

# BLUE JAY— STAR CHILD



The Indian Reading Series

# BASKET WOMAN

*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

## Blue Jay — Star Child

### Basket Woman

Level IV Book 3

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A Muckleshoot Legend

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# Blue Jay — Star Child

Told by

Ollie Wilber



Long ago there lived two sisters. They worked very hard. They gathered food for the family.



One day they went to dig roots. A camp was made for the night because it was too late to go home.



While looking at the stars, older sister said, "I wish that White Star was my husband. I wish that Red Star was your husband."



That night her wish came true. The sisters went to Sky World to live with their new husbands.



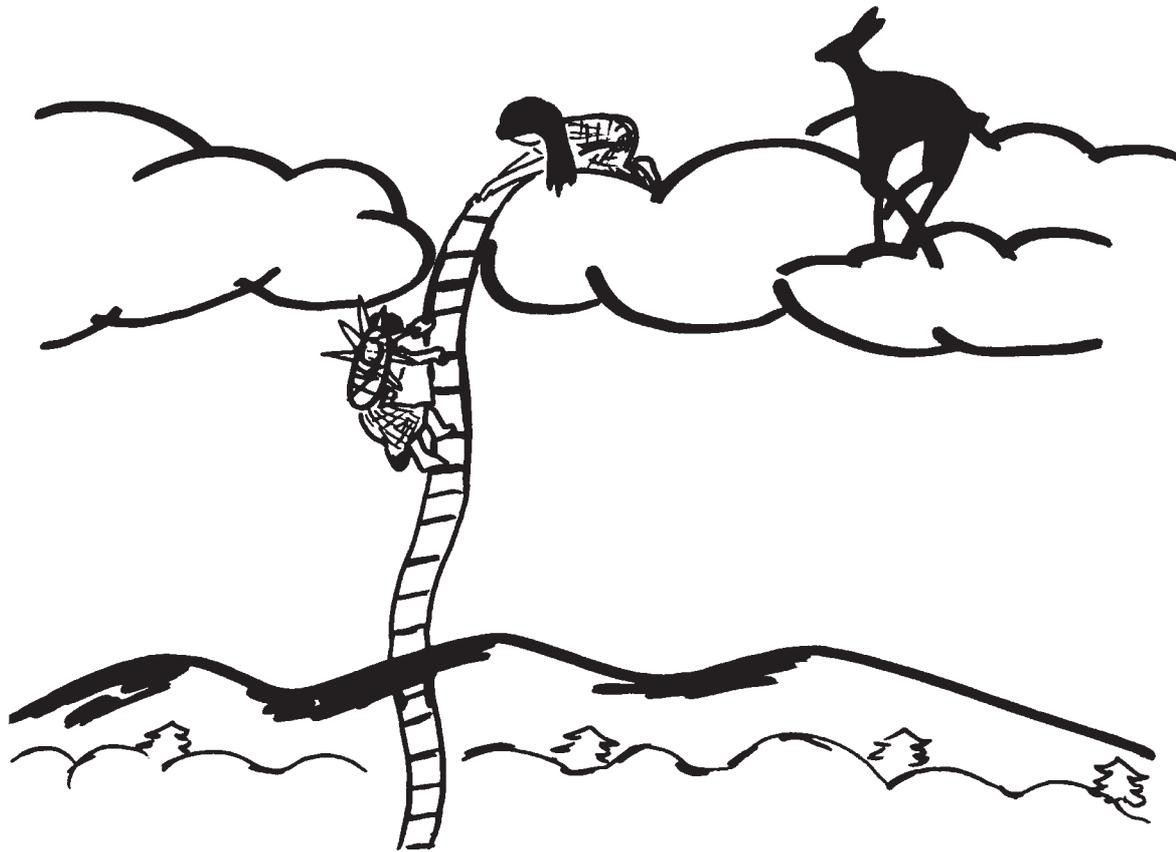
While living in Sky World, young sister had a baby boy. Even with a baby, young sister became very homesick. She wanted to go home.



Every day she thought about going home. One day while digging roots, she thought hard about getting home and she dug too deep. A flow of air came through the hole.



She dug away more dirt and soon discovered a way home. Very quickly she and her sister made a ladder. They made a ladder using cedar boughs. Soon they were back home.



Everyone was so happy to see the sisters home. Everyone celebrated but during the celebrations, the baby was kidnapped.



