game of it. THUNDERFOOT watches a moment before leaping into the swamp to join her. The frog peers up from below the surface and we see his face reflected through one of the bubbles. As the bubble inflates, the view of the Frog's face stretches, growing more and more distorted until it pops.

The two young dinosaurs leap about in the mud. Popping the bubbles, flashing, having a great deal of fun. They chase the frog into the far side of the swamp where they are hidden in the shade of an enormous tree.

Sequence 003 "FROG IN THE MUD" (CONTINUED)

EXT. WIDE ANGLE - ENORMOUS HOLLOW TREE

On the edge of the swamp, a dark shadow falls across the rock as the oblivious youngsters continue to play. The shadow grows bigger, more ominous. We hear a bellowing roar.

Sequence 004 "TYRANNOSAURUS ATTACK"

CUT TO: THE SWAMP FLOOR

ANGLE - CLOSE UP - REX'S FOOT

The Rex's foot splashes down into the mud, shaking the earth as a deafening roar cuts across the swamp and into the ears of the children.

CUT TO: TWO SHOT - THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

The children panic as they feel the vibration and hear the approaching Rex. The frog game is over. CERA and THUNDERFOOT look around in terror for the location of the beast.

CUT TO: LOW ANGLE - SWAMP - REX'S FEET

He is coming towards them with pounding strides.

CUT TO: UPSHOT - DECAYING TREE

The massive head of the predator smashes the tree under which the children are hiding.

CUT TO: LOW ANGLE - BENEATH TREE

The youngsters cry out and begin to splash through the swamp as fast as their clumsy feet will take them. Reverse! Run! The foot of the Rex crushes into the swamp.

ANGLE - DOWN SHOT

The twosome scramble into the hollow tree.

ANGLE

Now inside the hollow tree, CERA and THUNDERFOOT search among the brittle branches for safety.

ANGLE - UPSHOT - INSIDE HOLLOW TREE

The eye, that horrible eye, is peering down from above. They're discovered! The entire head splits the tree apart as gaping jaws snap down upon them.

ANGLE - BASE OF HOLLOW TREE

CERA and THUNDERFOOT fall into swamp mud, first THUNDERFOOT, then CERA.

ANGLE - TREE BRAMBLES - 3/4 DOWN SHOT

CERA and THUNDERFOOT spot a small opening in the thicket that could provide a refuge from the still-advancing Rex.

Sequence 004 "TYRANNOSAURUS ATTACK" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT (PAN RIGHT)

The Rex is right on their heels. No sooner have the children entered the brambles, than the Rex's head smashes through, ripping, tearing, splitting hot breath on THUNDERFOOT'S tail.

ANGLE - MEDIUM CLOSE UP - THUNDERFOOT

Caught in the thorns, he tugs to free himself. Snap! He lunges forward releasing the branch, unwittingly letting it snap right into the Rex's eye.

Blackness, momentarily, fills the screen as we hear the Rex's enraged shriek of pain and surprise.

ANGLE - UPSHOT - THE REX

Now more furious than ever, he dives at the brambles and begins ripping them away, hell-bent on revenge. After a few beats, he realizes he has lost the kids. He straightens up and gazes around. His wounded eye is already swollen shut. He takes a moment to think, to consider his next move. He slowly stalks through the brambles, sniffing and sleuthing about.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Cowering in the thicket; they are under the densest part of the brush. The shadow of the Rex falls over them.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP ON REX

He is getting closer and closer to the camouflaged kids, but has not yet spotted them.

ANGLE - CLOSE UP - THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Trembling, struggling to avoid detection, CERA begins running silently to a deeper part of the brambles. THUNDERFOOT chases after.

ANGLE - THE REX

Tipped off to their whereabouts, he becomes fully enraged once more. He dives back into the bramble, ripping it away, exposing the children, and moves in for the kill, when suddenly... Whap! He gets his upside the head by THUNDERFOOT'S Mother's whiplike tail. He reels off balance.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Race out of danger, as they spot Mother, and run to safety beneath her legs.

CUT TO:

Sequence 004.1 "THE FIGHT"

CUT TO: MEDIUM SHOT

A stunned Rex, on his back, against a large boulder. Enraged he gets up and turns his attention to THUNDERFOOT'S Mother.

ANGLE - THREE SHOT - MOTHER, THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Mother warns THUNDERFOOT

MOTHER
Run, Thunderfoot!

CUT TO: ONCOMING REX

Charging toward the Mother Apatosaurus, eager for a worthy opponent, confident of the kill.

ANGLE - TWO SHOT - MOTHER AND REX

Squaring off to do battle. The Rex lunges. Mother dodges him by rearing up.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Avoid being crushed under Mother's feet as she recovers from the parlay.

ANGLE - REX

Once again, he lunges at mother. His gaping jaws snap shut.

ANGLE - TWO SHOT - MOTHER AND REX

Again, Mother dodges, sidestepping and slapping with her tail.

ANGLE - REX

Crashes against the cliff with a thud, and explosion of rocks.

CUT TO: LOW ANGLE - AT MOTHER'S RUNNING FEET

CERA and THUNDERFOOT run beneath mother to escape the grisly beast.

ANGLE - UPSHOT - THE REX

Leaps high into the air to catch his prey on her back. (He intends to bite into the neck.)

CUT TO: CLOSE UP - MOTHER

Reacts to the death bite. Much of the ensuing fight is played out in darting silhouettes against the canyon wall.

Sequence 004.1 "THE FIGHT" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: TWO SHOT - CERA AND THUNDERFOOT

Reacting to the Rex on Mother's back. The shadow of this horror is seen on the wall of the cliffs behind them. Children run off as Mother enters scene escaping from Rex, and crashes through several rock barriers. Rex in hot pursuit. Mother gets in another good blow with her tail. Rex crashes to the ground, impact causing a tidal wave of mud.

CUT TO: MEDIUM SHOT - CHILDREN

Mud wave carries the two to the foot of the Rex.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

Once again, the dinosaurs square off. The Rex's jaw bends down towards the earth.

CUT TO: ANGLE - LOW

CERA and THUNDERFOOT duck into a crevice to avoid the Rex's gaping mouth as it passes over.

CUT TO: ANGLE - MOTHER

Renewed in her will to protect her son, Mother hits the Rex in the belly, knocking him down, fully.

ANGLE - MOTHER, CERA AND THUNDERFOOT

Scramble through a canyon to escape.

CUT TO:

Sequence 004A "THE EARTHQUAKE"

CUT TO: ANGLE - CLOSE - GROUND LEVEL

The earth begins to shake. Slowly, at first, but rapidly building into a reverberating rumble. A small crack opens - then grows; then change into a large fissure, ripping the earth open. Rocks and plants fall into the expanding pit. The noise is overwhelming.

ANGLE - MEDIUM CLOSE UP - CERA AND THUNDERFOOT

Hiding among the rocks, react with a different terror now.

ANGLE - REX

Has abandoned his quarry. He is afraid for his own life. He whirls around to see what is happening. Suddenly, a giant column of rock explodes in front of him, startling the beast, knocking him off kilter. All around him, the earth is cracking, breaking up and falling away.

ANGLE - CERA AND THUNDERFOOT

Running, trying to find someplace to hide.

ANOTHER ANGLE - WIDER

The Rex is bearing down on them, no longer giving chase, but simply trying to escape the dissolving earth. He is thundering closer to the kids like a steaming locomotive. In an attempt to get past them, the Rex nearly punts the fleeing children.

ANGLE - CLOSER ON THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Another piece of land erupts sending them backwards onto the Rex's foot. The terrified kids find themselves trapped on their enemy's toes as a burst of steam comes out of the ground, and then explodes in another major rupture.

ANOTHER ANGLE - WIDER

The spewing steam and cracking land send the trio of dinosaurs sliding backward down the newly formed embankment. All three of them are slipping and skidding, in grave danger of being dropped into a deep, dark canyon.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Spilled to the very edge of the precipice - heading for certain death. The Rex is sliding towards them. At the last instant, his tail shoots between their legs; they have no choice but to climb up on it to keep from getting dumped into the dark void. Boulders and rocks tumble and bounce around them. It is only luck that keeps them from being crushed.

Sequence 004A "THE EARTHQUAKE" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: CLOSE UP - REX

Skidding, backwards, trying to hold on, clawing and scrambling, fighting for his life.

CUT TO: THUNDERFOOT'S MOTHER

Painfully lifting her head from a rock, listening to the terrified screams of THUNDERFOOT and CERA.

CUT TO: THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Scampering up the Rex's body to once again cheat death. They leap over his head. A shower of rocks rains down on them. They land in front of the Rex's jaws. It seems certain he will devour them this time, when... Whap! The Mother's tail comes to their rescue.

ANGLE - WIDER

The Rex tumbles into the air, sending the children sailing up also. The three of them are destined to fall into the treacherous canyon, when Mother's head comes into frame and snatches the two kids out of midair.

ANGLE - THE REX

Falling head over heels into the canyon. There is nothing for him to grab onto, nothing to break his fall. He tumbles down, down, down, into the blackness, screeching as he goes.

