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

End of Summer
Level II Book 1

A Crow Story
Written and illustrated by Henry Real Bird
Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
This story is about the thoughts running through a little Crow Indian boy’s mind the night before the first day of school. He thinks of the good summer he has had, ending with the Crow Fair.

Now it’s time to go back to school, and he’s wondering about tomorrow. Have you done this?

This story was told in the Crow Indian language and written in English. So, at times the sequence of the words in some of the sentences may sound different.
During the summer, Grandfather and I went to the mountains. Tepee poles, we went to get. We had to peel the bark from the poles. Then we were ready for the powwow.
At the campgrounds,
   we put up the tepee and made a leaf shade.
At night the doorway singers came
   and sang some songs.
My mother gave them some tobacco, and they left.
When people do something good for you,
   you give them something in return.
The village caller came early.
It was still dark.
He said, "This day, Crow people,
    we will spend together and be good at heart.
First we will have a parade, then a race and a rodeo.
When the sun goes down and darkness covers us, we will dance.
Three days we will do this.
Get up!"
We saw the parade.
There were many horses.
The sun was hot.
After the parade, we rode our horses to the fairgrounds.
We saw the bronc riders.
We saw a boy getting his saddle ready.
The horses were many colors.
There were buckskins, sorrels, paints, blacks and bays.
The rodeo started with bareback riding. A horse and rider came out of the chute. The horse jumped way up in the air. Soon the rider flew over the horse's head.
We saw the races and it was fun.
My brother had a green shirt and rode a white horse.
He won the race.
A saddle bronc came out of the chute.
The rider spurred the horse in the shoulder.
The horse jumped and jumped.
But the boy stayed on.
Then the bulls were put in the chutes.
The boys put ropes with bells on the bulls.
A funny clown rolled his barrel into the arena.
A fast-jumping bull bucked off the boy.
The tepee we returned to, after the rodeo.
When the sun went down we watched the dance.
After three days, the powwow and rodeo were over.
The summer was over too,
    and I was ready to go to school.
Before the first day of school, I was so happy I couldn’t sleep. I wanted to put on my new clothes. I wondered what the new teacher would be like.
I was the first to wake up.
Soon it was time to go.
The big, yellow bus came down the road.
I sat in the last seat.
My friend sat with me.
It is fun to be in school again.
Some of my friends look different.
I’m going to make new friends, too.
We will have a race around the school.
This year will be even better than last!
HENRY REAL BIRD

Henry Real Bird is a Crow Indian who was raised in the traditional Crow way on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana. He entered first grade speaking only the Crow Indian language and has an intimate knowledge of problems Indian children encounter in the public school system. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University and has taught reading in all the elementary grades. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Indian reservation. As the Teacher Orientation Specialist for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program, he was responsible for developing a teacher's manual and accompanying teaching inservice program, in addition to writing and illustrating books designed for Indian children. He has served on the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and the Crow Central Education Commission, and was a delegate to the 1971 White House Conference on Youth. He also is a saddle bronc rider and member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.
Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the Teacher’s Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Level I and III sequences.

1 End of Summer
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

2 Thunder and the Mosquito
Muckleshoot Tribe

3 Why the Codfish Has a Red Face
Skokomish Tribe

4 How Wildcat and Coyote Tricked Each Other
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

5 Pat Learns About Wild Peppermint
Blackfeet Tribe

6 Picture Writing
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

7 Grandma Rides in the Parade
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

8 The Bob-Thiled Coyote
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

9 The Great Flood
Skokomish Tribe

10 The Rainbow
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

11 The Time the Whale Came to Jackson’s Bay
Skokomish Tribe

12 Coyote and the Man Who Sits On Top
Salish Cultural Committee of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

13 The Crow
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

14 Tepee, Sun and Time
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

15 Water Story
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

16 How Birds Learned to Fly
The Fourteen Confederated Tribes from the Yakima Nation

17 Napi and the Bullberries
Blackfeet Tribe

18 How Cottontail Lost His Tail
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

19 Being Indian Is
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

20 Why Animals and Man Can No Longer Talk to One Another
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

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

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