Young Sister was very sad. She was so sad she cried. Blue Jay was asked to help find the baby.



Many people looked for the baby. Blue Jay had discovered that Dog Salmon had taken the baby. They went to Under World.



There was only one way to get to Under World. The passage way was a hole. The hole opened and closed. No one could get through.



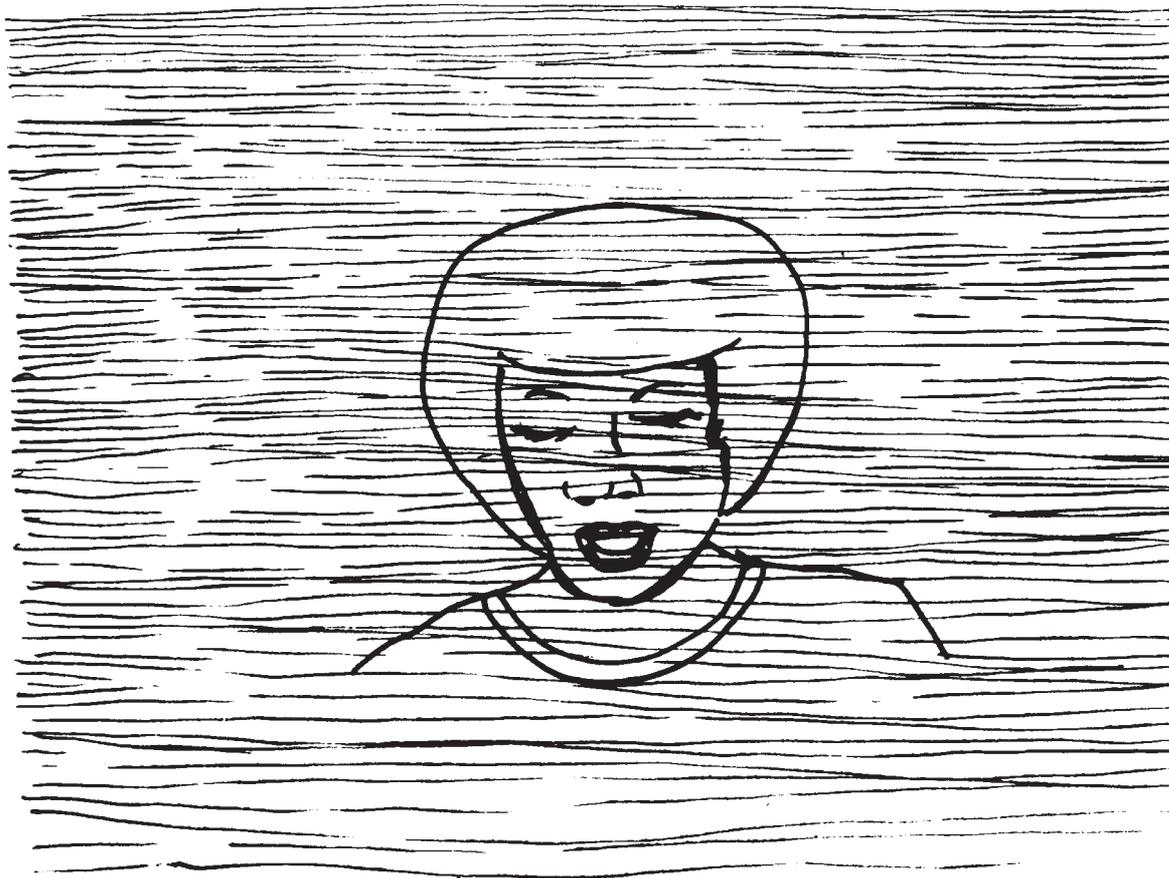
Blue Jay attempted to go through. On her first attempt, the ground closed on Blue Jay. On her second attempt, Blue Jay made it through.