CUT TO: THE OTHER SPECIES OF DINOSAURS

Fleeing for their lives, trying to get to someplace where the earth isn't trembling.

ANGLE - CERA

Running to rejoin her family, she races toward them, when a brand new crack opens in the land. She skids to a halt to keep from getting dropped into the crevice.

WIDE SHOT - THE AREA

Devastated by the quake. The ever-expanding canyon separates the majority of the herds from the few remaining on the side with THUNDERFOOT and Mother. The devastation and destruction is cataclysmic. Everyone seems slightly stunned, smoke and steam are rising all around, as the jostling slowly subsides.

CUT TO:

Sequence 005 "DEATH OF MOTHER"

ANGLE - CLOSE UP - THUNDERFOOT

Finally, the earth has stopped trembling; gradually, the aftershocks subside. An unsettling silence blankets the area. Smoke rises out of burning crevices in the tattered landscape. Angry looking clouds slam together in the black sky, startling THUNDERFOOT. Looking around, he realizes he is all alone. Neither CERA or his Mother are anywhere in sight. It begins to rain. THUNDERFOOT cries out in a panic.

THUNDERFOOT
Mother? Mother... where are you?

His own voice comes echoing back to him, bouncing off the mountain walls. He begins to run, carefully making his way through the devastation and fallen debris.

THUNDERFOOT
Mother!?

He runs around a tremendous boulder and stops, horrified.

ANGLE - MOTHER- THUNDERFOOT'S POV

Through a veil of falling rain, we see she is stretched out on her side. Her breath comes in deep, wheezing gasps and her eyes are closed...

ANGLE - WIDER

THUNDERFOOT cautiously moves toward her, his eyes are wide with fear. He steps closer until they are practically nose to nose, and speaks in a frightened whisper.

ANGLE - CLOSE UP - THUNDERFOOT AND MOTHER

THUNDERFOOT
(frightened whisper)
Mother?

Mother tries to answer; the only sound that escapes from her parched lips is a rasping wheeze.

MOTHER
(wheezing)
(weak breathing)

THUNDERFOOT
(whispered)
Mother, please... get up.

MOTHER
(weak and wheezing)
I'm... not sure I can, Thunderfoot.

THUNDERFOOT
(frightened, pleading whisper)
Yes you can.

Sequence 005 "DEATH OF MOTHER" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

Mother struggles in an attempt to get up, but collapses from lack of strength. There is a sustained frenzy of lightning. The rain comes down even harder.

MOTHER

(weak and wheezing)

Dear little Thunderfoot. Do you remember... the way to the Great Valley?

In the driving rain, we can only see them clearly during flashes of lightning.

ANGLE - CLOSE UP - THUNDERFOOT

THUNDERFOOT

I guess so. But why do I have to know? You're going to be with me.

MOTHER

(O.S.)

I'll be with you... even if you can't see me

THUNDERFOOT

That's silly. I can always see you.

MOTHER

I'll be in your heart Thunderfoot. Let your heart guide you, it whispers, so listen carefully.

No answer. Lightning flashes. THUNDERFOOT moves towards Mother offstage.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

Through veil of pouring rain, THUNDERFOOT gets close to Mother.

THUNDERFOOT

(whispered)

Mother?... Mother?

As he moves away, Mother disappears into the rain. THUNDERFOOT stops by the foot tracks of his Mother, as he does so, the falling rain washes them away.

FADE OUT:

5 June 1987 - 20A

Sequence 005A "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT"

Thunderfoot trudges down a steep sand hill crying his heart out. He stumbles and then tumbles to the bottom of the hill, finally landing on a large, strange, spiked rock. Our little Dino is mad at himself and the whole world. He kicks a small rock, which bounces off one of the spikes and hits him in the head. This really makes him angry and he stamps his feet on the rock in frustration. Suddenly the rock lifts up and becomes a very old spiked, turtle-like Dino, named "Rooter."

ROOTER

Hey, what's going on here... hey?

Thunderfoot is so surprised that he falls off Rooter's back. The larger Dino comes over and begins to sniff Thunderfoot, much like a hog sniffing up truffles. Thunderfoot begins to cry again.

ROOTER

My, my, my... you thinkin' about startin' a river?

THUNDERFOOT

It's not fair! She should have known better that Rex was a Sharptooth. It's all her fault.

ROOTER

Who's fault, hey?

THUNDERFOOT

Mother's...

(he begins to sob)

What am I going to do without her?

ROOTER

Oh, I see...

(sad)

... I see

THUNDERFOOT

Why did I wander so far from home?

ROOTER

It was not your fault. It was not your Mother's fault. Now you pay attention to old Rooter.

Thunderfoot stops crying.

THUNDERFOOT

Yes... but...

5 June 1987 - 20B

ROOTER

It is nobody's fault. The great circle of life has a beginning. But you see, not all of us arrive together at the end.

THUNDERFOOT

What will I do? I miss her so much.

ROOTER

And you will always miss her. But she will always be with you too, as long as you remember the things she taught you. In a way you will never be apart, for you are still part of each other.

THUNDERFOOT

My tummy hurts

ROOTER

That too will go in time, little one... Only in time....

(COULD BE LONGER?)

Rooter snorts, turns and lumbers off, leaving the sad little Thunderfoot alone.

Sequence 006 "LITTLE BOY LOST"

CLOSE - ON A LONE BERRY

Hanging from the branch of a tree. A baby Pterodactyl flies into frame and plucks the berry, losing his balance, and tumbling backward onto a branch.

ANGLE - WIDER

Other baby Pterodactyls appear. They all become engaged in mischievous games of hide-and-seek and tag, jostling for control of the berry. In a lineup, the first Dac heads back into the hollow tree trunk, only to have the berry snatched from his hands by the Dac behind him, and so on, and so on, down to the last Dac in line, who was the original finder of the berry.

ANGLE - WIDER

We PAN with the baby Dac as he wanders past the entrance to the hollow tree trunk, down onto the ground near THUNDERFOOT. Seeing THUNDERFOOT's sadness, the baby Dac, in sympathy, offers his treasured berry to the despondent dinosaur. He pushes it closer and closer, in an attempt to get THUNDERFOOT to accept the gift. Leaving the berry behind, the baby Dac wanders off.

CUT TO: EXTERIOR - DESERT - BIRD'S EYE VIEW

A shimmering, dew-covered tree star flows gently on the breeze, finding its way down among the monoliths, searching for the tiny dinosaur, lost and alone. The spirit of Mother comes to remind THUNDERFOOT of his promise to her.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT

Snuggling in the impression of one of Mother's large footprints. He misses her. He doesn't understand where she has gone. Suddenly, the area is illuminated as the tree star comes to rest in the print near him.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT

Is glad to see the leaf. As he approaches it, he sees his reflection in its shiny surface formed by droplets of dew. He looks up and the clouds form themselves into a shape which reminds him of his Mother. The precious gift stirs his memory to recall his Mother's parting words:

MOTHER

(O.S. whispered with wind effect)

Dear little Thunderfoot, do you remember the way to the Great Valley? Follow the bright circle past the great rock that looks like a long-neck... and past the mountains that burn.

Sequence 006 "LITTLE BOY LOST" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE – WIDE – THUNDERFOOT

Picks up the leaf and turns to walk into the sun.

MOTHER

(O.S. whispered with wind effect)

I'll be in your heart, Thunderfoot. Let your heart guide you... it whispers.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE – MEDIUM SHOT – THUNDERFOOT

Atop a rock, gazing at a mountain wall. His shadow appears on the wall, looming large enough to make him momentarily believe it's his Mother. He happily races off the rock towards the shadow, remembering his Mother. But as he approaches the mountain wall, the shadow shrinks, until it is his size. He licks it, rubs against it (like a kitten). He then realizes it is only his shadow. After a time, he reverently picks up the tree star, and with a longing glance back, sets off in the direction of the setting sun.

CUT TO:

Sequence 006.1 "CERA AND THUNDERFOOT AT CANYON RIM"

EXTERIOR – CANYON RIM – DUSK

This is a distinctive setting that we will recognize when we see it again later. As the lengthening shadows of late afternoon fall across his back, THUNDERFOOT plots along the shattered landscape, glancing from time to time across the vast canyon. Up ahead, some movement attracts his attention.

ANGLE – CERA

Just about to start down a steeply, sloping fissure in the side of the canyon. THUNDERFOOT rushes up to her.

THUNDERFOOT
Hello

CERA
(snaps)
What do you want?!

THUNDERFOOT
(drawing back)
I don't know, where are you going?

CERA
I'm going to find my own kind. They're on the other side.

ANGLE – UPSHOT – CERA AND THUNDERFOOT

THUNDERFOOT
I've looked all over here. You can't climb up the other side.

She frowns. She doesn't want to hear it, and she shouldn't be talking to a long-neck anyway.

CERA
Maybe you can't.

She starts down, but THUNDERFOOT doesn't want to be left alone.

THUNDERFOOT
Wait! I'm going to the Great Valley! We could help each other.

