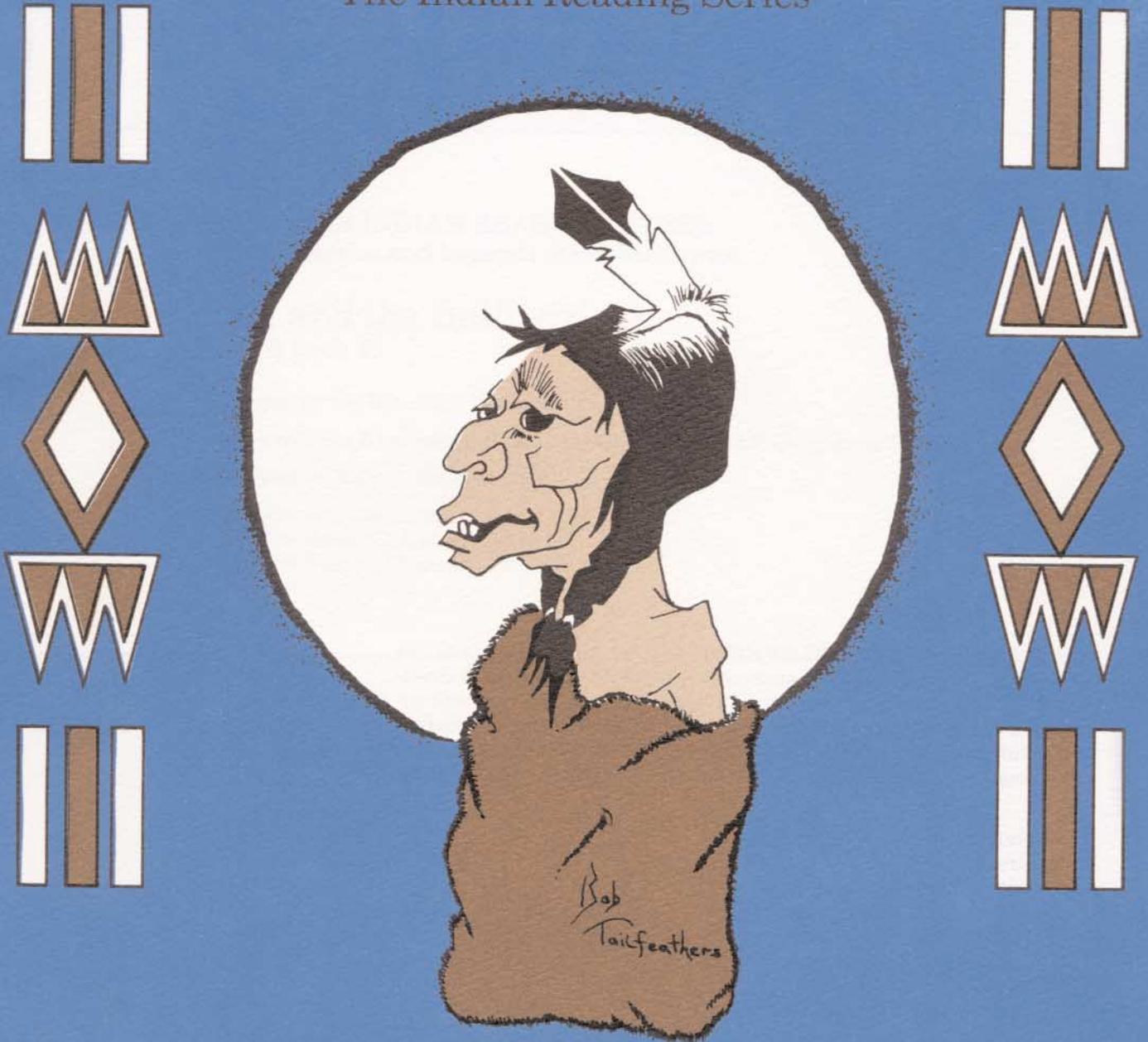


Napi and the Bullberries

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

Napi and the Bullberries

Level II Book 17

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians

Written by Joan Kennerly, Carmen Marceau, Doris Old Person, June Tatsey

Illustrated by Robert Tailfeathers

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Pacific Northwest Indian Program
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Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
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Napi is a legendary figure in the Blackfeet Indian culture. He can do anything and anything can happen to him. There are a great number of stories about him, passed on from generation to generation by the older people to the younger ones. Some of the stories are serious and some are humorous. Many times the same story will have several versions. The following story is one which has been told over and over and is an example of how Indians use humor to teach.