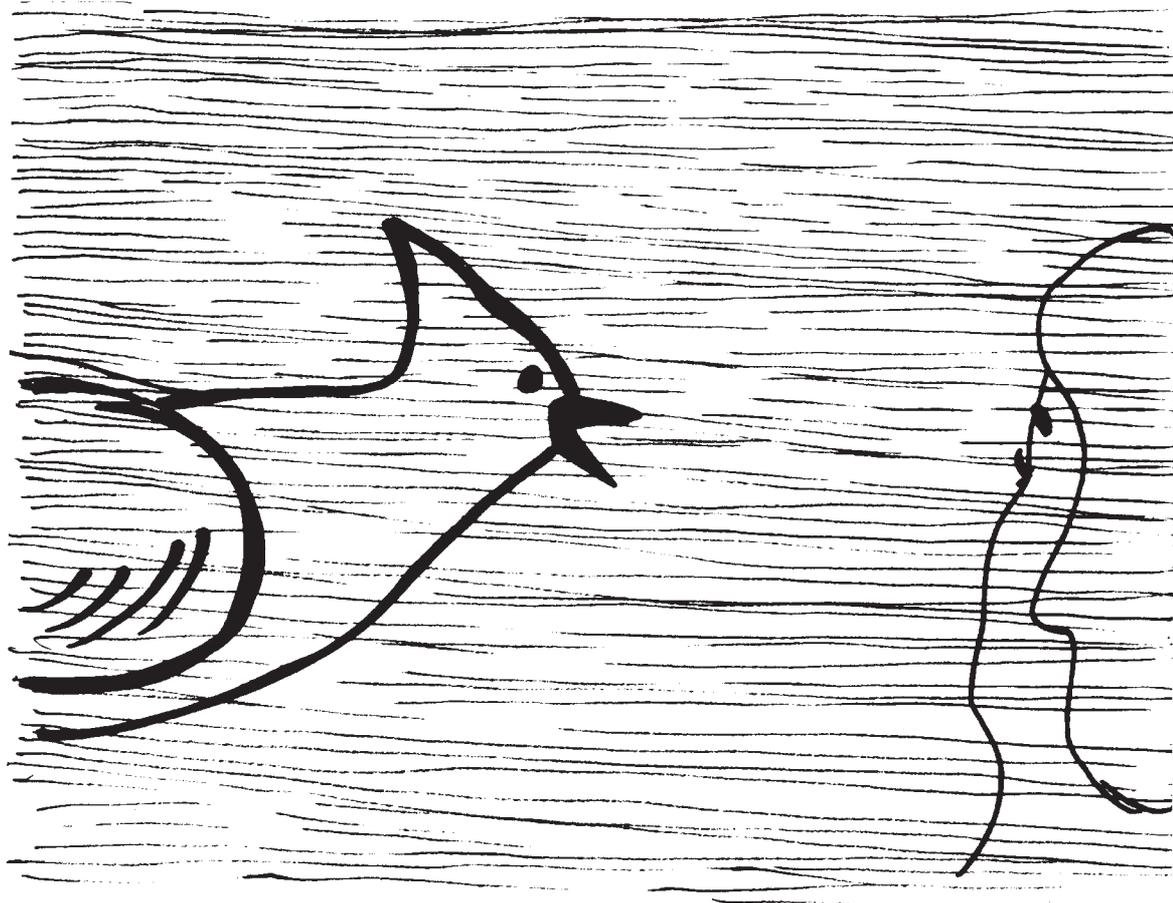
Once Blue Jay got to Under World, she found the baby was a grown man. "Come home," said Blue Jay, "everyone is looking for you."



“I can’t right now.  
I will come home very soon.  
When I come home, everything will be changed.”