ANGLE – DOWNSHOT – THUNDERFOOT AND CERA

Sequence 006.1 "CERA AND THUNDERFOOT AT CANYON RIM" (CONTINUED)

CERA
(haughty)

A three-horn doesn't need help from a long-neck.

ANGLE – CERA

Loses her footing and slides, screaming, down into the darkness of the canyon. The remaining dialogue between the two kids is shouted.

THUNDERFOOT
(shouts)

I... well... at least we wouldn't be alone...

She ponders it. (She is lonely.) But:

CERA
(shouts with echo)

Well... when I find my sisters... I won't be alone... so go away! Three-horns can be very dangerous.

She exits into the darkness of the canyon

ANGLE – RIM OF CANYON – THUNDERFOOT

Alone, he watches unhappily until she is out of sight. We PULL back to a long shot of a tiny, lonely figure of THUNDERFOOT moving towards the setting sun.

RIPPLE OUT:

Sequence 006A "THUNDERFOOT MEETS DUCKY"

RIPPLE IN:

ANGLE - UNDERWATER

A dancing shadow across the rocky bottom of a pond denotes a small creature is swimming just above. Preceded by a cluster of bubbles, the dark silhouette of a baby Anatosaurus enters and probes the bottom for food. Suddenly, she turns on hearing THUNDERFOOT's offstage sad, animal sounds. Swimming quickly over and up to him, she sees his face, wobbly and distorted from below the surface of the water.

ANGLE - THE SURFACE OF THE POND

The water in front of THUNDERFOOT suddenly erupts as up pops a tiny Anatosaurus, DUCKY. She shakes her head to get the water out of her face, spraying THUNDERFOOT. She is younger than THUNDERFOOT, wide-eyed and innocent, very much a "little girl" in the way she acts and sounds.

DUCKY
Hello.

THUNDERFOOT ignores her. DUCKY paddles over so she is right in front of him, staring up.

DUCKY
I said hello.

THUNDERFOOT defensively raises his head and sniffs back his tears. DUCKY climbs up onto the shore, shaking to dry her body. After a beat, she scoots closer to him.

DUCKY
What is your name?

THUNDERFOOT stares at her blankly. Who is this cheery beast?

DUCKY
(cajoling)
Maybe you cannot talk yet. Huh? Huh?

THUNDERFOOT
(angrily)
Don't you know anything? Long-necks don't talk to... whatever you are.

She tries to make herself look like a long-neck as much as possible, stretching her neck out, then her tail.

DUCKY
Me? I am a long-neck, too. See? And I have long tail like you.

ANGLE - DUCKY'S POV - THUNDERFOOT

THUNDERFOOT frowns at DUCKY as if to say, "Who are you trying to kid?"

Sequence 006A "THUNDERFOOT MEETS DUCKY" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE - TWO SHOT - DUCKY AND THUNDERFOOT

THUNDERFOOT shakes his head, picks up his tree star, puts it on his head and walks away. DUCKY anxiously follows, trying to walk on all fours like him. THUNDERFOOT turns and stares at her disdainfully. She shrinks back and stares up at him with big sad eyes.

DUCKY

All right. I am not a long-neck. I am a big-mouth. But I am all alone, I am, I am.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP - DUCKY

DUCKY

I lost my family in the big earthquake.

She sits down in a pathetic heap. Her eyes fill with tears that she bravely sniffs back.

DUCKY

(sniffles)

THUNDERFOOT's heart sinks.

ANGLE - TWO SHOT

THUNDERFOOT

(softly)

You want to go with me?

DUCKY

Oh, yes, yes. I do.

She gratefully scoots up next to him.

THUNDERFOOT

All right, come on.

(sternly)

But you'll have to keep up.

WIDE SHOT - THUNDERFOOT AND DUCKY

Walk along ponds' edge, DUCKY scrambling to keep up. She has to take three steps, a run and a jump, to keep up with the much-larger THUNDERFOOT, but she quickly gets it down to a rhythm and doesn't seem to mind at all.

DUCKY

I will keep up. I will, I will. Where are we going? Huh? Huh?

THUNDERFOOT

To the Great Valley. I'm not going to stop until I find my grandparents.

Sequence 006A "THUNDERFOOT MEETS DUCKY" (CONTINUED)

WIDE SHOT

The two of them are silhouetted against the forest. Their dialogue trails off.

THUNDERFOOT
My name's Thunderfoot.

DUCKY
Mine is Ducky. Yep, that is what it is. Yep, yep, yep.
(Pause)
Do you think my family went to the Great Valley, too? Huh? Huh?

THUNDERFOOT
(distant)
Maybe. My mother said, it's where all the herds were going.

DUCKY
(distant)
Oh, I hope, I hope, I hope.

CUT TO:

Sequence 006B "CERA IN THE CANYON"

ANGLE - CERA

Screaming, she has lost her footing. She is toppling down toward camera, rocks crumbling all around her. After somersaulting across the floor of the crater, she bangs her head into the far wall, rather abruptly. CERA doesn't usually moan when she butts things with her head. She is built for such stuff, but this one hurts.

CERA
(moans)

She looks up, it is a sheer, clay cliff, rising fifty feet straight up. She backs off, paces in a small circle and looks upward again, trying to figure some way to get up that foreboding wall. After a beat, she charges at it and butts her head into the clay. Bits of earth dislodge and tumble down around her. CERA scampers up the newly-formed ramp. The climb is too much: stones give way once again, and she tumbles to the bottom of the ramp.

CUT TO: INTERIOR NARROW PASSAGEWAY (DOWN SHOT)

CERA is wandering among jagged monoliths of stone that litter the canyon floor. Water dribbles down walls and plinks into puddles, creating eerie echoes. We are getting to see the frightened, vulnerable CERA with her mask of bravado dropped: she flinches at each sound, and quivers at each odd echo.

Sequence 006C "THUNDERFOOT AND DUCKY MEET PETRIE"

EXT. DRY LAKE BED NEXT DAY

THUNDERFOOT and DUCKY are crossing a dry lake bed, dotted with straggly palm trees. Both are playing a game of hopscotch trying not to step in the cracks in the dry mud.

DUCKY
My stomach is talking.

THUNDERFOOT
Mine too. I wonder what this tastes like?

THUNDERFOOT bites down on the bough of a palm tree. Tugging away hoping to dislodge it, but with each tug, to his and DUCKY's surprise, the tree squeaks. In fact, the more he pulls at it, the more it squeaks.

TREE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Hey!)

DUCKY
The tree is talking

THUNDERFOOT
No it isn't.
(through clenched teeth, branch in mouth)

DUCKY
You should not eat talking trees, nope, nope.

He makes one last tug to dislodge the bough. Suddenly a small creature slides down the bough and into THUNDERFOOT's face. The little critter lets out a loud squawk which frightens THUNDERFOOT and he lets go of the bough. There is a flutter of wings mixed with yelps as the little beast crashes and disappears into a hole in the ground. Curious DUCKY peeks into the hole. There, beat, battered and bedraggled is one ruddy little Pterodactyl: PETRIE.

DUCKY
Who are you?

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(My name Petrie)

DUCKY
Petrie, huh? Funny name!
(giggles)

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Flied?)

Sequence 006C "THUNDERFOOT AND DUCKY MEET PETRIE" (CONTINUED)

DUCKY
No, you falled.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(That no landing, I no fly, I fall.)

DUCKY
You cannot fly? How did you get way up there? Huh? Huh?

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(I climb.)

THUNDERFOOT
But you are a flier, not a faller.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Hard thing to fly.)

THUNDERFOOT
I guess it is. We can't do it.

DUCKY
(giggles - tries to flap her arms)
Nope, we cannot do that alright!

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(You ever try it?)

DUCKY
No, I never fly, I'm a swimmer! Yep! Yep!

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(mocking DUCKY)
(I'm a swimmer.)
[makes raspberry sound]

CUT TO:

Sequence 007 "CERA AND THE EYE OF THE REX"

EXT. THE BOTTOM OF THE CANYON

CERA is winding deeper and deeper into the bowels of the fissure, craggy stalagmites are around her. Far above, dark clouds blot out the sun until all CERA can really see are spooky half-glimpses of the surrounding area.

CLOSE ON CERA

Almost in total darkness, she collides with something on the canyon floor and quickly backs off: What the heck was that?

ANGLE - THE SKY

Ominous clouds blow past the sun.

ANGLE - THE CANYON FLOOR

Spears of sunlight illuminate the area where CERA stands.

ANGLE - THE REX - CERA'S POV

His massive outstretched form is in front of her. Is he dead or merely sleeping?

ANGLE - CERA AND THE REX

She stands gaping: after a beat, she timidly begins to sniff around him. We see the wounds and scars from his battle with THUNDERFOOT'S Mother. All indications are that Rex is dead. CERA suddenly inflates with her old cockiness, convinced he's no longer a threat. She backs up a few paces and charges at Rex's head, stopping just inches from his one good eye. After pausing to get her nerve up, she backs up and charges a second time... and then stops in front of his face once more. She backs up again, digging in, determined. She charges, faster and more furious than ever. She lowers her head to ram Rex in the face but then raises her gaze. She comes to a sudden, screeching halt.

