

Why the Codfish Has a Red Face

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 the Codfish Has a Red Face

Level II Book 3

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A Skokomish Legend

As told by Georgia Miller

Illustrated by Bruce Miller

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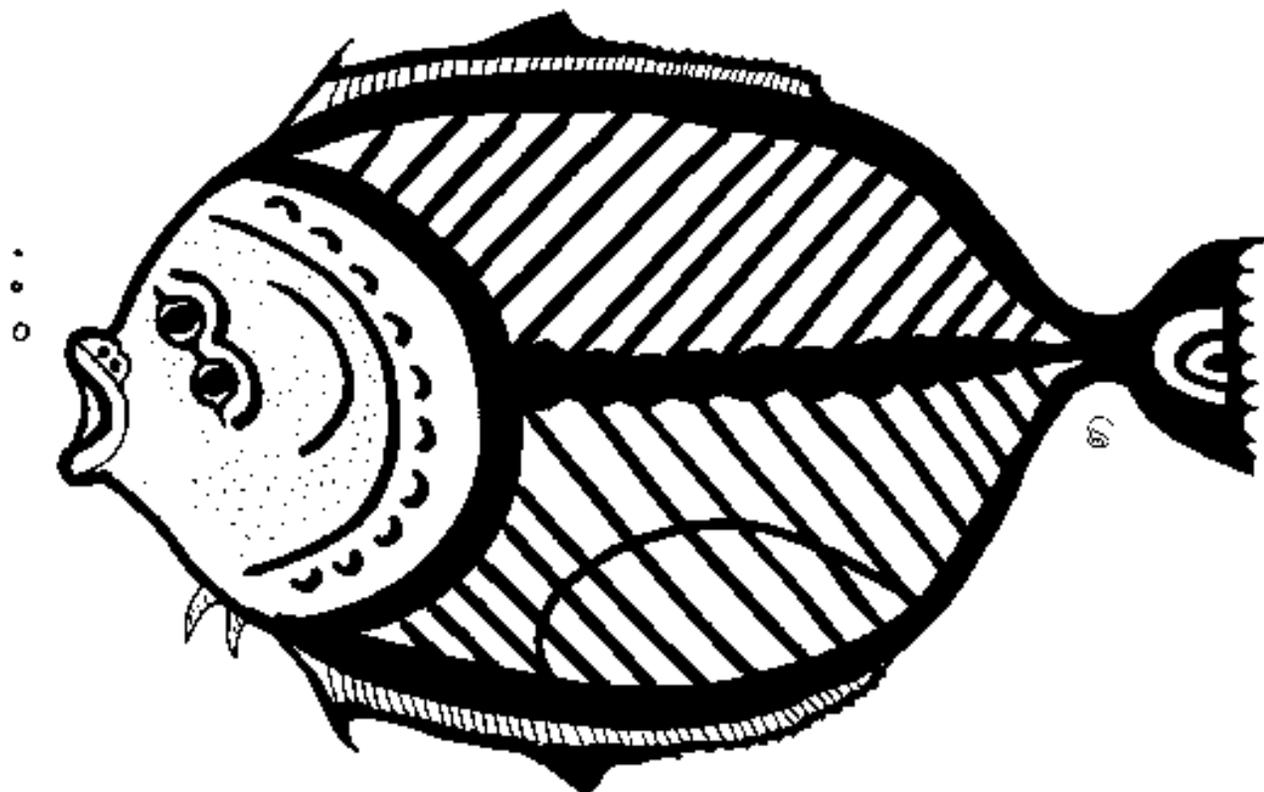
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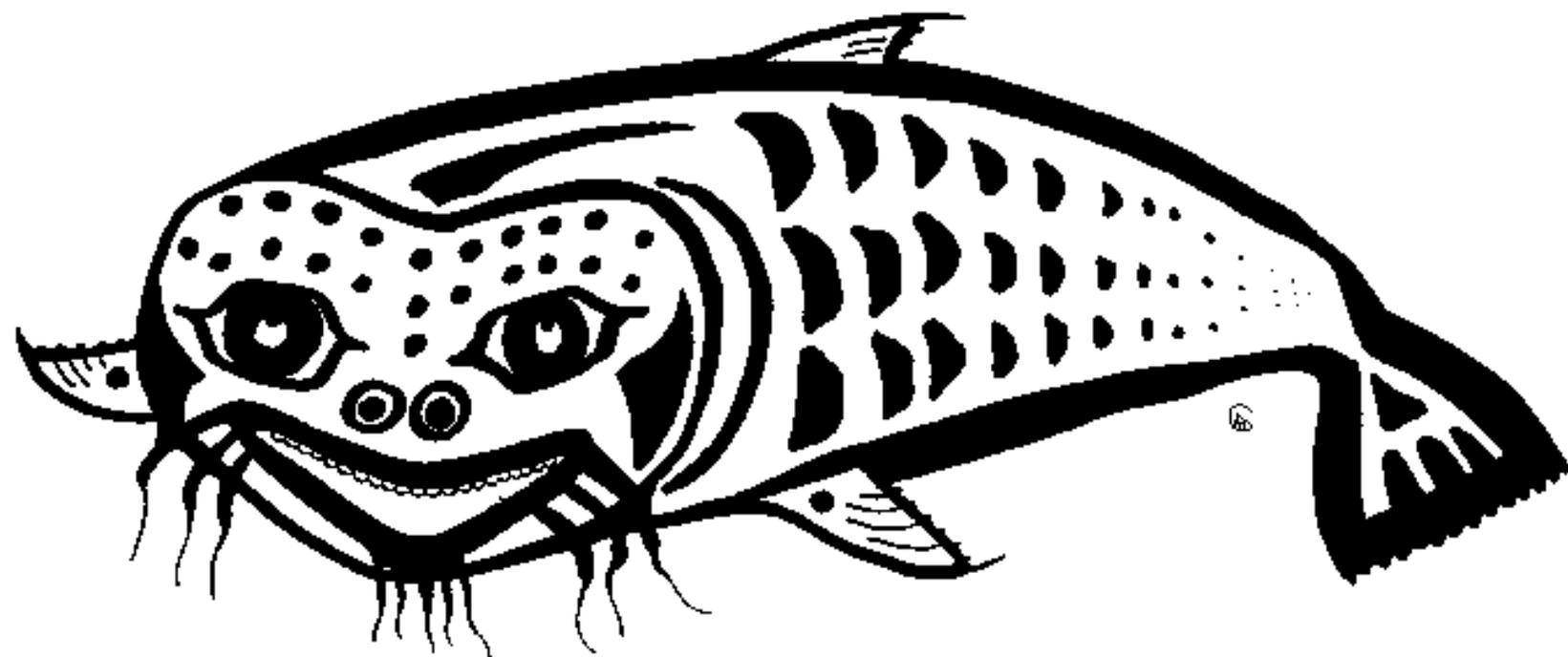
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"Who is that pretty, young maiden over there?"
Seal asked Flounder.



