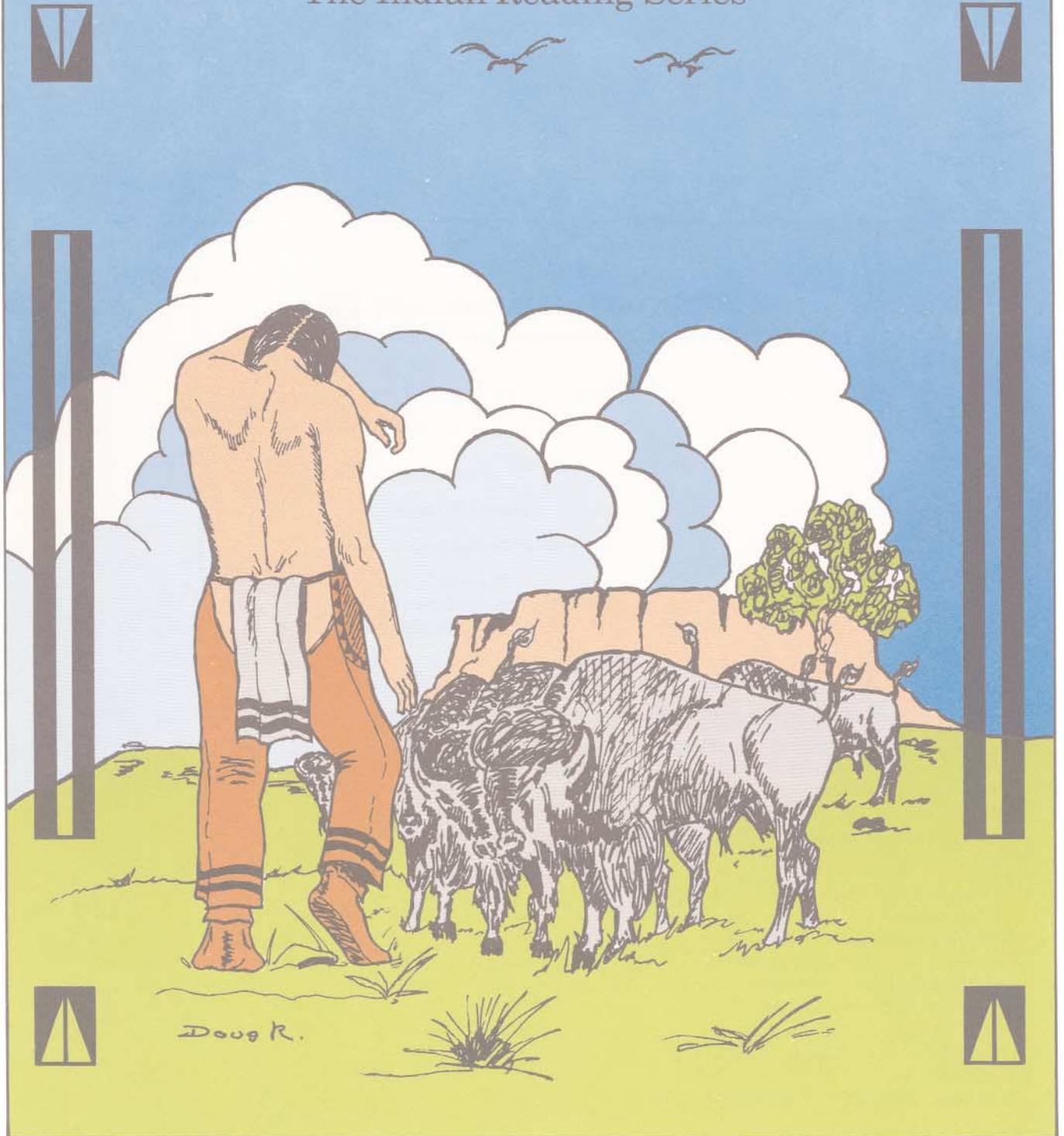


Inkdomi and the Buffalo

The Indian Reading Series



Doug R.

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

Inkdomi and the Buffalo

Level III Book 12

An Assiniboine Story

As told by Jerome Fourstar

Illustrated by Douglas Runsthrough

Joseph Coburn, Director

Pacific Northwest Indian Program

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
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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.

Once, long ago, while Inkdomi was on a journey,
he saw a herd of buffalo.
He had been walking for two days
without anything to eat
and was very hungry.

Inkdomi began to think how he could kill
one of the buffalo.

Finally, he had an idea.

As he walked toward the buffalo,
he started to cry.

The leader asked Inkdomi why he was crying.

Inkdomi said, "The enemy killed my whole tribe.

