Why Bluejay Hops
The Indian Reading Series
THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Why Bluejay Hops
Level I Book 6

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A Skokomish Legend
As told by Georgia Miller
Illustrated by Bruce Miller

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
Long ago at a big meeting,
Raven boasted about his arrow shooting.
He was the best shot in the world.
This is what he told everyone.
He prepared for someone to challenge him.
Skatefish came along.
He made himself as big as he could.
Dancing, he teased Raven’s marksmanship.
He gave Raven three chances to hit him.
Whizz!
Raven's arrow shot forth.
Laughing, Skatefish turned sideways.
Teasing Raven, Skatefish spread himself out again.
Whizz!
Another miss, another laugh.
Once more again!
Raven missed three times!
Then Bluejay stepped forth.
"I can do that too," he said.
"I'll give you three chances."
Bluejay planned to copy Skatefish.
He spread himself out like Skatefish and teased Raven.
Whizz!
Raven’s arrow shot forth. Bluejay turned sideways.
Ping!
Right in the hip!
“Ow!” screamed Bluejay.
He forgot he wasn’t skinny like Skatefish.
And ever since, because of his vanity, Bluejay hops.
JEANNE EVERNDEN

Jeanne Evernden is a Skokomish Indian and was born and raised on the Skokomish reservation near the Hood Canal in Washington. She graduated from Irene S. Reed High School in Shelton and attended Haskell Indian School for two years, where she took commercial courses. She has managed the Tribal Smoke Shop and is now actively involved in the Skokomish Language Project, which is developing an unabridged Skokomish dictionary. She also is the mother of eight children and hopes The Indian Reading Series will become a permanent part of the schooling system because “Indian history and involvement are very important to our young people.”

BRUCE MILLER

Bruce Miller, a Skokomish Indian, has held art exhibitions in Europe, South America and throughout the United States. He was nominated for the Indian Arts Commission Board for the Washington State Arts Commission, won the Washington Bicentennial Playwrite Award for his play Changer, and recently completed a screenplay, The Lord of the House of the Maimed, to be aired as an EXXON special on the CBS network. He presently is Director of the Skokomish Tribal Learning Center, has served as Coordinator for the Skokomish Title IV Program and was Human Relations Specialist and Counselor for the Seattle Public Schools. He also has acted with theater groups such as Native American Theater Ensemble (New York) and Red Earth Performing Arts Company (Seattle). He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts, California College of Arts and Crafts, and University of California at Berkeley. In addition, he has received special training in stage direction and acting technique from, among others, Geraldine Page, Peter Brook (three time winner at Cannes Film Festival for best direction) and Tom O’Horgan (director of Godspell, Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar).

WILMA PETTY

Wilma Petty, a Skokomish Indian, was born and raised on the Skokomish reservation. She graduated from Chemawa Indian School in 1938 and has taken advanced coursework in child psychology. She has served as Home School Coordinator for Project Head Start and Supervisor of the Skokomish Summer Recreation Program. For the past five years she has been a Teacher’s Aide at Hood Canal School and is currently involved in the Skokomish Language Project, which is developing a dictionary of the Skokomish language. As the mother of five children, she “would like to see The Indian Reading Series in public schools for non-Indian as well as Indian children.”
Booklets available in the Level I sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use as outlined in the Teacher’s Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest will appear in the Levels II and III sequence.

1 Coyote and the Stars
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

2 How Wild Horses Were Captured
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

3 School
   Blackfeet Tribe

4 Philene and Buttons
   Northern Cheyenne Tribe

5 Insects Off to War
   Northern Cheyenne Tribe

6 Why Bluejay Hops
   Skokomish Tribe

7 Indian Festival
   Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

8 Helpers
   Blackfeet Tribe

9 Far Out, A Rodeo Horse
   Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

10 Tales of Coyote and Other Legends
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

11 Birds and People
    Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

12 Chipmunk Meets Old Witch
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

13 My Name Is Pop
    Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

14 Santa Claus Comes to the Reservation
    Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

15 How Cottontail Lost His Fingers
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

16 Friends
    Blackfeet Tribe

17 How Daylight Came to Be
    Skokomish Tribe

18 A Little Boy’s Big Moment
    Blackfeet Tribe

19 Skunk
    Muckleshoot Tribe

20 Raven Helps the Indians
    Skokomish Tribe

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the Teacher’s Manual, contact the publisher:

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