"I don't know," said Flounder.
"People say she never looks at anyone."



Codfish said, "Oh, indeed!
She's very lovely.
Just look at that beautiful hair!"



The strange maiden sat motionless,
paying no heed.



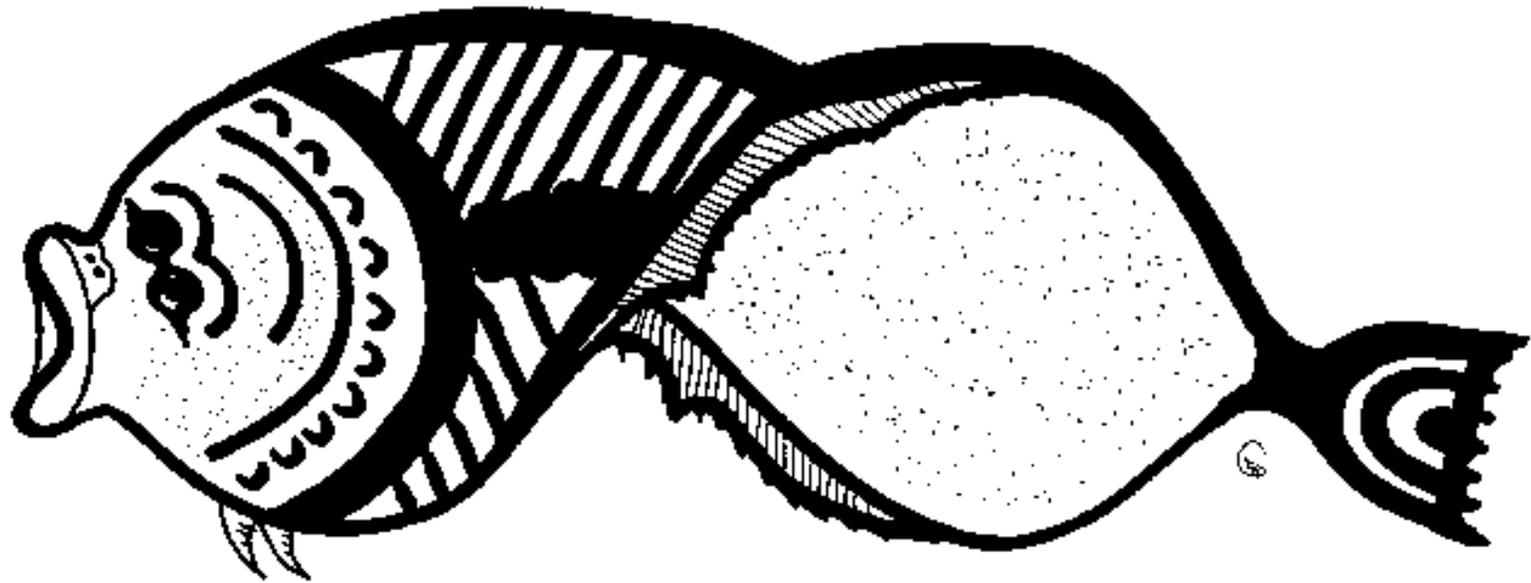


The three gentlemen talked.
They decided to have a contest.
The one who attracted her attention would be the winner.
It was agreed.



