Picture Writing

The Indian Reading Series

Level II Book 6
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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Picture Writing
Level II Book 6

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Picture Writing

Picture writing expresses thoughts and events through drawings or pictures. American Indians used pictures for writing their legends, dreams, and family and tribal history. Some of the drawings are very old, and others are more modern. Some of the drawings stand for more than one word. Our people made colors from earth, grass, plants, flowers and herbs. They dried most of the plants. When they were ready to use them, the plants were crushed and mixed with water. The Indians drew on used hides, tree bark and the ground.
Many Indian people used a travois when they traveled. Dogs and horses pulled the travois which was made out of hides tied to two poles.
powerful talk

The dots along the lines emphasized powerful words.
man
woman
brothers
friends
I, me, my
you, him, her
we, us, they
wise, bright
man alone
man on horse
scan

The line below the man represents the trail.
The broken line indicates that he is keeping his eye on the trail.
lies

A forked tongue indicates talking two directions at once.
generous, big-hearted
sadness, sorrow

A sad person's heart is on the ground.
happiness

A happy person’s heart is where it belongs.
tree, forest
across the mountain

The arrow indicates crossing over the mountain.
mountains
go away, leave

Footprints show that someone is leaving the tepee.
arrive, return

Footprints show that someone is going toward the tepee.
tepee village
campfire
council fire

The circle and lines represent the people seated around the fire.
before

after
Sunday
Monday
One day after Sunday.
Tuesday

Two days after Sunday.
Wednesday

Three days after Sunday.
Thursday
Three days before Sunday.
Friday

Two days before Sunday.
Saturday
One day before Sunday.
wampum

Wampum beads were made from shell and bone. Wampum was used as money and for trading by some Indians.
treaty
A treaty among the Indian people was a very sacred agreement.
dream

Dream lines are rising from the head of the sleeping person.
rich, many horses

An Indian who owned many horses was rich.
catch, take
poor
exchange, sell, trade
offer, give
VERBENA GREENE

Verbena Greene, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, is the mother of eight children. She attended Warm Springs Boarding School until the 11th grade and later earned her G.E.D. She has served as Local Coordinator for the Warm Springs Curriculum Development Committee and was the Tribal Education Program Liaison for more than seven years. She presently is serving as Culture Resource Person for the Tribes, providing classroom cultural instruction (legends, values, songs, etc.) on a consultant basis to schools and community colleges. She enjoys working with young people and is pleased that students are now forming culture clubs and holding powwows in the school environment.

NITA CURTIS

Nita Curtis was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, and for the past 10 years has lived and taught on the Warm Springs Reservation in Central Oregon. She has been interested in art for about 15 years and uses several media, including watercolor, acrylics, and pen and ink. For the past five years she has been successfully exhibiting and selling her work. In addition to participating in the development of the Warm Springs materials for The Indian Reading Series, she has worked with two other Indian curriculum projects, including a fifth grade, social studies program funded by the Donner Foundation and a federally funded program in Brigham City, Utah.
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 Levels 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-Tailed 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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