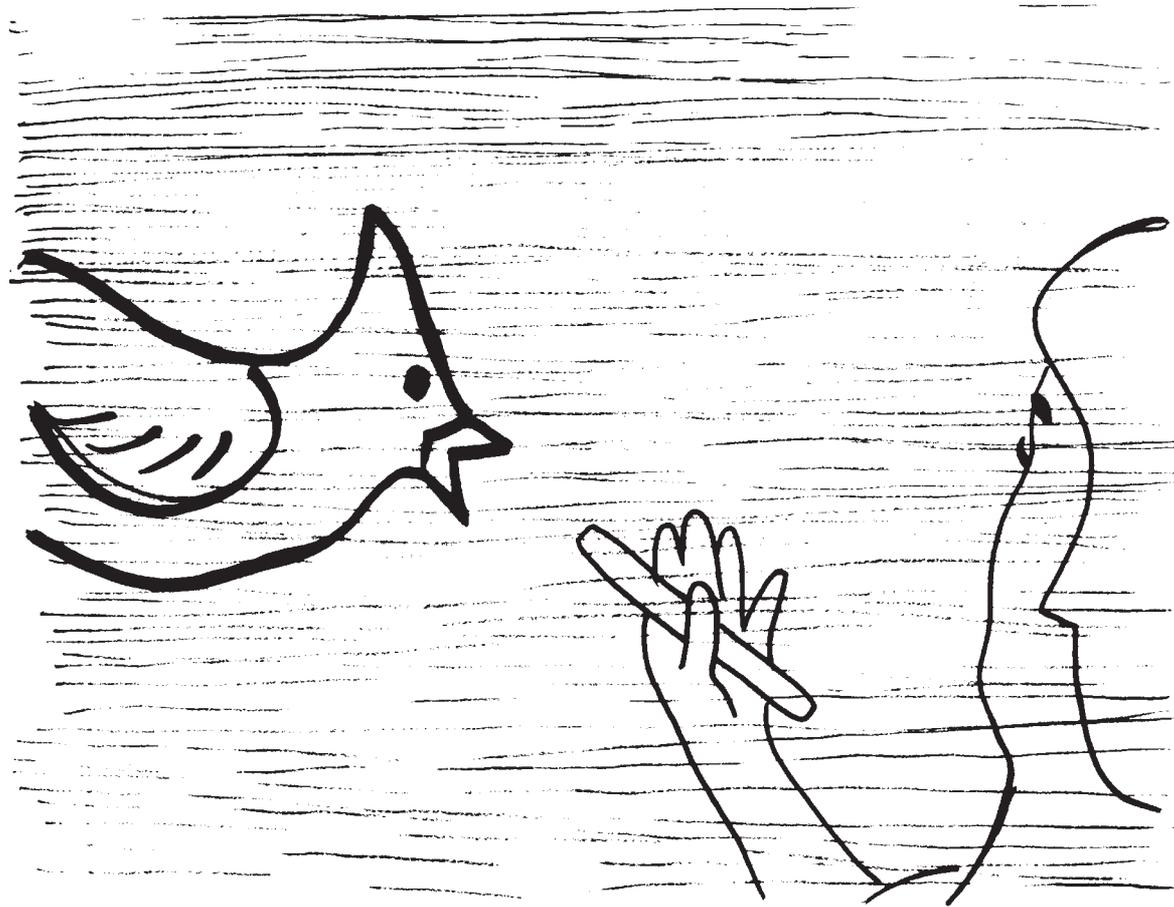


“When I came into Under World I got hurt,” said Blue Jay. “I am worried about going back. I may not make it.”



“Here is a power that will help you get back.”

“Prop it in the opening and it will remain open long enough for you to get back.”



“One more thing Blue Jay, your head will remain that way.”  
“When people see your head, they will be reminded of the age  
when the world changed.”



