Indian Festival
The Indian Reading Series

Level I Book 7
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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Indian Festival
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Geino is said like (Guh´no).
Heut-see is said like (Hoot´see).
Hello!
My name is Joe.
I am an Indian boy who lives on an Indian reservation in Idaho.
Do you know what an Indian reservation is?
It is a land set aside for Indian people.
I live with my father and mother.
I have a baby brother, John.
My grandmother, I call her Heut-see,
    and my grandfather Geino live with us.
I love my grandfather and grandmother because they tell me
    many stories about my Indian people.
Grandfather is a great storyteller.
Tomorrow is a very special day.  
It is the beginning of our Indian Festival.  
Have you ever been to an Indian festival?  
They are lots of fun.  
Grandmother is working very hard on my moccasins.  
She beads them in all colors of the rainbow.  
I plan to wear them at the festival.
Indian people like festivals.
It is a time to see all your old friends.
It is a time to make new friends.
It is a time for our people to welcome all visitors
and to give them food to eat and a good place to sleep.
Most of them stay in tepees.
During the festival our people take part in many field games. There is foot racing for all ages. It is fun to see my mother run. I like to watch the old ladies juggle rocks. Others race to see who can make the fastest Indian bread. The girls play the shinny game. I like the tug-of-war.
All of these games are very old.
Our people have known these games since the earlier times when our people moved each season to a different place. The field games help give each one the chance to laugh and take part.
Grandmother and Grandfather like to play the old bone game.
It is very hard to understand at first,
    but is a good guessing game.
It is made up of two teams of many people.
Each team takes turns guessing where the opposite team
    holds a bone with the correct markings.
If they guess right, they receive a stick.
The team that loses all of their sticks loses the game.
Everyone likes to watch the many Indian dancers and the many drummers singing their songs. Some songs are slow and some are fast. The dancers wear brightly beaded costumes, brightly colored feathers, and ringing bells.
Each night an old legend is acted out on the stage. Everyone is invited to watch and listen. These stories are very old. Almost all of the stories are about the coyote, beaver, bobcat and bear. Indian people believed the animals were once people.
All the pretty girls put on their beaded Indian costumes and dance their best during the festival. Every year an Indian Queen is picked from the many girls. The judges who pick the Queen have a very hard job.
There is a big parade for all the people.
Everyone is invited to join in the parade.
I will ride in the parade on my horse, Moo-So Man.
Moo-So Man has a lot of hair, and Grandfather put feathers on his tail.
Grandmother beaded my leggings to go with the feathers Grandfather made for me.
All the Indian people like the rodeo.
I like to watch the Indian cowboys ride the wild horses.
I will ride Moo-So Man in the Indian relay race.
He has won this race before.
He is a great horse.
Yes, Indian festivals are fun.
But they must come to an end, and I must say good-bye
to all my good friends.
I will see all my friends from other places, again, next year.
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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