The Crow
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 Crow
Level II Book 13

An Assiniboine Story
As told by Richard Blue Hawk
Illustrated by Joseph D. Clancy Sr.

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
Inkdomi is a legendary figure in the Assiniboine culture. He takes a role similar to the Blackfeet’s Napi. Although Inkdomi claims to be the Creator of all things, he really is a trickster and a liar. Often, he takes the form of different animals and birds in order to play tricks on people. He does both good and bad things.

Stories about Inkdomi have been passed on from generation to generation, and many times one story will have several versions. Some of the stories are humorous and others are more serious. This story tells how Inkdomi, in the form of Eagle, turned Crow black.
A long time ago, Crow was a beautiful bird. He had a good singing voice.
Crow was very proud of himself.
He would fly around and show off his beautiful feathers.
The other birds tried to talk to him,
but he wouldn't pay any attention to them.
One day, Inkdomi, in the form of Eagle, wanted to say something to Crow. But Crow wouldn't have anything to do with him.
That made Eagle angry at Crow.
Eagle said, "I will take away your beautiful voice and change the color of your feathers."
Eagle flew high into the air
and then flew down towards Crow.
As Eagle came close to Crow, Crow’s feathers turned black
and he lost his beautiful voice.
To this day, the crow is black and its voice sounds funny.
JEROME FOURSTAR
Jerome Fourstar is an Assiniboine Indian who was born and raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. He attended elementary school in Frazer, Montana, and received his G.E.D. from Glasgow High School. He served in the Montana National Guard and for many years worked as a carpenter and supervisor of electrical, plumbing and construction work. After taking college coursework in bilingual education, he served as a bilingual teacher at Wolf Point (Montana) High School. For the past five years he has taught Indian culture and religion in the Wolf Point public schools. He has served as a cultural and spiritual leader for both on-reservation and urban Indian groups and for Morning Star, Inc., which trains rehabilitated alcoholics. He also taught youth and served as a spiritual and cultural leader at an annual conference of medicine men in Morley, Alberta, and each summer he is director of a youth camp in Billings.

RICHARD BLUE TALK
Richard Blue Talk is an Assiniboine Indian who was born and raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Northern Montana. His hobby is reading and he is a storyteller. He is 63 years old.

FUNICE BIRTHMARK
Funice Birthmark is a Sioux Indian who was raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. She spends much of her time teaching Indian singing, dancing and culture, and serves on the Plains Area Curriculum Development Committee for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program. For three years she also worked as a bilingual teacher in Brockton Public School, in Poplar, Montana.

JOSEPH CLANCY, SR.
Joseph Clancy Sr., is an Assiniboine Indian from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. He was born and raised in Wolf Point and graduated from Frazer High School. He attended Northern Montana College in Havre. He has done professional artwork and is skilled in freehand drawing and lettering. He likes to hunt and fish, does bead work and makes war bonnets and dance bustles. He also likes Indian singing and fancy dancing.
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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