ANGLE - REX'S HEAD - CERA'S POV

She can see herself reflected in the eyeball of Rex's now-opened eye.

ANGLE - WIDER

Rex is alive! Fighting hysteria, CERA pivots and goes racing out of that crevice just as fast as her stubby little legs will take her.

ANGLE

Just as she is exiting, the Rex's massive tail slams down between us and CERA. We are not sure if she got out or not.

Sequence 007A "THE TREK"

EXT. DRIED LANDSCAPES WITH DEAD TREES

Little PETRIE is overwhelmed from trying to keep up. His wings are useless and his legs are too small to run very fast. He zips up on to THUNDERFOOT's tail and scoots to his head and disappears under the tree star.

THUNDERFOOT
Hey! Petrie! Get off!

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Oh, nice flat head, Flathead!)

THUNDERFOOT
My name is not Flathead. My name is Thunderfoot.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Thunderfoot?)

THUNDERFOOT
Are you just going to stay up there?

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Yes.)

THUNDERFOOT
You can't... You're tearing my tree star!

DUCKY
It is very special, his mother gave it to him. She did, she did.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
[very impressed]
(Ooooooh!)

He yanks the leaf out from under himself and quickly rolls it up into a scroll, and tucks it under his wing.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(I keep it safes.)

DUCKY
(giggles)
Yes, Petrie, you keep it safe. Yep, yep, yep.

Sequence 007A "THE TREK" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT

No! No! No! I'm not a carrier, get off! You're a flyer, now start flying.

THUNDERFOOT begins to run. Scared little PETRIE hangs on for dear life. He makes a pathetic attempt at flapping his wings.

DUCKY

Open your wings Petrie! Open! Open!

Terrified, PETRIE extends only the wing tips. Although he is at air speed, he won't let go of THUNDERFOOT's head.

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Me no can fly. Stop! Stop!)

THUNDERFOOT

(panting)
You can fly! Let go!

DUCKY

(running - panting)
Up, Petrie! Higher! Higher!

PETRIE begins squawking loudly. Suddenly there is a screaming sound off in the dark. It is another animal in pain or equally frightened. The sound grows closer and closer, PETRIE stops flapping and points off to the darkness in front of them.

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Danger!)

DUCKY

(panting)
Danger? Where Petrie? Where?

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE,
(There... ahead!)

THUNDERFOOT with PETRIE on his head races up inside of the skeleton of a dead dinosaur, spins around and begins running back in the opposite direction. Suddenly there is a collision with another animal. THUNDERFOOT, DUCKY and PETRIE slide to a stop. Everything goes quiet. They look around to find CERA trembling, frightened and out of breath.

THUNDERFOOT

(panting)
Cera.... What happened? Why are you so frightened?

Sequence 007A "THE TREK" (CONTINUED)

CERA pretends to be calm and unconcerned.

CERA
(panting)
Frightened?! Me? Why are you so frightened?

THUNDERFOOT
(still panting slightly)
We're not frightened.

CERA
(panting slightly)
Well you should be. I could be with other three-horns, but I chose to come back and warn you... I met the Sharptooth.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
((yells) Sharptooths!!)

THUNDERFOOT
(matter-of-factly)
Sharptooth is dead. He fell down into the big underground.

CERA shifts into hushed overly-dramatic tones.

CERA
And that's where he met me.

DUCKY
Dear brave Cera.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Cera so brave.)

CERA
Yes I am brave.

THUNDERFOOT
(insisting)
Sharptooth is dead!

CERA
(angrily)
My father told me that flatheads had very small brains!
(mysterious - to others - tone of voice)
I was alone in the dark! Just the Sharptooth and me! I could hear him breathing.
(imitates sound)
I could see his one big ugly eye looking for me.
(imitates action)

Sequence 007A "THE TREK" (CONTINUED)

DUCKY
What did you do? Huh?

CERA
I walked right up to him... I looked him straight in the eye and said... (fierce growl sound) aaaarrhh!

CERA pounces forward as she screams landing on a rock upon which DUCKY unfortunately has been standing. The rock is resting, teeter-totter fashion... "ZIP!" The poor little creature is suddenly catapulted high into the air and disappears into the bush.

Sequence 008 "SPIKE'S BIRTH"

ANGLE - BOTTOM OF THE HILL

An area ringed with high, dry reeds. DUCKY skids into an abandoned dinosaur nest, colliding with a large, speckled egg... the last unhatched one. There are the remains of several hatched eggs scattered around it. She stares at the egg; SNORING is coming from inside. DUCKY gets up and scoots once around the egg, inspecting it from all angles. The egg begins to rock and then tilts up on end as, from inside, we hear YAWNING and STRETCHING sounds.

CLOSE - ON THE EGG

THUMP. SMACK. A maze of cracks appear at the egg's crown. And then all is still again.

DUCKY comes closer and raps lightly on the egg.

DUCKY

Hello? You should come out, you should. You are late. Yes, you are. Yep, yep, yep.

We hear another YAWN from inside then the SNORING starts again. A chunk of the top comes off of the shell, revealing the sleepy head of SPIKE, a baby Stegosaurus. One heavy-lidded eye opens briefly to gaze at her. His expression is serene and dreamy.

DUCKY

Come out. You are all alone. Are you not scared? Huh? Huh?

He smiles and shakes his head. She peels away the rest of his egg. He just sort of spills out, rolling comfortably over onto his side.

DUCKY

(proud)

We are going to the Great Valley. You can go with us. Yes, you can. You are a spike-tail, so we will call you Spike. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

He nods and drifts off to sleep. DUCKY is perplexed. How do you motivate this character? She looks around. Among the reeds are a few drying berries. She grabs one and waves it under SPIKE's nose.

DUCKY

Are you hungry? Huh? Huh?

SPIKE perks up, rolling to his feet as though in a trance. He takes a few steps, hungrily following the berry.

Sequence 008 "SPIKE'S BIRTH" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT
(voice-over calling out)
Ducky, where are you?

THUNDERFOOT and PETRIE enter. DUCKY points proudly at SPIKE who takes advantage of the moment to grab the berry from her hand and gulps it down.

DUCKY
Look what I found! This is my new friend Spike. Can we take him with us?! Huh? Huh?

THUNDERFOOT
Sure.

CERA
(emphatically)
NO! He'll slow us down. All spike-tails can do is eat and burp. The Sharptooth will catch up... and eat us.

THUNDERFOOT
No more dumb stories.

CERA
(through gritted teeth)
I'm telling the truth!

EXT. - MESA - LATER

Our gang is moving on. PETRIE, with tree star, is perched atop THUNDERFOOT's head. DUCKY is riding on THUNDERFOOT's swinging tail, holding out a bramble branch covered with berries as an inducement to keep the sleepy SPIKE moving.

CLOSER - ON SPIKE AND DUCKY

As THUNDERFOOT's tail swishes back and forth, DUCKY swings from side to side on it, forcing SPIKE to trot one way and then the other in his bid to get one good bite of the berry branch.

Sequence 008A "WATER DROP TO OASIS"

ANGLE - SINGLE DROPLET OF WATER

Which drips to join other droplets streaming down off a prehistoric plan to form a tiny puddle, then a streamlet, and finally, a little brook. We hear THUNDERFOOT discussing the water offstage.

THUNDERFOOT
(offstage)

Tree stars grow where there's lots of water. If we follow this water....

We see all of the children far below in a valley near the brook. THUNDERFOOT sniffs at the water as PETRIE slides down his head to see his own reflection.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(No green foods here, and I still hungry.)

DUCKY
I'm still hungry too. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

THUNDERFOOT
Can you smell something?

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(I smell... I smell... (sniff sniff)... Ducky.)

DUCKY
(embarrassed)
...you smell me?

THUNDERFOOT
I smell water... I smell... tree stars!

THUNDERFOOT raises his head to full height, to see through an opening in the boulders. In the valley below is a cluster of beautiful green trees.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(The Great Valley!)

DUCKY
The Great Valley!

CERA
(exuberantly)
I found it! I found it! The Great Valley!

Sequence 008A "WATER DROP TO OASIS" (CONTINUED)

CERA begins running down the ravine with THUNDERFOOT calling after her.

THUNDERFOOT

The Great Valley? But we haven't seen the long-neck rock yet, or the mountains that burn.

CERA

I found it! I found it!

THUNDERFOOT

Cera, stop it!

CERA

I found it! I found it!

Suddenly, we hear RUMBLING; the earth starts to tremble. Everyone looks around in panic.

ANGLE - A BIG CLOUD

Is descending on the oasis. We don't know what it is, but it's moving in fast.

ANGLE - OASIS - A HERD OF DIPLODOCUS

Swoops down like monster locusts, devouring everything they can reach... and they can reach everything. Our little guys don't have a chance against these ravenous marauders. In minutes the oasis is decimated. The herd moves on, SMACKING their lips.

ANGLE - CERA

As she surveys the picked-clean ex-oasis. She's ticked off.

CERA

Look what they did! They're so greedy! What about me? I'm still hungry!

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.

(You hungry? I empty all the way to the top! Now we at the Great Valley and still not got green-foods. We be hungry forever!)

