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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How Marten Got His Spots
Level III Book 4

Developed by the Kootenai Cultural Committee
of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

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Marten and Mink were brothers.
Since Mink was the oldest,
    he took care of his younger brother, Marten.
Mink gave strict orders to Marten.
"Whatever you do, never go over the hill," he said.
"Always stay close to home."
Marten would look up at the hill
and wonder why he wasn’t allowed
to play on the other side.
One day his curiosity got the best of him.
He went to the top of the hill.
Down in the valley was a tepee.
Marten wondered who lived there.
As he got closer, he saw Bear working in the yard.
When Bear went back into the tepee,
Marten followed her in
and sat down across from her.
Bear offered Marten a wooden dish full of pemmican.
As Marten reached across the fire to take the dish,
Bear grabbed his arm and pulled him into the fire!
Just in time, he scrambled out of the fire before he scorched himself too badly. Poor Marten ran all the way home and jumped under the covers.
When Mink returned from hunting, there was no sign of Marten. Mink looked everywhere. Finally, he lifted up the blankets and found his little brother. Martin told Mink he had not listened and had gone over the hill. He explained what had happened and showed his big brother the burnt spots on his fur. For a few days, Mink put medicine on his brother’s wounds, until only scars remained.
And that's how martens got their spots.
Booklets available in the Level III 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 II sequences.

1 *Story of the Seasons*
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

2 *The Beginning of the Earth*
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

3 *The Blacktail Dance*
   Blackfeet Tribe

4 *How Marten Got His Spots*
   Kootenai Cultural Committee of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

5 *Lost in the Fog*
   Jamestown-Clallam Tribe

6 *How to Be a Friend*
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

7 *How the Morning and Evening Stars Came to Be*
   Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

8 *Raccoon’s Black Eyes and Ringed Tail*
   Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

9 *Coyote and Old Lady*
   Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

10 *Coyote and Trout*
    Kootenai Cultural Committee of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

11 *How the Milky Way Got into the Sky*
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

12 *Inkdomi and the Buffalo*
   Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

13 *Medicine Horse*
   Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

14 *The Good Hunter and Fisherman*
   Jamestown-Clallam Tribe

15 *The Wild Buffalo Ride*
   Blackfeet Tribe

16 *I Am a Rock*
   Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

17 *The Man Who Loved Shell Money*
   Skokomish Tribe

18 *Old Man Napi*
   Blackfeet Tribe

19 *The Turtle Who Went to War*
   Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

20 *Coyote and the Mean Mountain Sheep*
   Salish Cultural Committee of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

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