I Am a Rock

The Indian Reading Series

Level III Book 16
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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Stories and Legends of the Northwest

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A Crow Story
Written and illustrated by Henry Real Bird
Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
The story tells how a rock becomes glass.
Long ago, I was a rock in the mountains.
One day I rolled into the river.
Then I was far from the mountains.
The river was strong.
It pushed me over and over.
Parts of me were chipped away.
Then I was sand.
There were many of us there.
We looked alike.
We were part of sand.
Sometimes snow covered us.
Then we were cold.
When the snow melted, we saw the sun.
One day we heard a loud noise.
It was a truck and a tractor.
The tractor had a big shovel.
Then we were in the truck.
The truck went fast.
Some of my friends were blown away.
The truck stopped.
The truck dumped us out into a big pile of sand.
A man came with a wheelbarrow and a shovel. He put some sand into his wheelbarrow.
The sand was crushed in a machine.  
That made our edges smooth.
Then we were put into a fire.
The fire was so hot we melted together into one piece.
Some of us were sheets.
Some of us were sticks.
The people put blankets between the sheets. This was to keep the sheets from breaking. Then they loaded some of us into trucks. It was my turn to go.
Some of us went to where they make windshields for cars. The people heated the sheets again to make safety glass for cars.
I am part of glass now.  
But you can hardly see me.  
Glass makes all of these things.  
Can you think of more?
This is what I am.
I see you, but you cannot see me.
Sometimes you look at me and see yourself.
I am a mirror.
HENRY REAL BIRD

Henry Real Bird is a Crow Indian who was raised in the traditional Crow way on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana. He entered first grade speaking only the Crow Indian language and has an intimate knowledge of problems Indian children encounter in the public school system. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University and has taught reading in all the elementary grades. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Indian reservation. As the Teacher Orientation Specialist for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program, he was responsible for developing a teacher's manual and accompanying inservice program in addition to writing and illustrating books designed for Indian children. He has served on the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and the Crow Central Education Commission, and was a delegate to the 1971 White House Conference on Youth. He also is a saddle bronc rider and member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.
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 Martin 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

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the Teacher’s Manual, contact the publisher:

Educational Systems, Inc.
2360 Southwest 170th Street
Beaverton, Oregon 97005
(503) 649-7516