THUNDERFOOT

(reassuringly)

Petrie, Cera was wrong. This isn't the Great Valley.

Sequence 008A "WATER DROP TO OASIS" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE - SPIKE AND DUCKY

DUCKY

It is not a great anything. Nope, nope, nope.

Sequence 009 "THE PYRAMID"

ANGLE - INTERIOR OF THE EATEN TREES INT.

As the five children walk among the [trees], THUNDERFOOT spies one single tree that still [has] food very high up and out of reach.

THUNDERFOOT

Petrie, do you think you could fly up there and get that green food for us?

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.

(No. No. I can no fly.)

DUCKY

Petrie, do not feel sad. It is all right. Many things do not fly... Rocks, trees, sticks...*

* word to be added

THUNDERFOOT

I'm not tall enough by myself, but all of us might be...together.

THUNDERFOOT puts his front paws high up on the tree trunk. DUCKY scurries up to THUNDERFOOT's head to lift PETRIE on her shoulders. Upward the group stretches and strains to reach the delicious green food. Then the unexpected happens, SPIKE burrows under THUNDERFOOT's legs and lifts him onto his own shoulders. PETRIE, screams as the group zips upwards amongst the leaves. PETRIE, eyes clenched shut with fear, now blindly swats at the leaves around him, knocking only a few loose.

Hungry, SPIKE goes bug-eyed as a lone leaf flutters past his nose. Forgetting he's holding the others up, he staggers determinedly after it. The stack of dinosaurs sways over, PETRIE YELLING frantically. SPIKE spots another falling leaf and stumbles after it in the opposite direction. The dinosaur stack sways the other way.

As PETRIE passes the branch again, he grabs hold for dear life. DUCKY hangs onto PETRIE for the same reason. THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE CRASH to the ground.

Far above, PETRIE, eyes still clenched shut, dangles from the branch. DUCKY now dangles from PETRIE's feet. The branch cracks, swinging down. As it breaks loose, PETRIE ends up hanging from a single leaf. It snaps free and they plummet! PETRIE SCREAMS. At the last instant, THUNDERFOOT takes a deep breath and blows a gust of air upward. The leaf inflates like a parachute. As DUCKY's feet gently touch ground, PETRIE floats back down onto DUCKY's shoulders... and CRASH! Half the leaf-laden branch comes down around them.

Sequence 009 "THE PYRAMID" (CONTINUED)

PETRIE slowly, fearfully opens one eye, then the other, relieved to see he's safe. PETRIE proudly gestures to the foliage.

ANGLE - CERA

As she slowly comes to. She reacts as she sees.

WIDER - THE GROUP

The other dinosaurs happily eating their pile of leaves. THUNDERFOOT spots her.

THUNDERFOOT
Come on, Cera! We got green-food!

CERA
I can get my own green-food!

She emits her BATTLE CRY and starts stubbornly butting the tree again and again, trying to shake loose the remaining leaves. She only succeeds in making herself dizzier and dizzier, until she's wobbling around like a drunk.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT

How can he stop CERA without offending her? He gets an idea. Taking a tuft of leaves, he flings them high in the air just as CERA butts the tree again. The tuft lands next to her. She stares at it woozily and says drunkenly:

CERA
(continued:)
See? I can take care of myself, all-by-myself!

Still chewing on the leaves, CERA lies down a little way off and shouts back to the others:

CERA
And I'm not afraid to be alone... I'm not afraid of Sharptooth.
(dramatically)
I hope he doesn't eat any of you!

The little group all look at each other very worried.

THUNDERFOOT
Don't worry, there isn't any Sharptooth!

CUT TO:

Sequence 010 "THE SLEEPING BALLET"

CLOSE-UP - THUNDERFOOT ALONE

THUNDERFOOT is alone. SPIKE, DUCKY and PETRIE have left his side and are snuggling securely up to CERA just in case there is a Sharptooth and just in case he should return.

They sleep and a soft snore begins. THUNDERFOOT is alone and dejected.

THUNDERFOOT
(to himself)
There isn't any Sharptooth.

He hums a soft lullaby (the one his mother used to sing to him).

It is DUCKY who wakes first to the cacophonous racket of the group snoring. Lured by the melancholy of THUNDERFOOT's soft humming, she quickly (like sleepwalking) finds her way to his side and cuddles next to him. She is soon followed by PETRIE, then SPIKE.

ANGLE - CERA

Shivering, stubbornly trying to sleep alone. When she's sure the others are asleep, she creeps over to the group and cuddles up to them.

FADE OUT

Sequence 010A "WAKE UP IN THE FOOTPRINT"

ANGLE - ALL FIVE CHILDREN

Are still asleep in the wispy morning fog. CERA is the first to wake. She sniffs at the air, sensing that something is wrong. Looking around her she discovers that they have been sleeping in the footprint of the Rex. More startled now, she looks frantically about to see if the giant predator is nearby. From her point-of-view, at some distance, we see silhouetted rocks start to move and we recognize it as the dreaded beast. CERA nudges THUNDERFOOT:

CERA
(whispering)
(nudging at THUNDERFOOT)
Wake up. Wake up.

THUNDERFOOT YAWNS and rolls over to continue sleeping. CERA nudges him abruptly with her horn.

THUNDERFOOT
(loudly)
Hey, stop that!

CERA
(whisper)
Shhh, it's Sharptooth.

THUNDERFOOT
(loudly)
Cera stop it!

This loud outburst of THUNDERFOOT turns the attention of Rex towards the children. Opening wide his one good eye, he emits a SHATTERING roar and charges towards them.

ANGLE - CERA

CERA SCREAMS and begins running for her life, the other kids right behind her. The Rex cuts them off at every turn. This is their worst nightmare coming true. THUNDERFOOT decoys the Rex's attention off the kids onto himself. PETRIE on THUNDERFOOT's head is holding fast to the tree-star.

THUNDERFOOT
(calling out, panting)
That way. Through the rocks.

ANGLE - NARROW GAP BETWEEN THE ROCKS - CERA'S POINT OF VIEW

CERA arrives at the opening first and quickly slips between the boulders; the others follow closely behind. Then it happens. PETRIE loses his grip on the tree star. Sharptooth crushes the delicate object under his foot. The mother-present is gone forever. THUNDERFOOT and PETRIE slip through the crevice just in time. The Rex crashes against the opening, but is far too big to get to the other side. In a blind rage, he ferociously claws at the rocks.

Sequence 010A "WAKE UP IN THE FOOTPRINT" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE - GROUP FROM OTHER SIDE OF OPENING

DUCKY and SPIKE huddle against THUNDERFOOT in terror. CERA is both frightened and angry as she verbally ASSAILS THUNDERFOOT.

CERA

There! I told you Sharptooth was alive. You nearly got us killed... you stupid long-neck. Now will you believe me?

THUNDERFOOT

I'm sorry. We're safe now.

CERA

Nobody's safe with you.

DUCKY

When you saw the Sharptooth you said "Aarrh," you didn't say "Ahhhgh."

CERA

(exiting)

I saved your lives.

THUNDERFOOT

Look! It's the rock that looks like a long-neck, just like my mother said. We're going the right way. That's the way to the Great Valley.

CUT TO:

Sequence 011 "TRAVEL MONTAGE"

WIDE ANGLE - ESTABLISHING EXTERIOR SHOT

THUNDERFOOT is leading the quintet through a forest of tall, carrot-shaped trees. As they walk, CERA quickly trots forward and overtakes THUNDERFOOT, thus enabling her to appear as if "she were the leader of the group."

ANGLE ON SMALL CLUSTER OF BEAUTIFUL FUZZY WILD FLOWERS

CERA smells the aroma of the delicious blossoms and greedily begins gorging herself. DUCKY appears and attempts to eat one of the flowers. CERA not wishing to share food with anyone, quickly gobbles every blossom in sight before DUCKY can even eat one.

ANGLE - PETRIE AND THUNDERFOOT

PETRIE desperately trying to keep from being blown away by a gusty wind. Debris blows furiously past them, as PETRIE is lifted from THUNDERFOOT's head and is blown down his back to his tail, where PETRIE finally grasps onto each character; blown from one to the next.

ANGLE - THE GROUP

In the middle of a dry, barren landscape, under a blazing sun, DUCKY, THUNDERFOOT and PETRIE watch as SPIKE digs deep through the crusted ground and discovers an underground spring. Excitedly they all leap into the water and begin swimming about, enjoying the coolness of the spring.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE - PETRIE, DUCKY AND THUNDERFOOT

In the middle of a volcano ash storm. PETRIE and DUCKY are trudging forward, beneath THUNDERFOOT, in waist-deep ash. We will pull back revealing hundreds of small burning embers falling all around them.

CERA is behind them angrily struggling through the ash, trying to keep up.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE - ROCKY TERRAIN

Amidst a shower of ash and burning embers from a distant erupting volcano. THUNDERFOOT approaches the edge of a chasm, just ahead. He stretches forward and grabs hold of the rock on the other side, making his own body into a suspension bridge over which the others can cross. CERA decides not to follow the rest, but to climb up another path on her own.