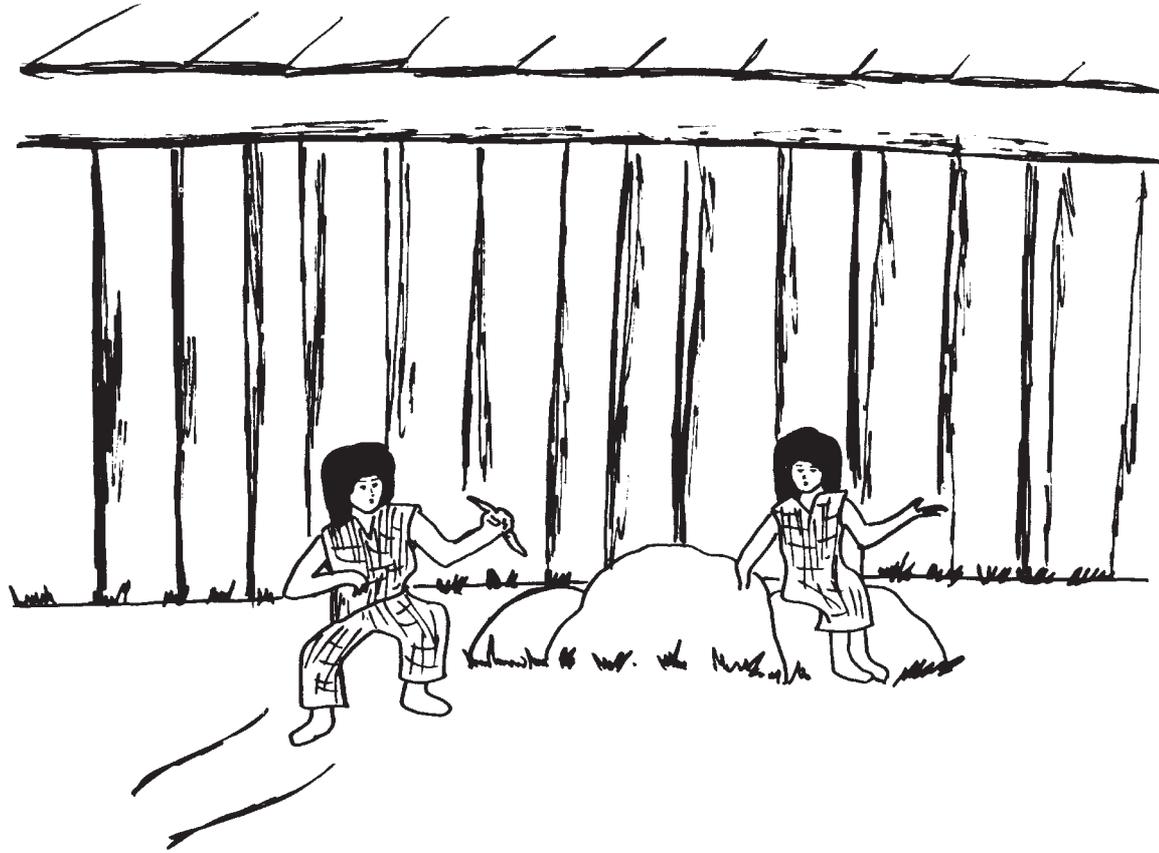


# Basket Woman

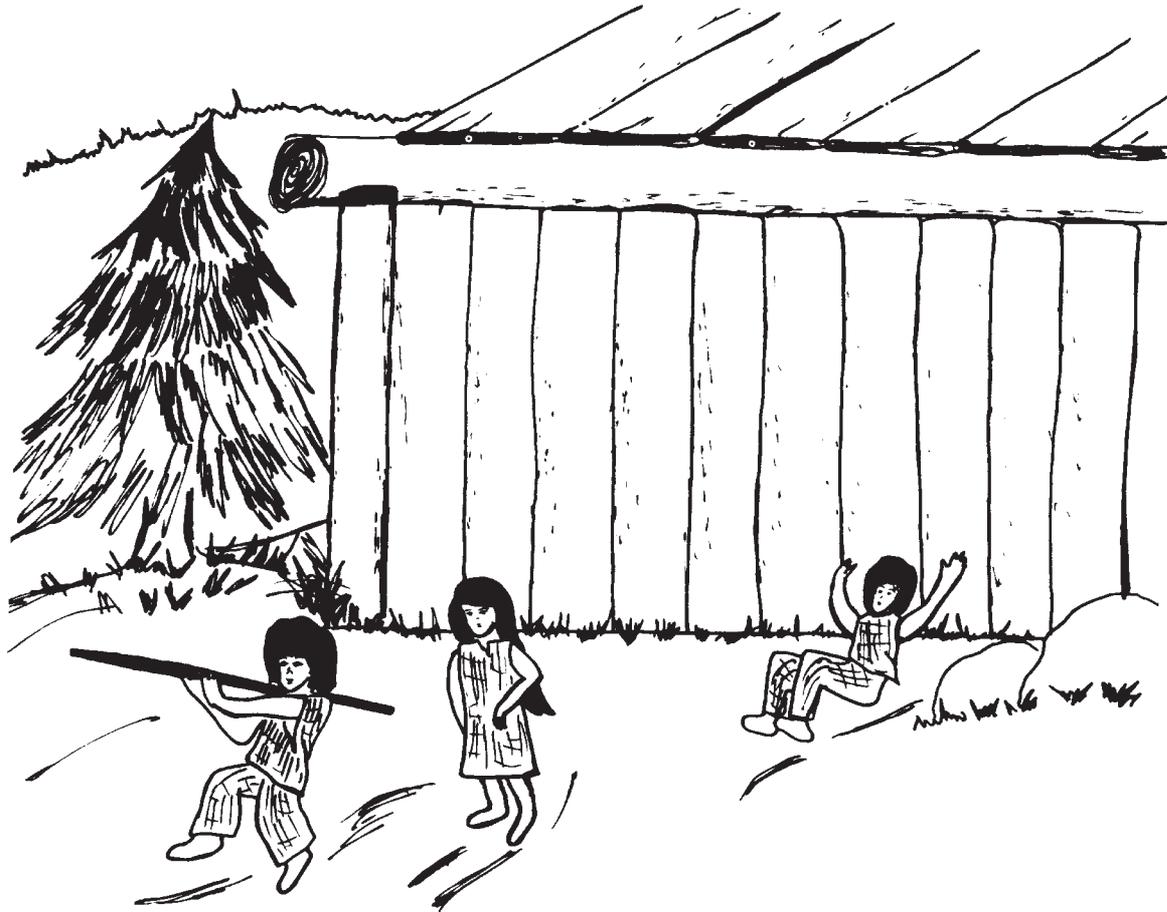
Told by

Eva Jerry

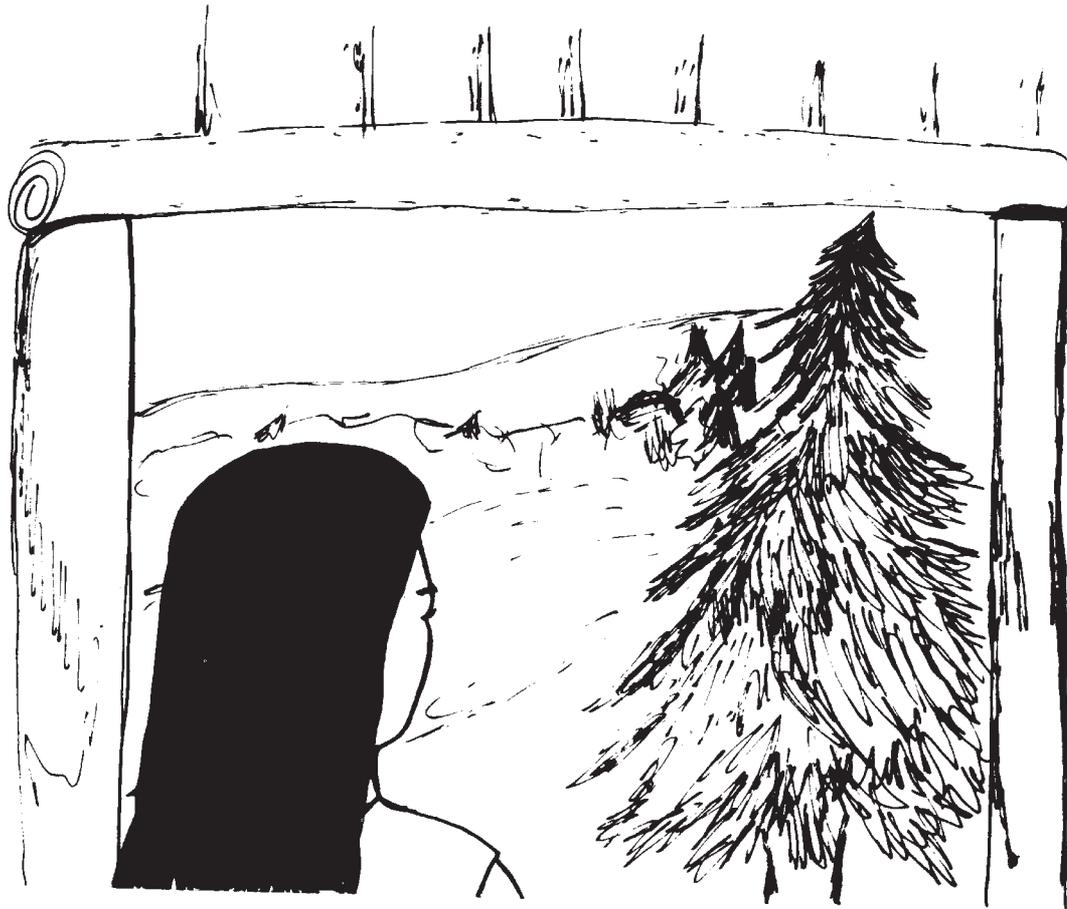




The children of long ago were taught to listen and to obey. The old people of the village would sometimes scare the children into obeying.



One day the children played and played. They played until it was very late.