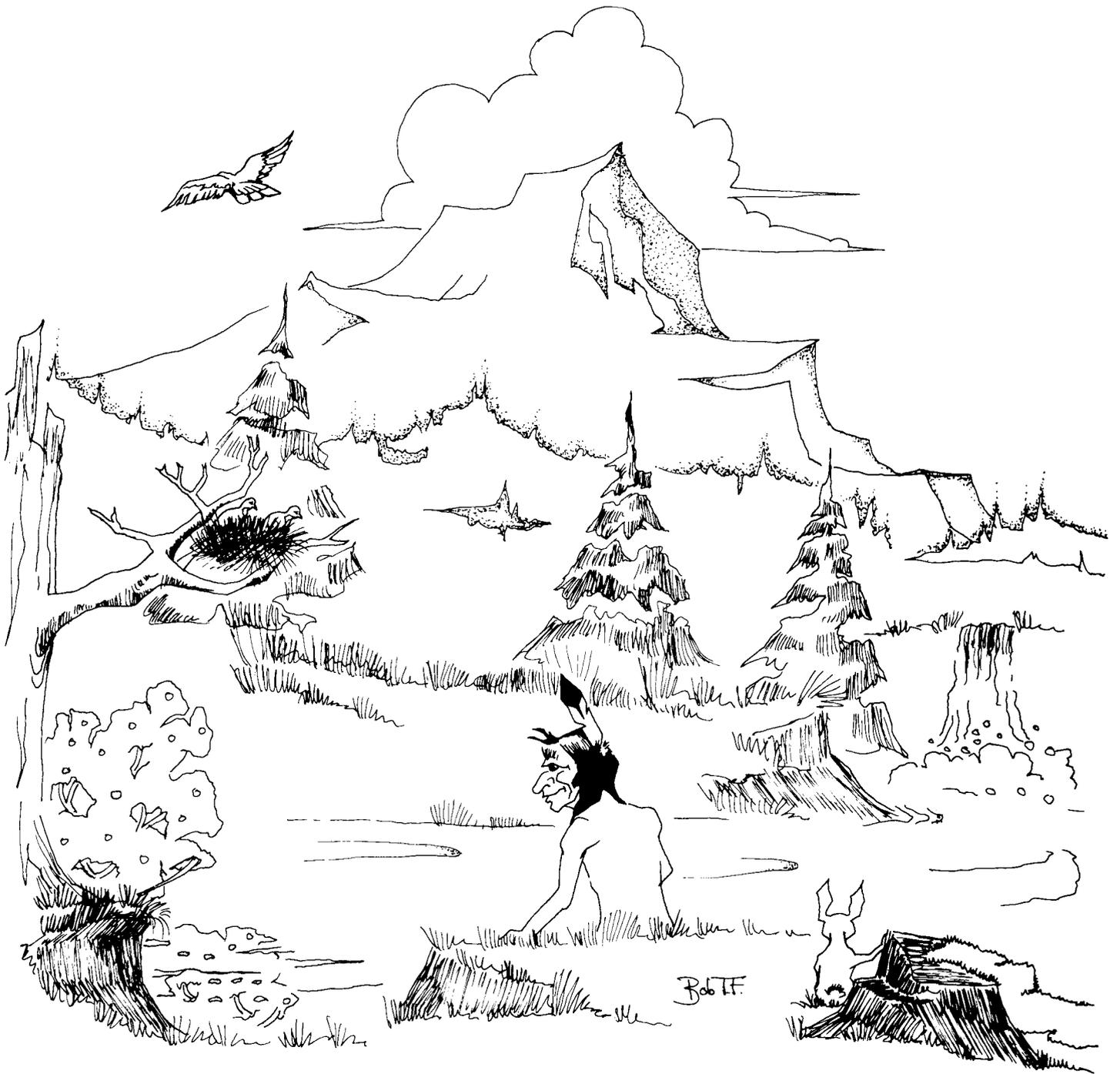
The bullberries referred to in the story are also called buffalo berries. These berries can be found in many parts of Montana.



One very hot day, Napi decided to go swimming in the creek.



Napi liked to swim and to dive into the water.
The water was very cool.
It made him feel very good.



After Napi had swum for awhile, he sat on the bank to rest. While he was sitting there, he looked into the water and saw some delicious looking berries. They were bright orange and looked plump and juicy.