Sequence 011 "TRAVEL MONTAGE" (CONTINUED)

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE - PETRIE AND THUNDERFOOT

Hot sandy desert-like landscape. Exhausted, PETRIE slides down THUNDERFOOT's tail. He is dragged in the sand as he hangs on. DUCKY also slides down the tail, but grabs on to the tail just before landing on PETRIE.

DISSOLVE TO:

Sequence 011A "THUNDERFOOT ENCOURAGES THE TROOPS"

EXT. THE BOTTOM OF A HIGH SAND MOUNTAIN

All the kids are lying about at the bottom of an unclimbable sand mountain. They are too exhausted to go another step further, and collapse in tortured positions all around.

THUNDERFOOT
No! Not now... You can't quit now!

WIDE SHOT TO INCLUDE OTHERS

Lying down, their tongues hanging out, they gasp for air.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE
(Aaah, good time to quit.)

DUCKY
Yes. It is too hard, too far. I cannot go to the Great Valley. Nope, nope, nope.

THUNDERFOOT
What if the Great Valley is just over the top of this hill?

CERA
What if the Great Valley is nowhere? I've never seen it! Have you seen it?!

THUNDERFOOT
No! But I know it's there. Come on, get up.

All the kids get up and start up the hill except CERA. She stubbornly holds back.

CERA
(shouting to them)
How do you know, long-neck?!

THUNDERFOOT
(shouts back)
I've seen it... With my heart.

CERA
(in disbelief)
Your heart?! I see with my eyes!

DISSOLVE TO:

Sequence 011AA (To go after "ROCKY TERRAIN" in travel montage ((ash shower)) and replaces "HOT SANDY DESERT" ((last sequence))

47B

Hot sandy desert. Exhausted, Petrie slides down Thunderfoot's tail. He is dragged in the sand as he hangs on. Ducky and Spike follow Cera who is in the lead. Suddenly, Spike starts sniffing the air excitedly.

CERA
What is it? Food???

DUCKY
Water??!

Spike snorts and starts to run at full speed, the others struggle to follow. They come over a hill to find a little spring of water surrounded by a group of thin Dinos, and a short distance away another group of fat Dinos guarding a small stand of trees. The bigger Dinos close ranks around the food and water as Thunderfoot and his gang race up to them yelling and cheering. Spike stops short as he sees the hostile looks on the larger Dinos' faces. Thunderfoot and the others pile into him with a big "woops." A large Big Mouth like Ducky looks at them.

GRAYNOSE
(thin Dino)
What do you want, little ones?

THUNDERFOOT
Food!

DUCKY
Water, yep, yep!

CLIFFORD
(fat dino)
No food!

GRAYNOSE
(to Ducky)
You may drink, you're a big mouth like us. But no water for them.

DUCKY
But they need drinks too! They're my friends.

CLIFFORD
Your friends? A Three-horn? A long, Longneck? A Spike-tail and whatever that is?

GRAYNOSE
Run away quickly before spikes and horns grow on you.

Sequence 011A CONTINUED

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CERA
We're hungry!

GRAYNOSE
And so are we.

THUNDERFOOT
Why don't you share the water with them, and they could share the food with you. Then they wouldn't be thirsty and you wouldn't be hungry.

CLIFFORD AND GRAYNOSE
No no no.

CERA
Well, if you don't change your minds all of you will die.

DUCKY
Why don't you like them?

GRAYNOSE
The crown heads are from the other side of the swamp.

THUNDERFOOT
I don't see anything wrong with that.

CERA
This is silly. I'm hungry, let's go.

DUCKY
Yep, yep. I'm hungry.

The little Dinos march off in defiance.

GRAYNOSE
I'll never understand the young ones.

Sequence 012 "THE CONFRONTATION"

ANGLE - THE TOP OF THE HILL

(From the bottom of the far side of the hill, looking up). As they appear over the rise, we see their expectant faces.

ANGLE - THE "VALLEY" - DINOSAURS' POV

It is nothing more than a burnt-out, desolate crater.

CERA, like a pressure cooker at the breaking point - steam spits from her flared nostrils, and a deep growl rumbles up into her throat.

CERA
The Great Valley..... You're crazy!!

THUNDERFOOT
I'm sorry!
(approaching CERA)
I thought!

CERA
Get away from me!

She turns to go back down the hill, but suddenly the ground gives way beneath her. She and all the dinosaurs slide helplessly to the bottom of the crater. Everyone lands on top of one another. They get up shakily, and look around. There are two distant ways out of the crater. One is a gently sloping path leading out through a notch in the crater wall. The other, a nightmarish narrow trail straight up the crater wall (that is the direction of the setting sun). Storyboard note: show old dried footprints of other dinosaurs going the easy way. This is an element of CERA's argument.

THUNDERFOOT
(heading towards difficult path)
This way. Come on.

CERA
That way! No! This way is much easier.
(to the others)
Now will you listen to me? Look at all those foot trails over there...
(to THUNDERFOOT matter-of-factly)
...Moving away from the bright circle. Don't you think there's some reason they've all gone that way?
(directly to THUNDERFOOT)
Don't you?!

Sequence 012 "THE CONFRONTATION" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT

We have to keep following the bright circle.

CERA

I'm leaving. I'm taking the easy way for once.

THUNDERFOOT

But it's the wrong way!

CERA

Who says?

THUNDERFOOT

My mother!

CERA

Then she was a stupid flathead too.

THUNDERFOOT

Take that back!

CERA

Never!

That's it! THUNDERFOOT charges at CERA with enough fury to send PETRIE toppling from his head.

CERA and THUNDERFOOT become enraged in a vicious battle that we HEAR but do not see (sound effects, not dialogue). We know what's going on by watching the reactions of the others: a wince, a cringe, a look away, a cry of sympathy. We see the dust of the combatants kick up; we hear CERA and THUNDERFOOT's BLEATS and GRUNTS as they tumble about.

ANGLE - THE GROUP

As he finally pulls free and backs away from CERA, panting, fighting back tears. He is hurt, angry, and fed up. PETRIE runs in, quickly scrambles up THUNDERFOOT's back and plops on his head. CERA gets to her feet and starts back down, trudging out of the crater, along the easy path.

THUNDERFOOT

(panting)

Go on! Go the wrong way! We never wanted you with us anyway.

THUNDERFOOT starts doggedly heading up the steep path. But SPIKE and DUCKY do not follow. They're still sitting at the bottom of the crater. In unison they look at the steep path and turn to look at CERA's much easier path. They look back and forth, back and forth...

THUNDERFOOT glances back.

Sequence 012 "THE CONFRONTATION" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT
Come on... We have to keep going.

DUCKY
(apologetic)
Cera's way is easier.

SPIKE nods in agreement. THUNDERFOOT is stunned.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(I think so too.)

SPIKE nods again. They begin plodding after CERA. CAMERA HOLD - on devastated THUNDERFOOT.

THUNDERFOOT
But you can't go that way. You don't even know where it goes.

DUCKY
We know where it doesn't go. It doesn't go up. Nope. Nope.

PETRIE is still up on THUNDERFOOT's head and claims bitterly that they are going the hard way.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(Maybe time to go new way.)

THUNDERFOOT
Fine! You go a new way... You go with them. You've been nothing but trouble to me.

He begins swinging his head in furious arcs. PETRIE tries desperately to hold on.

THUNDERFOOT
You're the flier... Fly off and find the valley yourself! I don't need you. I don't need any of you!

PETRIE lands next to SPIKE and DUCKY. They wave a tearful goodbye to THUNDERFOOT as he plods away. They then turn and follow after CERA.

CUT TO:

Sequence 012A "VOLCANO LAND"

It is a dark, frightening maze of smoking volcanic mountains, black caves, and crimson fog. Steam rises from simmering lava pools. Enormous rotting dinosaur carcasses and skeletons loom out of the mists. Weird sounds drift hauntingly.

CERA stalks along with hardly a glance back at the others, who are bug-eyed, looking around to check out each new sound or shadow.

PETRIE rides along on CERA's back. Behind them scurries SPIKE, with DUCKY now riding on his back. They pass the horrid-looking corpse of a decaying Iguanodon. DUCKY tries not to notice.

For PETRIE, CERA's not as comfortable as THUNDERFOOT. PETRIE gets poked by one of CERA's horns. He readjusts himself and his rump slides down over CERA's eyes. CERA testily prods PETRIE with her nose horn to get him to move back. He scoots further back on CERA's head, behind her neck plate. He's fine, almost, if only CERA didn't bounce so much when she walked. PETRIE glances longingly back at the crater in the background, wishing THUNDERFOOT was with them.

DUCKY

I wish Thunderfoot was with us now.

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.

(Me too.)

ANGLE - PRICKLY BERRY BUSH

SPIKE may be scared, but not too scared to eat. He stops to nibble the unappetizing looking bush. DUCKY, up top, tries to spur SPIKE forward.

DUCKY

Spike! Do not stop! Nope, nope! We must stay together. We do not want to be alone... do we?

DUCKY notices that CERA and PETRIE have moved on in the volcanic fog. They are alone.