“Come in,” called Grandma. There was no answer. Again Grandma called, “Come in.”



Some of the children heard. "But Grandma," said one boy, "I want to play."



A voice thundered through the woods, "You children go in and sit down. Listen to your Grandma."



“You children must listen,” said Grandma. “More importantly, you must obey.”



“Basket Woman lives near.  
She has a basket on her back.  
Basket Woman is dirty.”



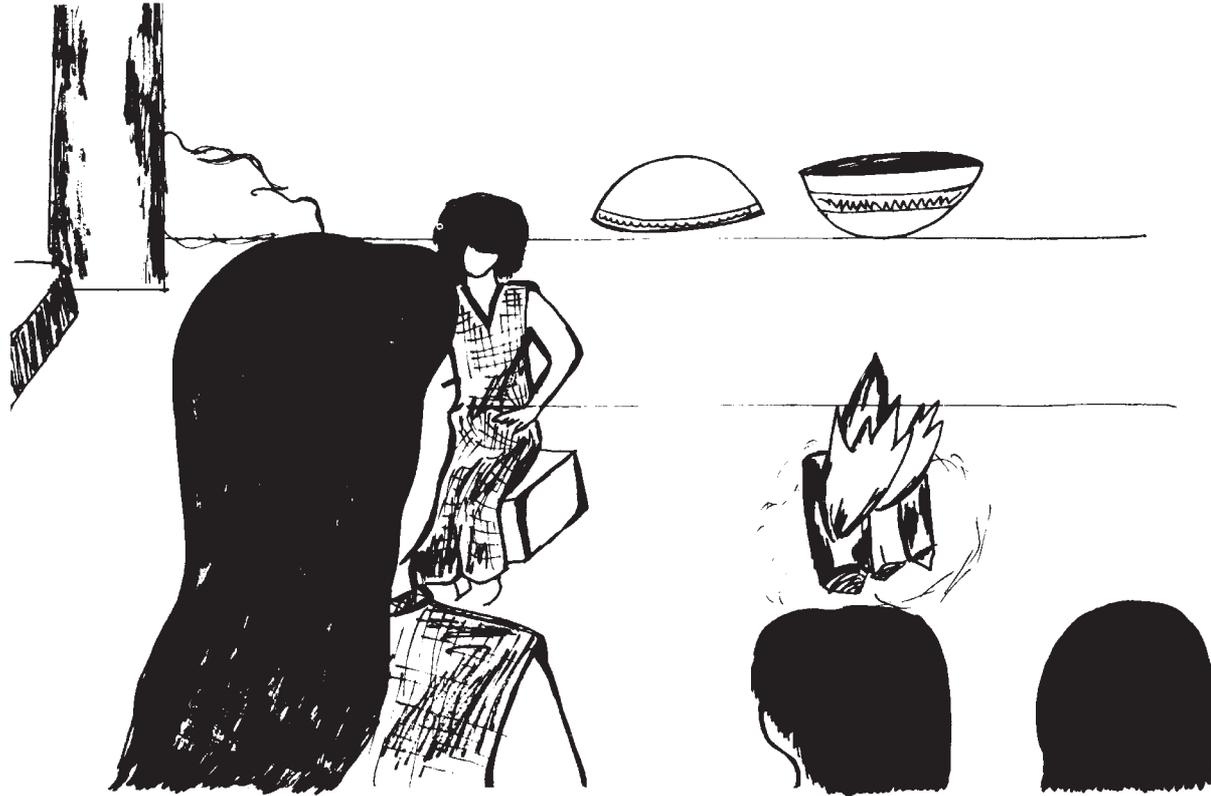
“Basket Woman has lice in her hair.  
Nits fly around her head.”



“If Basket Woman is near, her nits will be high in the trees. If you see them she is near.”



“If you don’t listen, Basket Woman will take you. She will put you into her basket. We will never see you again.”



“If you are good, Basket Woman will not get you. You must listen and obey.”



“We will listen,” said the children.  
We will listen and we will obey.”

Booklets available in the Level IV 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, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq<sup>2</sup>'le*  
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation
3. *Blue Jay - Star Child/Basket Woman*  
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
9. *The Bear Tepee*  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*  
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*  
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*  
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*  
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
17. *Nap's Journey*  
Blackfoot Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
19. *Tepee Making*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*  
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*  
Blackfoot Tribe



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