The story of Orion and Scorpio has many characters that you may have heard of before or who inspired other characters in books or movies.

Orion is a constellation of a mighty hunter, like Gaston in Beauty and the Beast. His dog’s name is Canis Major and the brightest star is his on collar and called Sirius, which may sound familiar to those who have read Harry Potter and remember his godfather named Sirius and the furry dog he could transform into; or the program Sirius radio whose symbol is a dog. Scorpio is just what he sounds like: a scorpion. And Taurus is the name of the large bull that appears in the sky beside Orion. Finally, there is a bunny constellation as well that is distracting the dog.

Orion appears in the sky during the winter and spring months in Texas and then trades places with Scorpio, the scorpion, during the summer and fall. At camp, this constellation can be seen directly over Crow Lake.

Orion is most noticeable for his belt that consists of three bright stars in a line, he is holding his bow (like you would use in archery) and is hunting the constellation Taurus the bull, which looks like a triangle with horns.

Canis major, Orion’s hunting dog, should be chasing the bull but instead is chasing a bunny constellation down and to the right of Orion. You find Canis Major by finding the star Sirius, one of the brightest in the sky, and following it down to form a stick figure body with legs and a triangle head. Sirius is the dog tag on Canis Major’s neck.

Scorpio is easiest to see by finding his curled tail, a collection of stars that curls down and to the left, his body is a straight line up and then his pinchers go out to both sides towards the top.
Now let's talk about why all these guys are in the sky to begin with.

As I mentioned, Orion was a mighty hunter. He was so talented at archery that he could shoot an animal from far far away without even breaking a sweat. This made things very difficult for the animals that lived near him and they were always afraid.

Orion became prideful of his talent and started to brag and say “there is no animal that could escape me! I am the greatest hunter of all time! All animals should fear me for I am unbeatable, I am the best!”

Well, it's never good to be prideful and it's definitely never good to want everyone to be afraid of you.

When Mother Nature heard that Orion was saying these things, she became very angry. You see, it's her job to make sure that the animals are taken care of and that humans treat them with respect and kindness.

She decided to make a plan to teach Orion a lesson.

At first she thought to send a big bear, but the bear might get hurt if Orion saw him (which would probably happen since it's hard to not see a giant bear). Then she thought to send a hawk, but Orion might hear it or feel its powerful wings flapping overhead. Finally, she thought of the perfect animals that Orion would never see coming. A small, quiet Scorpion.
She asked Scorpio the scorpion if he would sneak up on Orion and sting him on the heel of his foot. When he did this, Mother nature would make Orion fall into a deep sleep.

Sure enough, Orion never saw Scorpio coming. When Orion was out with friends, bragging and talking loudly about how no animal was as mighty as him, little Scorpio silently crept up and stung Orion right on the heel. Orion immediately fell down, fast asleep, right in the middle of his dinner plate (it would have been embarrassing, but he was snoring too loudly to notice).

As he slept, Mother Nature came to him in a dream. She told him how disappointed she was that he had used his skill in archery to hurt the animals and that bragging and wanting animals to fear him was wrong. She explained why it was important to treat animals with respect and love.

When Orion woke up, he was a changed man. He became friends with the animals and no longer bragged about archery skills.

But for as long as Orion lived, he was terrified of scorpions! He was sure to shake out all his clothes and towels and to check his shoes (which is a good idea whether you’re scared or not).

To help Orion remember to show the animals respect, and to thank Scorpio for his help, Mother Nature placed a picture of Orion in the sky for half of the year and then made him run away the other half of the year when Scorpio’s picture appeared in the sky.

The End.
CONSTELLATIONS

The Little Dipper

The Big Dipper

Orion

Scorpio

Make Your Own