CUT TO:

Sequence 013 "THE VISION"

EXT. PLATEAU - DUSK

THUNDERFOOT's depression has grown so acute he can barely move forward. He takes a few steps, stumbles, stops. He scans the vast emptiness and then emits a gut-wrenching bleat of pain and loneliness. As he raises his neck to let out another tortured cry, he freezes. Something in the late afternoon sky has captured his attention. His face is overcome by an expression of awestruck wonder.

ANGLE - THE SKY- THUNDERFOOT'S POV

Is streaked with wispy pink and grey clouds. Directly overhead, one large cloud has formed an unmistakable, inexplicably touching portrait of THUNDERFOOT's mother.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT

He stops. He has trouble finding his voice: a single word comes out in a choked half-whisper:

THUNDERFOOT
Mother?

ANGLE - WIDER

The wind blows: we hear an eerie yet comforting version of Mother's voice coming to THUNDERFOOT on the breeze. (Note: Mother's voice treated with vocoder and special sound effects.)

MOTHER
Thunderfoot...

THUNDERFOOT is dazed by his many conflicting emotions.

THUNDERFOOT
(fighting tears)
I tried to do what you told me. But it's just too hard. I'll never find the Great Valley.

The cloud begins to drift. THUNDERFOOT scrambles desperately after it.

THUNDERFOOT
Mother! Don't go.

He chases the cloud across the plateau. Suddenly he stops... a new sound is drifting toward him. Is he just imagining it? It's the sound of voices SINGING the sweetest, most beautiful song...

Sequence 013 "THE VISION" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE - THE GREAT VALLEY ENTRANCE - THUNDERFOOT'S POV

Below the cloud he sees an opening through a far mountain wall. Warm shimmering rays of light spill out through it. As the cloud is parted by the sun, it breaks through the "heart" of the Mother/cloud.

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT

His heart swells.

THUNDERFOOT
(hushed)
The Great Valley!

He happily dashes toward it. He runs into the opening of the mountain, looks down on the Great Valley. POV of THUNDERFOOT. He made it. He starts to run down into the Valley. But the wind swirls... he hears his Mother's whispered "voice" again.

MOTHER
Thunderfoot...

He skids to a stop, full on indecision.

THUNDERFOOT
The others... they went the wrong way! They'll never find the Great Valley!
(looks up at cloud)
Mother! What should I do?

In the sky, a breeze stirs the clouds... the portrait of THUNDERFOOT's Mother begins to dissipate. But THUNDERFOOT already knows the answer.

THUNDERFOOT
(continued)
My heart... my heart says... they're my friends! I have to help them!

He suddenly turns and charges back the way he came.

CUT TO:

Sequence 013A "KIDS GET SEPARATED"

EXT. ANOTHER PATH IN VOLCANOLAND - NIGHT

CERA is plodding along with PETRIE on her head. They have yet to realize that DUCKY and SPIKE are no longer behind them. PETRIE is chattering away to keep his spirits up. He's less and less certain that CERA knows what she's doing. He winces at the carcass of a dead dinosaur. He flinches as a nearby volcano belches, spitting out clouds of smoke and lava rocks.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(frightened)
(Cera knows right way to go? Real sure?)

CERA
(impatiently)
I know my way to go.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(I scared.)

CERA
Well I'm not scared.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(I wonder if Thunderfoot is lonesome.)

CERA
I don't care if that long-neck is lonesome.

PETRIE gets knocked off CERA's head by a low branch. He falls and tumbles into a pit of sticky tar. CERA just keeps walking into the fog and smoke. PETRIE struggles to free himself but only succeeds in sinking into the black quagmire. He screams.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(Cera! I fall off! Cera! Ducky! Spike! Help!)

CUT TO:

Sequence 014 "TO THE RESCUE"

EXT. CLIFF IN VOLCANO LAND - NIGHT

Rocket of flame and red hot lava erupts from a crater and rains down upon SPIKE and DUCKY, who are stranded on a large island-like rock in the middle of a lava flow. The heat from the lava chips away at the floating island. THUNDERFOOT slides to a stop at the edge of the cliff. He is horrified to see SPIKE and DUCKY's predicament. DUCKY's little feet are too tender to endure the heat of the rock, so she has climbed up on SPIKE's back. The float is disintegrating.

THUNDERFOOT sprints across the hot rocks and with his strong neck he pushes a large boulder. It splashes down into place, forming a bridge to his marooned buddies - not a moment too soon. As SPIKE dashes over it, the island is gulped by the molten lava river.

Another eruption from the angry volcano sends the three kids racing away. But wait! A faint, but quiet audible sound reaches THUNDERFOOT's ears.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
[offstage screams]
(Help! I die! Help!)

THUNDERFOOT
(calls out)
Petrie.... this way.

The three bolt in the direction of PETRIE's cries.

CUT TO:

ANGLE - TAR PIT

PETRIE's just about out of sight... just a beak and bugged-out eyes above the tar surface. The others come stampeding down to the edge of the pit.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
[desperate and choking]
(Petrie am sooo happy to see friends!)

The group sizes up the situation. DUCKY comes to.

DUCKY
Oooooo! Petrie is in sticky-water!

Sequence 014 "TO THE RESCUE" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT wraps his mighty tail around the only available anchor - a huge dead tree. He clamps his mouth onto SPIKE's tail and together they bravely wade into the tar. Stretching out as far as they can, they still can't reach PETRIE. DUCKY scrambles out along their backs, all the way to SPIKE's head. She can just barely reach PETRIE. They all CHEER as she hauls PETRIE up onto SPIKE's head. But suddenly...

The tree breaks! Suddenly, they're all sinking. DUCKY races back and forth, from SPIKE's back to THUNDERFOOT's back like a panicked sea captain. In that desperate moment before sinking into the black gooey pit, CERA's voice catches the group's attention.

CERA O.S.
(distant)
You get away.... stay away.

All the kids are struggling in the tar. SPIKE is still clinging to the shore.

CUT TO:

Sequence 015 "TAR BEAST RESCUES CERA"

INT. CAVE

CERA is surrounded by four menacing Pachycephalosauruses. They are ugly, scaly critters that walk on their hind legs and look like ancestors of the Creature from the Black Lagoon. CERA is looking from one to the other as they circle her, hissing at her. Getting ready to close in for the kill, one of them lunges at her: CERA rears back and spits in his face.

The rest of them move in closer, tightening about the circle around her. CERA is hopping and thrashing about to keep them from grabbing on her. Suddenly, from the mouth of the cave we hear a TREMENDOUS ECHOING ROAR that sounds far too loud to have been made by a single being: the Pachycephalosauruses turn toward the noise.

ANGLE - CAVE MOUTH

There stands the "TAR-LUMP" comprised of our four struck together dinosaurs. They roar in harmony again. They charge into the cave as the horrified Pachycephalosauruses scatter. THUNDERFOOT (acting as the mouth of the beast) bends down and snatches CERA's tail in his jaws. Lifting her upside-down off the ground as she twists and kicks, punching her front legs into the air in futile self defense. Seeing that the "Beast" is preoccupied with CERA, the PACH brothers flee.

CERA

Help! Help me! Spike! Ducky! Petrie! Hellllllp!

From somewhere near the middle of this bulbous creature, we hear DUCKY's muted voice.

DUCKY

Cera... it is us!

Still hung upside-down in midair, CERA stops squirming. She rotates herself around to look at this big black creature. From under the tar, she sees the eyes and smiles of DUCKY, PETRIE, THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE.

ANGLE - CERA

Reacting: first relief, and then a new kind of fury. She yanks her tail from THUNDERFOOT's mouth and drops to the cave floor, scooting back to her feet, struggling to save face.

CERA

I knew that! I knew it was you all along. I knew. I did.

Sequence 015 "TAR BEAST RESCUES CERA" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT grins down at her.

DUCKY

You did? But you screamed so loud.

CERA

I was acting scared so those scaley-skins would come into the cave and then I'd attack them.

DUCKY

(disbelieving)

Nope, nope, nope...

CERA

Oh get out of my way!

CERA squeezes past the struck together group and heads for the mouth of the cave. She doesn't see that she has now got the tar stuck to her. As she exits, it stretches out like bubble gum, still attached to the others. It yanks her back inside and she slams into the sticky group. They all laugh, except CERA.

DUCKY

We really together now!

THUNDERFOOT

Yeah, Cera, now we have to stick together.

All the kids are giggling and laughing which makes CERA even madder. She pulls herself free of the tar beast, and more angry than she's ever been before, fires at them with both barrels.

CERA

Oh... shut up... I hate you! I don't ever want to see any of you again... ever!

She stamps out of the cave, off into the dark. There is a low rumble of thunder, and it begins to rain, cleaning the sticky tar off the children. The children aren't laughing any more. Ducky feels bad and starts to walk after CERA.

THUNDERFOOT

Let her go. We can't keep chasing after her.

CUT TO:

Sequence 016 "THE REX ATTACKS"

The group excitedly races up the path. All are giggling and filled with anticipation.

THUNDERFOOT

We're almost there, just a little further.

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.

(We're here... we're here.)