The Seal was first.
Oh!
He danced.
He dove.
He leaped.
He swirled in the water.
But alas!
The maiden did not even give him a glance.





Flounder was next.
He decided to use his clumsiness
to make the maiden look at him.
He danced and twirled till he fell, saying,
"Oh, I'm so clumsy!
All I can do is fall down!"



The maiden turned her back.

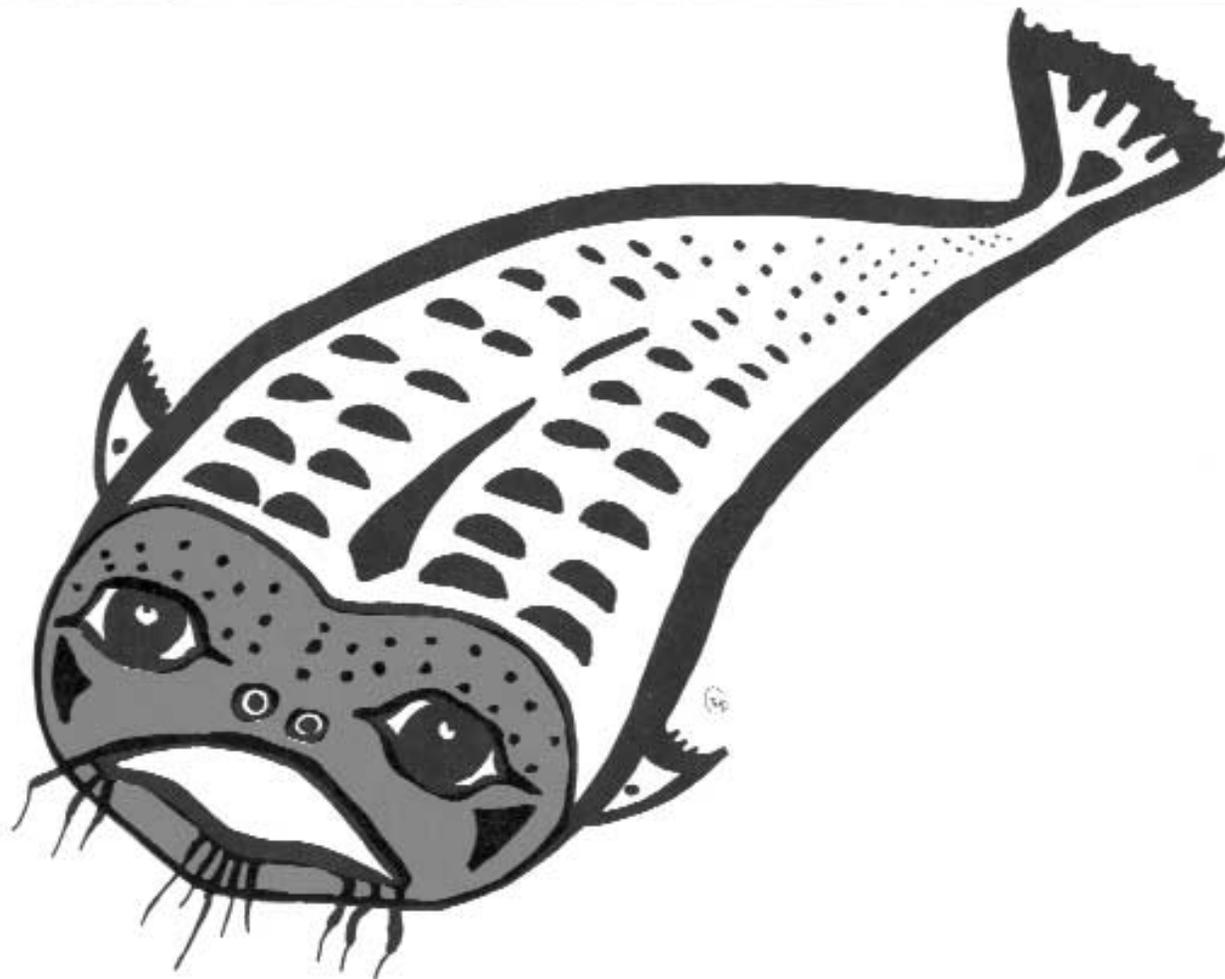


Codfish thought, "Hmmm, I will play a trick."
Singing to himself, he danced to the fire.
Closer he danced.
Suddenly he cried, "Adadadah!
My face is on fire!
My whiskers are burning!
My whiskers are burning!"



"Oh!" cried the maiden.
She threw back her hair and looked.
It was Dogfish Woman.
Oh goodness, she was ugly!
Seal and Flounder swam away laughing.





Ever since then, Codfish has had a red face.



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."

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