Napi was beginning to get very hungry from swimming. He decided to dive back into the water to get the berries.



The first time he dove into the water, he came up empty-handed.

Napi thought, "I know what to do.
I'll tie rocks on my feet so that I'll be heavier
and go down deeper into the water."
So Napi tied some rocks to his feet.
He slowly walked to the water
because the rocks were so heavy.



This time when Napi dove to get the berries,
he hit his head on a rock at the bottom of the creek.
Napi saw stars.
Half knocked out, he twisted and turned
to get to the top of the water.
He almost drowned because of the rocks tied to his feet.
When he got to the top, he was fighting mad!



As Napi climbed out of the water,
 some little birds in a nest started to laugh at him.
They sang, “Napi, Napi, that is only a reflection
 on the water.
The real berries are on the bush.”



Napi was very angry.
He did not thank the baby birds as he should have.
Instead, he went up the bank
 to where the berries really were.
As he tried to pick the berries,
 his hands were stuck by thorns.
He became more angry.



Napi looked funny as he became more and more angry.
His face got a darker red,
 and his feather fell sideways on his head.
The baby birds began to laugh again.
“Do not laugh at me!” said Napi.
He grabbed their beaks
 and pulled and stretched them apart.
Napi said, “This is for laughing at me.
From now on, all little birds will have big mouths.”



Napi was still angry about being stuck by the thorns.
He grabbed a big stick and started to beat
on the bullberry bushes.

He said, "Because you hurt my hands,
the only way anybody will ever be able to pick you
is by beating you with a stick."

So, to this day, anyone wanting bullberries
has to beat the bushes with a stick
to get the berries off.





JOAN BULLSHOE KENNERLY

Mrs. Kennerly has twenty years of teaching experience in the Blackfeet and Northern Cheyenne public school systems and was the first runnerup for the 1972 Montana Teacher of the Year. She received her B.A. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in education from Arizona State University. She was responsible for establishing Native American Day for the State, and was appointed by the Governor of Montana to serve on the Commission on Post Secondary Education. She also was the Chairperson of House Joint Resolution 60, which established the Master Plan for Indian Education for the State of Montana. She has two children.



JUNE BULLSHOE TATSEY

Mrs. Tatsey is a Blackfeet Indian with sixteen years experience in teaching grades one through eight and pre-school in the public school system on the Blackfeet Reservation. She received her B.S. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in guidance and counseling from the University of South Dakota and the University of Montana. She was the reading supervisor and is now vice-principal at K. W. Bergen Elementary School in Browning, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.



CARMEN BULLSHOE MARCEAU

Mrs. Marceau is a Blackfeet Indian with eighteen years teaching experience. She has had one year experience in guidance and counseling on the Blackfeet Reservation and is principal of Browning Elementary School. She received her B.S. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in guidance and counseling from the University of South Dakota and the University of Montana.



DORIS BULLSHOE OLD PERSON

Mrs. Old Person has eighteen years experience teaching in the Blackfeet Public School System. She has specialized in remedial reading and has been Head Start Director-Supervisor for ESEA Title I and Director of the Native Song and Dance Program. She received her B.A. from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in education from Arizona State University. She has five children.

Mrs. Kennerly, Mrs. Tatsey, Mrs Marceau, and Mrs. Old Person are the daughters of Lillian and Francis Bullshoe. They were raised on a ranch near Badger Creek in the Blackfeet Reservation countryside.

All four women had similar educational backgrounds. They attended Mad Plume School (a one room rural school), the Blackfeet Indian Boarding School, and all but Mrs. Tatsey attended Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota. They all graduated from Browning High School. At the present time the four women are teaching in the Blackfeet Public School System in Browning, Montana.



ROBERT TAILFEATHERS

Robert Tailfeathers was born and raised on the Blackfeet Reservation and graduated from Browning High School in 1970. After attending the University of Montana, he taught in the Missoula Head Start Program as well as the Blackfeet Head Start Program. During the summer of 1975, he taught Indian art with the Upward Bound Program at the University of Montana. He plans to finish his degree in sociology and continue his career in art.

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
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Salish Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
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| 2 <i>Thunder and the Mosquito</i>
Muckleshoot Tribe | 13 <i>The Crow</i>
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| 3 <i>Why the Codfish Has a Red Face</i>
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| 4 <i>How Wildcat and Coyote Tricked Each
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| 11 <i>The Time the Whale Came to Jackson's
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Skokomish Tribe | |

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