**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

How the Morning and Evening Stars Came to Be
Level III Book 7

An Assiniboine Story
As told by Jerome Fourstar
Illustrated by Lisa Ventura
Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
Before the white man came, Indians followed Indian time. They had no clocks then. When they saw the morning star, they knew it was time to get up. The evening star meant it was time to go to bed.

This Assiniboine story tells how two brothers became the morning and evening stars in order to be useful to their people. It tells how they stopped an old lady witch, who could turn herself into a cow elk, from luring hunters into the woods and turning them into trees.
A long time ago, a man and his wife
and their twin sons lived in a tepee in the woods.
The man would go hunting
and the woman tanned hides and made clothes.
One day when the boys were about 17 years old, their father told them they had to go on a long journey. Their mother prepared pemmican, dried meat, rosebuds and grease for their journey. Each boy also had a dog and a horse, which looked the same as his brother’s.
The two boys left the next morning at daylight. They went southeast, traveling while the sun was high and straight over their heads. They came to a fork in the trail. One of the young men said to the other, “You take one of the trails, and I will take the other. Every so often we will look at our knives. If the blade of the knife is rusty, we will know that one of us is dead.” So they both went off on different trails.
At sundown, the boy who took the left trail came to a tepee.
The woman who lived there asked him where he was going.
He told her he was going on a journey to explore the country.
The woman said he could stay and sleep there that night.
So the boy tied his horse to a tree, fed his dog and went to bed.
Early the next morning he had breakfast, packed his buffalo robe on the horse and continued his journey.
That afternoon the boy saw a cow elk and chased it into the woods. When he entered the woods, it immediately became dark and he lost the cow elk.
The boy tied his horse to a tree
and gathered some dry wood.
He made a bonfire and started to eat his lunch.
All of a sudden,
he heard something coming through the brush.
Out came an old lady!
She said, "Grandson, I am cold.
Can I sit by the fire and keep warm?"
The boy told her she could sit by the fire and keep warm.

He offered her some of his food, but she said she wasn’t hungry, just cold.

She said, “Grandson, if you get sleepy, you can go to sleep.

I will sit here and keep up the fire all night.”

So the boy covered himself with a buffalo robe and went to sleep.
After a long while, the old lady tried to find out if the young man was asleep.
She said, “Look out, Grandson! The sparks are jumping toward you!”
But he did not move.
She took some of the fire and threw it toward him.
Again she said, “Look out, Grandson! The sparks are jumping toward you!”
But still he did not move, so she knew he was asleep.
The old lady took a stick and put one end of it into her mouth to wet it.
Then she took out her medicine pouch and stuck the stick into it.
She touched the young man with the stick.
He turned into a tree.
Then she went out and touched the dog and horse. They also turned into trees.
About this time the other twin looked at his knife
and saw the rusty blade.
He knew that his brother was dead.
The boy turned his horse around
and started back to the fork in the trail.
When he got there, he started on the trail
his brother had taken.
The young man went the very same way
    his brother had gone,
    with his dog leading the way.
He stayed that night at the woman's camp
    and left early in the morning.
He chased the cow elk into the woods
    and again it turned dark.
He made camp at the very same place his brother had.
Again, the old lady came, asking to warm herself.
But he didn’t trust her,
    and while pretending to sleep,
    he watched her through a hole in his buffalo robe.
When she threw the sparks at him, he did not move.
He saw the old woman put a stick into her medicine pouch.
She was about to touch him, when he jumped out of the way.
He grabbed the stick and touched her with it.
She turned into an old, crooked tree.
Then the boy told his dog to look for his brother.  
The dog went sniffing from tree to tree.  
Suddenly, the dog stopped and wagged its tail.  
The young man took the stick  
and touched the tree with it.  
It turned out to be his brother.  
The dog began sniffing again  
and stopped by another tree.  
This time it was the horse.  
The dog stopped by still another tree.  
So again the young man touched the tree  
with the stick.  
This time it was the dog.
After that, he took the stick
and touched the other trees.
They all turned out to be men
and told the same story.
They had all chased the cow elk into the woods
and had met the old lady.
The young twins told the other men
what had happened
and that the old lady was a witch.
All the men went back to where they had come from.
On their way home,
    the two brothers stopped at the tepee
    where the first woman had told each of them to stay.
When she saw them both together,
    she knew they were twins.
They stayed there that night,
    and started home the next morning.
By sundown the twins were home.
They told their parents what had happened.
Their father told them, "From this day on,
you two are going to be useful to the people."
He said to one son, "You will go in the direction
where the sun comes up.
There you will stay.
You will be the morning star.
The people will know it is time to get up
when they see you."
He told the other boy, "You will go
toward the direction that the sun sets.
And that is where you will stay.
You will be the evening star.
The people will watch you at dusk.
When you disappear on the horizon,
the people will know it is time to go to bed.”

That is how the morning star and the evening star
came to be in the sky.
And from that day on,
nobody turned people into trees.
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 ecumenical conference of medicine men in Morley, Alberta, and each summer he is director of a youth camp in Billings.

EUNICE BIRTHMARK

Eunice 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.
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
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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
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    Reservation

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