



WARM SPRINGS ANIMAL STORIES

The Indian Reading Series

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

The Weasel and the Eagle
The Otter and the Beaver
Series IV

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The Weasel and the Eagle

Series IV

Long, long ago when animals could talk, Eagle and Weasel were traveling east to visit their friends.

They traveled as far as The Dalles, Oregon, when all at once, an alligator started to chase them. They ran here and there, not knowing where to go next. They came upon a big rock and ran under its ledge.

The alligator waited outside the opening of the rock for a long time. But Eagle and Weasel crouched back into the rock ledge as far as they could. The alligator had waited for them so long, he became angry!

He bit down on the rock ledge with his big powerful jaws so hard that his eyes closed.

Weasel cried to Eagle, "Look, he has his eyes closed now. We can get him!"

Eagle whispered to Weasel, "You grab him, while I kill him!"

After killing the alligator, Weasel and Eagle were free and could continue on their journey east to visit their friends.

Weasel was carrying the alligator skin. He thought it might make a nice gift for one of his friends. But Weasel became tired of carrying the skin and threw it on Eagle's back. Eagle was tired too, and did not want to play.

Eagle told Weasel, "I'll fly away and let you walk alone if you do that again!"

Weasel said he was sorry and promised not to do it again.

Weasel took the alligator skin and walked on. After walking a long way, Weasel became restless again. He started throwing the alligator skin up into the air and catching it, throwing it higher and higher each time. The skin went up into the air again, landing on Eagle's back. Eagle didn't say a word. He just flew off into the sky with the alligator skin still on his back.

Weasel thought to himself, "Oh no! He's going to leave me alone!" Weasel begged Eagle to come back, "Oh please Eagle, I won't do it again."

Eagle flew back down beside Weasel. Weasel took the skin off Eagle's back. The trip was long, and it seemed to Weasel they would never get there.

Weasel became restless again, so he began to skip instead of walk. Skipping along, he started to whistle. It seemed to make the walk shorter for awhile, but he soon got tired of that.

Weasel twirled the alligator skin around and around, watching it fly. Weasel thought, "Eagle might want to play now," so he let the alligator skin fly from his paw onto Eagle's back. This time when Eagle flew away, he went higher and higher. "Oh Eagle!" cried Weasel, "I'm sorry, I thought you might want to play now! Please! Please come back! I'm sorry!"

Eagle looked sharply at Weasel, then flew back down beside him.

Weasel took the skin from Eagle's back and walked on, trying to be very quiet. It seemed they would never get to their friends' place. They walked on and on.

They came upon a creek which they had to cross. Weasel, just for a change, went swimming back and forth while he crossed the creek.

Eagle, of course, flew across quickly. Weasel caught up with him at the other side. Weasel, still carrying the alligator skin, walked on beside Eagle. They walked and walked and Weasel had not pestered Eagle for a long time.

“Eagle must want to play now!” Weasel thought. “How can he just walk along and not want to do something fun?”

The alligator skin was getting heavy again. He pulled the skin behind him, rolled it up, and carried it under his other arm for awhile.

“Maybe Eagle will play now,” he thought, and threw the alligator skin on top of Eagle. Eagle flew up and up, until Weasel thought he was going to fly away forever.

Weasel called and called, begging Eagle to come back. Eagle circled two or three times listening to Weasel call and then flew down beside him once more. Weasel took the alligator skin and walked on, pulling it behind him. "Funny bird anyway," Weasel grumbled, "All I want to do is have a little fun." They walked on and on together. Weasel walked for a long way trying to be as good as he could.

The afternoon was almost gone and Weasel was still walking. Weasel started to sing, "Maybe singing will liven things up," he thought.

As Weasel sang, he started to dance. He danced faster and faster, and the alligator skin was flopping here and there as he danced and sang merrily. "It makes the walk seem shorter," he thought. Weasel sang at the top of his voice and danced all around. The alligator skin was flopping up over his head and to the side. Weasel was dancing and singing for all he was worth.

All of a sudden, the alligator skin flew out of his paws and landed on Eagle's back once more. This time Eagle flew straight up in the sky and out of sight.

Weasel turned around and when he saw what had happened, he called to Eagle, but he was gone.

Eagle flew on and on. When he reached the east, he let the alligator skin drop. The skin fell until it landed in what is now called Florida. That is why there are lots of alligators in Florida and none in The Dalles, Oregon, anymore.

The Otter and the Beaver

Series IV

Long ago, Otter and Beaver lived together in a tepee. Otter and Beaver were both blind and could not see anything in or around their tepee.

The Otter and the Beaver each had five pokers or fire sticks. With their five pokers, they would always poke around here and there to find things. They were always counting their pokers to make sure they had them all. The pokers left mounds when they were poked into the ground.

One day, Eagle was on his way to the mountain, and decided to visit Otter and Beaver. Eagle saw the ten pokers all lined up, poked into the ground. When he was ready to leave, Eagle decided to borrow one to take with him. He thought, "This will help me on the mountain top!"

Eagle said goodbye and continued with one of Beaver's pokers.

Beaver sat down and began to count his pokers once more, and found one was missing. Beaver jumped around and flapped his tail on the ground. He was so angry! Every day while Eagle was gone, Beaver counted his pokers. When he counted only four, he would become angry all over again.

Eagle returned and saw how angry Beaver was, and apologized for borrowing his poker. But Beaver would not forgive Eagle, and was still pouting.

“To show you how sorry I am,” explained Eagle, “I will operate on your eyes and you and Otter will both be able to see.”

“Oh, how wonderful!” shouted Otter, for he wanted to see the whole forest.

Beaver, who was still pouting, finally agreed to let Eagle operate on him too.

Eagle set to work on the operation. Because Otter was so good, he made his eyes big so he could see the whole world.

But, he made Beaver's eyes small, because Beaver was angry.

After Eagle finished his work, he flew off and never came back.

When you are happy, your eyes will shine and you can see forever. But when you are angry, your eyes are small and you can only see what you want to.

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 Sq³a'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. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet 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*
Blackfeet Tribe



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