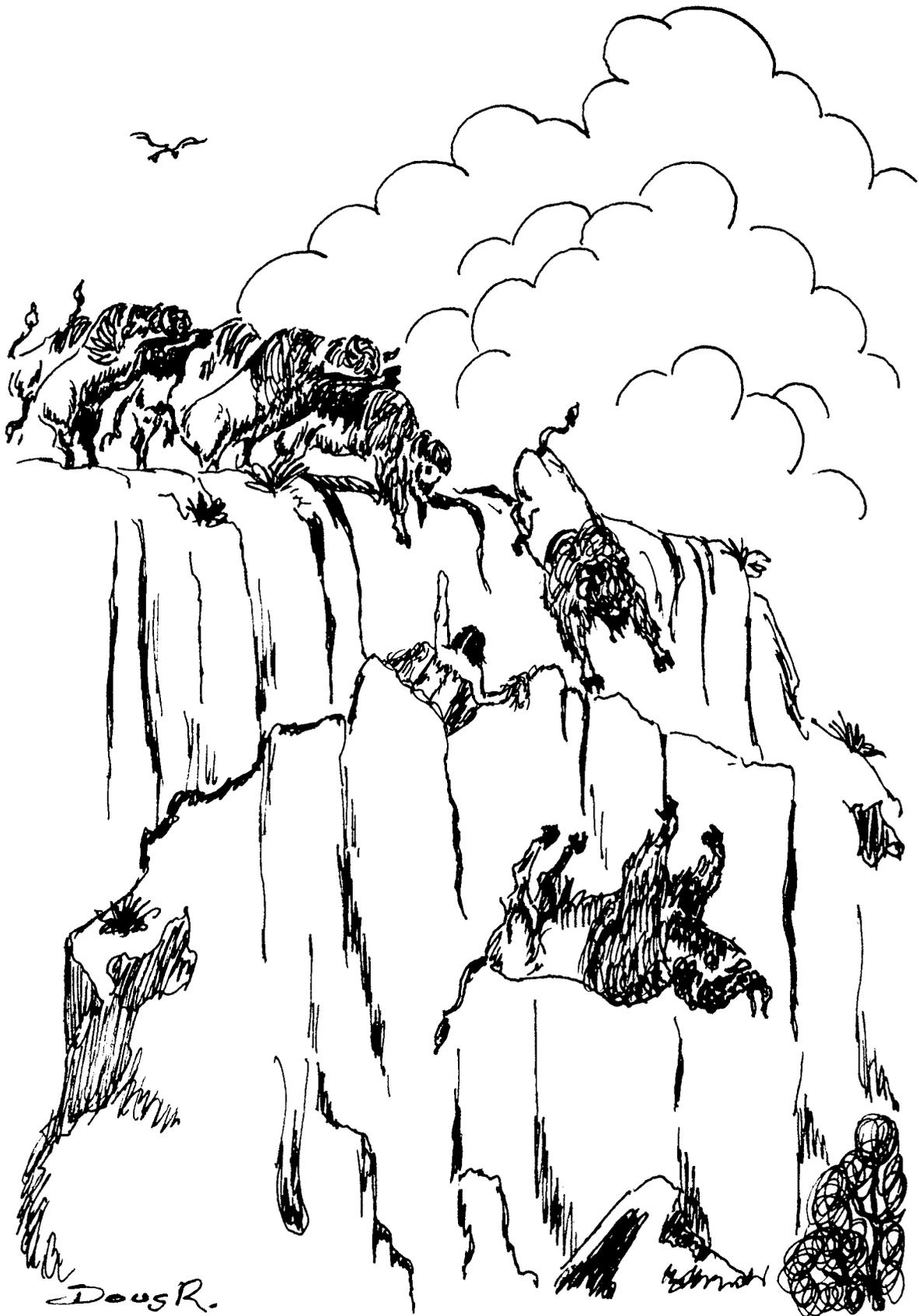
I am the only one left.

My brothers, if you would help me,
we could go and kill the enemy."



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The leader asked Inkdomi how they could help him.
Inkdomi said, "You can run fast and are strong.
You can overtake the enemy and kill them."
The buffalo agreed to help.
Inkdomi said, "First, you must close your eyes
and follow me as I sing with my gourd.
When I say to charge,
all of you run as fast as you can.
But your eyes must be closed."
Inkdomi led the buffalo toward a high cliff.
As they got close, he said, "All right, charge!"
Inkdomi threw himself over the edge of the cliff.
All of the buffalo followed,
killing themselves when they hit the bottom.



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Inkdomi had lots of meat then.

As he skinned the buffalo,

a lame fox came along and said,

“Can I help you, my brother?”

I am so hungry.

I would like to help you

so we could eat some of the meat right away.”

Inkdomi said, “No, first take some tripe

to the creek and wash it.

We will eat it later.”