DUCKY

Yes Petrie, we're here, we've made it. Thunderfoot, you were right.

They giggle as they finish rounding the shoreline of a pool that leads to the cliffs by the entrance. PETRIE leaps off of THUNDERFOOT's head and commences climbing as fast as his little legs can carry him, to the top edge of the plateau where he stops. THUNDERFOOT and the others catch up only to notice PETRIE frozen in terror.

THUNDERFOOT

Petrie, what is it?

PETRIE is unable to answer. THUNDERFOOT slowly raises his neck over the edge and softly gasps. There, high up on the plateau overlooking the Great Valley, is the Rex. He is hunting for the entrance.

DUCKY

It's Sharptooth. What'll we do? What? What?

THUNDERFOOT

(regretfully)

It's Sharptooth. He's looking for the entrance to the Great Valley. He wants to get at the herds and we led him here.

THUNDERFOOT notices a large boulder precariously propped up on a rock ledge, high above a pool of water. His face brightens with an idea.

THUNDERFOOT

We've got to get Sharptooth away from the high rocks before he finds the entrance. We'll have to kill him.

PETRIE

WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE?

(Kill him?)

DUCKY

He's too big.

Sequence 016 "THE REX ATTACKS" (CONTINUED)

THUNDERFOOT
Not if we work together...

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE?
(How?)

DUCKY
We're only little.

THUNDERFOOT
We'll coax him to the deep end of the pond. He can't swim with those scrawny arms. Look! Spike and me will go up there and... we'll push that big rock off onto his head. He'll fall over into the water.

DUCKY
Oh he will be mad. He will.

THUNDERFOOT
(to PETRIE)
Petrie, you whistle when he's in just the right spot.... where the water gets dark... Now we need someone to be the bait.

In unison they all look at DUCKY. She takes a step back and stares at their challenging faces.

DUCKY
Me? Oh no... nope, nope, nope.

CUT TO:

ANGLE - ENTRANCE OF GREAT VALLEY

Rex enters sniffing... pauses, and growls. As he starts forward he is distracted from behind by a noise (DUCKY has been pushed onto the scene). He whips around and sees DUCKY acting as if she were wounded. She turns and limps down the slope of the plateau towards the water. The Rex lets out a raging growl and pursues.

CUT TO:

THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE ready behind the boulder.

THUNDERFOOT
(calling out to O.S. PETRIE)
(loud whisper)
Get ready Petrie!

Sequence 016 "THE REX ATTACKS" (CONTINUED)

A very nervous PETRIE signals from a crevice [on the] wall high above the pools where DUCKY is to lead [the Rex].

CUT TO:

DUCKY leaps into the pool, and swims as fast as she can. The Rex charges into the water at full force, sending up jets of water spray.

Slowly THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE push the rock forward with SPIKE acting as a wedge in between pushes.

With the Rex on her tail, DUCKY swims directly over the deepest, darkest part of the pool. Rex advances right up to the water's shallow edge and stops.

Frantically, PETRIE begins to whistle his signal. SPIKE And THUNDERFOOT shove the huge boulder to the cliff's edge, but it wedges itself tight and won't budge.

The Rex notices PETRIE, turns and charges PETRIE who is still whistling his signals. The rock wall PETRIE is standing on begins to topple as Rex pounds at the wall with his head and tail. DUCKY tries in vain to divert the Rex's attention.

THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE struggle desperately to push to boulder. PETRIE screams and falls as the rocks beneath his feet descend. Frantically flapping his wings as he falls nearer the Rex's face, PETRIE finally feels the lift of air beneath his wings and flies; just as the giant jaws gnash at his tail. Thoroughly surprised and intoxicated with joy, PETRIE forgets his fear and dive-bombs the Rex who is now closing in on DUCKY. He attacks the Rex's head, pecking like a machine gun. The Rex snaps at him and misses. PETRIE loops high and dives again. THUNDERFOOT screams...

THUNDERFOOT
(calling out)
Get him in position, Petrie!

PETRIE continues to dive and hits the Rex's face only moments before DUCKY would've been swallowed. The Rex reels blindly as the little Pterodactyl clings like a mad octopus with one wing securely wrapped over the Rex's one good eye.

In a mad frenzy the Rex butts and scrapes his head and face against the rocks trying to pry PETRIE off.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(Now! Now!)

DUCKY
Now!

Sequence 016 "THE REX ATTACKS" (CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE frantically pushing the rock.

Rex reels and bucks. The tenacious grip of little PETRIE begins to weaken. Rex starts to regain his vision. He charges forward in an attempt to smash the puny winged creature.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(Nooooowww!)

PETRIE's long scream is broken by the distant and quickly advancing battle cry of CERA.

CERA
(screaming)
Aaaaargh!

THUNDERFOOT and SPIKE strain every muscle just as CERA smashes the stubborn boulder loose, sending it crashing down on the murderous head of the beast who buckles under its tremendous shock and collapses with a gigantic splash.

All look on as the writhing form of the Rex, bubbling, as it sinks deeper and deeper into the dark water.

Each turns to the other with expressions of awe, mixed with gratitude. They were a team. But something is missing... one of their members. Suddenly they all realize that none of them saw PETRIE escape.

CUT TO:

Sequence 017 "INTO THE VALLEY"

The Battle of Triumph is a costly business, and none knew it so well as the four travellers who had lost their courageous little friend, PETRIE, defeating the great Sharptooth. As they gaze into the bubbling water below, they feel a deep sadness.

DUCKY
Poor, poor, Petrie.

After a long silence, THUNDERFOOT finally takes command.

THUNDERFOOT
Petrie was a good friend. He would want us to go on... Come.

The little group turns and moves sadly to the entrance of the Great Valley. They stop, there is an ever so faint cough. DUCKY turns first to see a very soggy PETRIE pulling himself onto the rocks.

CUT TO:

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE,
(Wait... you no go without Petrie?)

DUCKY
(screaming with delight)
Petriiiiiee... you're safe. Yep, yep, yep.

All the children suddenly come together in a triumphant huddle, licking and embracing each other.

THUNDERFOOT
Now we'll always be together.

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(How long?)

DUCKY
For ever!

CERA
Together.

Our gang reaches the edge of the mesa and stops. Gazing down, they stand side by side as their mouths drop open in awe.

CUT TO:

Sequence 017 "INTO THE VALLEY" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE - THE GREAT VALLEY - OUR DINOSAURS' POV

It is nothing short of breathtaking. After so many years of bleakness and suffering, this looks like Eden, Shangri-La, a glimpse of heaven-on-earth. It is filled with rich, luscious covered with thick green leaves and all kinds of fruit. The entire Valley is carpeted in luxuriant emerald grass; there are fresh pools of diamond-clear water everywhere. And all of the herds are here, peacefully coexisting. The land is too beautiful. The treasures too bountiful for there to be any need for hostility or war. The song the dinosaurs are singing is the same one THUNDERFOOT heard after he saw the vision of his Mother in the clouds. The MUSIC SOARS TO MATCH THE MOOD.

ANGLE - OUR GROUP

Charges down the hillside into the Valley, racing toward the family reunions they have so long dreamed of.

There is a glistening pool of water through which the children plunge, then pull themselves onto the soft meadow grass and their new home.

ANGLE DUCKY

In the pond with her family. They cannot believe what she is saying, as she points to SPIKE.

DUCKY

Can we adopt him Papa? Can we? Huh? Huh?

PAPA

Well... (still unsure)

DUCKY

Please... he is my best friend!

SPIKE sitting along the bank is suddenly surrounded by DUCKY's brothers and sisters who pull SPIKE into the pond with them. He's been accepted.

ANGLE - CERA

As she spots her large family, head down she charges towards them, ready to greet them by butting their heads. At the last instant CERA slows down into a much more graceful and daintily walk. Suddenly, out of the brush she gets butted from all sides by half a dozen playful little TRICERATOPSES like in a pinball machine.

Sequence 017 "INTO THE VALLEY" (CONTINUED)

ANGLE - THUNDERFOOT

Runs towards his Grandparents who have spotted him. Tears run down their wrinkled faces. They embrace, entwining their necks, nuzzling one another.

ANGLE - PETRIE

PETRIE'S MOTHER
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE.
(Little Petrie come all that way alone?)

PETRIE
WHISTLE, WHISTLE, WHISTLE,
(Mama... look!)

The little bird holds out his wings proudly, flaps them and rises into the air. Mama Pterodactyl grabs her baby and smothers him with kisses.

ANGLE - CERA

She turns and gazes up at the hilltop at THUNDERFOOT. Daddy Topps observes a change in his daughter.

CERA
He's my best friend.

* NOTE! *
dialogue too pat.

DADDY TOPPS
(taken aback)
A long-neck?

*

CERA
No.... Thunderfoot... We did it together.

*

DADDY TOPPS
Together?

CERA
Together, Daddy.

ANGLE - HILLTOP - THUNDERFOOT - SUNSET

THUNDERFOOT stands proudly on the hilltop overlooking the Great Valley, the blazing sun setting behind him. For a moment the multicolored clouds blow a familiar shape - THUNDERFOOT's Mother smiling down on them all.

THE END