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:

- Warren Clements — Warm Springs
  Chairman
- Clement Azure — Devils Lake Sioux
- Walter Moffett — Nez Perce
- Emmett Oliver — Quinault
- Bob Parsley — Chippewa
- Lloyd Smith — Warm Springs
- Max Snow
- Jeanne Thomas — Yakima
Pet Crow
Owl Boy
Moosehide Robe Woman
Level IV Book 10

A Sioux Story
Eunice B. Alfrey, Coordinator
LaVern Alfrey, Illustrator
Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
Pet Crow

Told by Eunice B. Alfrey
Illustrated by LaVern Alfrey
Many years ago, there lived a great chief. One day when the chief was hunting, he found a crow. The crow was hurt with a broken wing. The chief took the crow home and cared for it.
When the crow’s wing was better, the bird was taught to speak. Soon the crow could talk and understand the language of the tribe. The crow understood everything the chief told him.
The chief told the bird to spy on people. These people were enemies of the chief. The crow would go to the enemies’ camp and learn all their secrets. When the crow returned home, he would tell the chief all of the secrets.

Soon the chief won many battles. All of the chief’s enemies were afraid of him.
One day the crow returned home with sad news. He told the chief a great medicine man had put a curse on him. The crow said a bolt of lightning would kill him.

All of the people were very sad. They knew something terrible was going to happen.
A storm came and the sky became very dark. Rain fell and thunder and lightning struck everywhere. People ran and hid in their tepees. Even the chief and crow hid in their tepee. Everyone was afraid of the storm.
Early the next morning the people woke up. The storm had stopped. The people heard the crow’s lonely cry. They found the chief’s burned tepee. The chief had been hit by a lightning bolt.

The people saw that the crow had been burned. They watched the bird fly away and listened to his lonely cries.

Today, some people say the crow is black because he was burned long, long ago.
Owl Boy

Told by Eunice B. Alfrey

Illustrated by Eunice B. Alfrey
Long, long ago Indian people would hunt buffalo. The people would follow the buffalo herds. One of the Indian hunters had a wife and a one-year-old son.

One day the hunter’s son became very sick. The boy’s body shook and shivered, then lay very still. The mother and father thought their son had died.
The little boy’s parents were very sad. They made an Indian burial platform on top of four poles. They placed the boy’s body on top of the platform.

After everyone had gone the little boy woke up. He began to cry. A man owl and his wife were flying nearby. They heard the boy crying and helped him down.
The owls took the boy to their nest. They cared for the little boy like their own son. The wise old owl taught the boy lessons every day. As the boy grew up, he learned many things.
One day, the owl could see that the boy was very sad. He knew the boy wanted to see his people and family. The owl and his wife decided to help the boy find his parents. They told the boy they would show him the way.
The owls flew above the boy and helped guide him. They traveled for three days. When they found the camp, the boy could not speak to the people. Every time he talked, the people could not understand him. The boy drew pictures to show how the owls had found him. The people saw the pictures and the parents knew the boy was their own.

Everyone was happy. The boy lived with his family and tribe for the rest of his life.
Moosehide Robe Woman

Told by George White Bird

Illustrated by LaVern Alfrey
Moosehide Robe Woman was an only child. Her parents loved her very much. They let Moosehide Robe Woman do whatever she wanted to do.
Every night young men would come to see Moosehide Robe Woman. They all wanted to marry her. Moosehide Robe Woman didn’t like most of the young men. She only cared for two certain men.

One night Moosehide Robe Woman followed the first man to his tepee. She found that this young man was very spoiled and mean to his mother.

On another night, she went to the second man’s tepee. She saw that he was kind to his mother.

Moosehide Robe Woman decided to marry the second man. His name was Star Boy.
The following morning Moosehide Robe Woman was going to tell her parents she wanted to marry Star Boy. Before she could tell her parents, she was interrupted by the chief.

The chief told all the young warriors to get ready for a long journey. The warriors were going to do battle with their enemies. The next day Star Boy and all the other young men left the camp.

Moosehide Robe Woman decided to follow Star Boy.
When Moosehide Robe Woman followed the warriors, she stayed far behind them. When the men finally saw Moosehide Robe Woman, Star Boy tried to tell her to return home, but she told Star Boy she wanted to stay with him. Moosehide Robe Woman didn't care if it was dangerous. She said she would hide.

The next morning the warriors found the enemy. Star Boy's leg was wounded. He was captured and taken to the enemy's camp.

That night, Moosehide Robe Woman followed the enemy to their camp. She searched and searched for Star Boy. When Moosehide Robe Woman found Star Boy, she helped him to escape.
After Moosehide Robe Woman and Star Boy were far away from the camp, they hid in some bushes. Soon the enemy warriors were near. They looked for Moosehide Robe Woman and Star Boy but could not find them.
Many days passed. Because Star Boy and Moosehide Robe Woman did not return home, everyone thought they had been killed in battle. Their parents were very sad.

Star Boy and Moosehide Robe Woman took a long time because many days passed before Star Boy was able to walk. With the help of Moosehide Robe Woman, Star Boy used a crutch to travel. Together, they walked back to their camp.

One night, Star Boy and Moosehide Robe Woman finally reached their camp. Everyone was surprised and their parents were very happy.
Star boy told everyone how brave Moosehide Robe Woman had been. He told of how she had rescued him from the enemy's camp. Everyone was so happy they celebrated with a feast.

Moosehide Robe Woman and Star Boy lived a long and happy life.
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 Woman at Sq’al’s
   The Squaxin Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation

3. Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman
   Muckleshoot Tribe

4. Assiniboin Woman Making Grease
   Assiniboin Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation

5. Coyote
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

6. How the Summer Season Came
   Assiniboin Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation

7. Little Wascana’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
    Shoshone Reservation

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. Nay’s Journey
    Blackfeet Tribe

18. Warm Springs Stories
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

19. Tpees Making
    Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

20. Baskets and Canoes
    Shuswap-Shuswap Tribe

21. Warrior People
    Blackfeet Tribe