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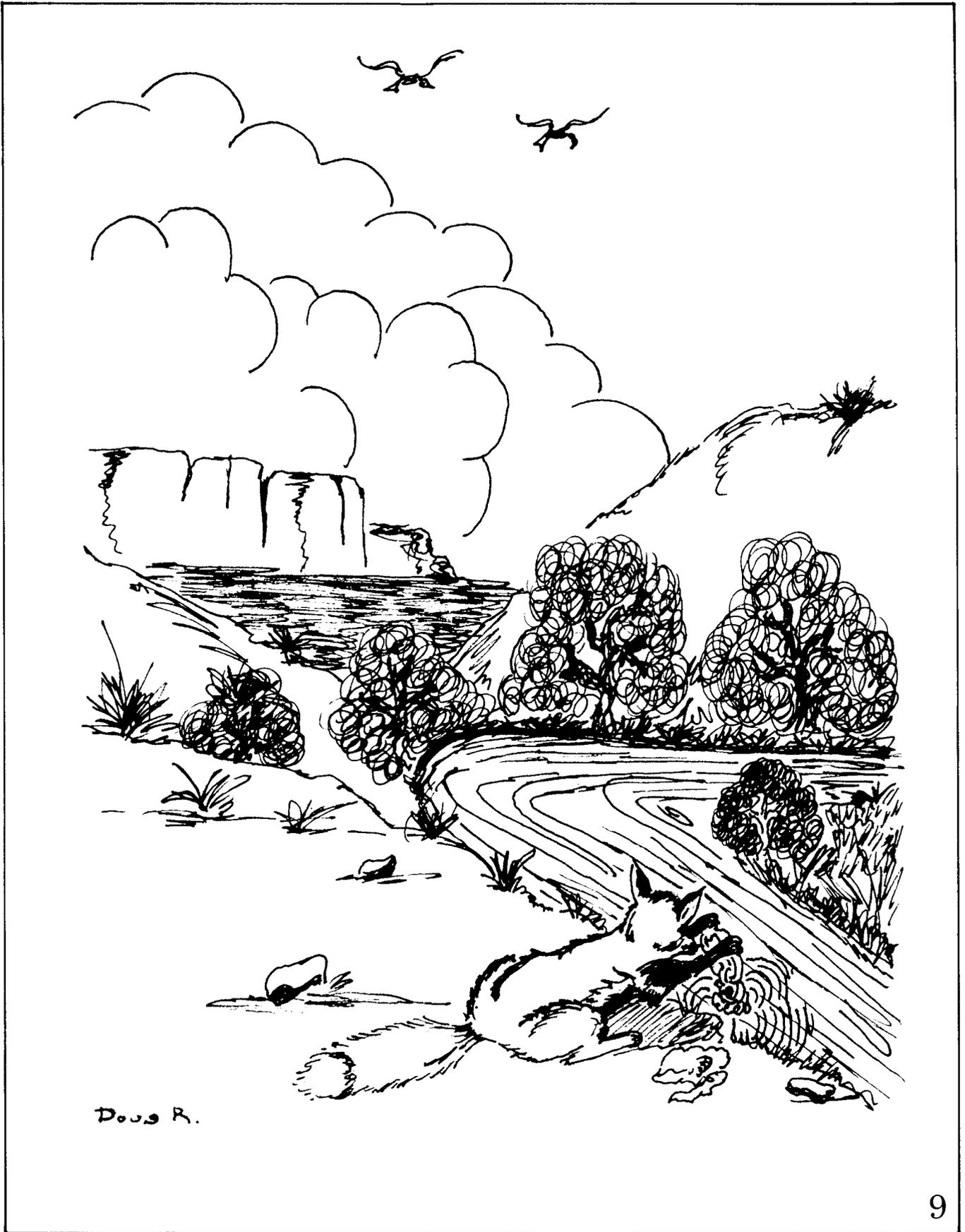
Inkdomi gave the fox some tripe.

When the fox got to the creek,
he quickly washed the tripe
and ate it all up.

He went back and told Inkdomi a big fish
had taken the tripe away from him.

Inkdomi gave him some more tripe to wash.

Again the fox quickly washed the tripe,
ate it up and came back with the same story.



Doug R.

He did this several times,
and each time Inkdomi gave him more tripe.
Finally, Inkdomi followed the fox to the creek.
Again the fox quickly washed the tripe
and ate it all up.
About that time, Inkdomi went up to the fox
and beat him up!



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The fox left, crying as he walked along the creek.
He met a wolf who asked him why he was crying.
The fox told him what had happened.



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The wolf said, "Don't worry, brother.
We'll get even."

The wolf called together
all of the flesh-eating animals
and told them what to do.

So, the animals went to Inkdomi
and told him some stories.

Inkdomi fell asleep.

While he was sleeping,
they ate up all of his meat and left.

When Inkdomi woke up, all of the meat was gone.

Because of Inkdomi's trickery and greed,
he wound up with nothing.





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.



DOUGLAS RUNSTROUGH

Douglas Runsthrough is an Assiniboine and Sioux Indian who was born and raised on the Fort Peck reservation in Northern Montana. He attended Eastern Montana College in Billings and has had considerable professional art experience. In addition to illustrating, lettering and drafting, he painted a series of pictures which were displayed and televised, and then reproduced in pamphlet form by the Education Department of the College of Great Falls. He is married and lives in Frazer, on the Fort Peck reservation.

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*
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- 3 The Blacktail Dance*
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- 4 How Marten Got His Spots*
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- 16 I Am a Rock*
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- 17 The Man Who Loved Shell Money*
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- 18 Old Man Napi*
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- 19 The Turtle Who Went to War*
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
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