

### **Grade 3: Unit 6, Week 4 Working Together**

#### **Read Aloud: The Animals and the Sun**

A Salishan Indian Tale by Franz Boas

Wonderful Words: *journey, council, willing, humid, generation*

#### **The Animals and the Sun**

Long ago, when the animals were the people of the world, a chief asked, “Who will be the Sun?” All the animal people talked among themselves and decided that Raven should be the Sun. The chief agreed and told him what he should do.

When Raven started on his journey, it became dark. The next morning the people watched for him to come up. But he was not bright enough, and the whole day was like evening. When Raven returned, the people said to him, “We do not want you for the Sun. You made everything black.”

Chicken Hawk was told that he should be the Sun. When he started on his journey, it became dark. The following morning the people watched him come up. As he went higher and higher in the sky, the world looked yellow. It was yellow all day. So when Chicken Hawk returned, the people said, “You can not be the Sun. You make everything look like bad weather.”

The animal people held another council and talked about the matter over again. Coyote said to them, “Let me be the Sun.”

The people were willing. So when Coyote started on his journey, they slept. But next morning when he rose in the sky, it began to be hot. The higher he went, the hotter

the day became. At noon when the women were cooking their food, Coyote called down from the sky, “Will there be any food left for me?”

So they set aside some food for Coyote to eat at the end of the day.

All the people were very hot. Even when they went into the shade, they were warm. The children began to cry, for the Sun burned them. Their mothers put them into the river, thinking they would be cool there. But the water was so hot it burned them. Water and air became warm and humid until sunset. When darkness came, the people felt well. They had almost been burned to death.

When Coyote returned to camp, he was told, “You cannot be the Sun. You are bad. You were too hot.”

Not far away lived a woman and her two sons. One of them said, “Let us go over there where the people are playing Sun.”

When the two reached the camp, they were asked, “Why do you come here?”

“We heard that you are playing Sun.”

“That is good,” the people said. “One of you shall be the Sun.”

The older one started, and the people slept. The next day he went up into the sky. In the morning it was rather cool, and the people were pleased. Even when he was high up in the sky, they felt comfortable. At noon it was warm, but when they went into the shade in the afternoon, they were comfortable. The water was always cool. When the people went swimming in the river, they felt cool and happy.

When the Sun came down and returned to the camp, all the people thought that he was the one who should be the Sun. “You are the best. You shall be the Sun,” they said to him.

To his younger brother they said, “You shall go up in the evening. You shall be the Moon.”

So he went off. Before it had been dark long, they saw him going up into the sky. He made it light all through the night. On the following morning, when he returned, he was told, “Your elder brother shall be the Sun during the day. You shall be the Moon during the night.”

These two youths became the heavenly balls, the day Sun and the night Sun. They were thought to be good, and everyone was happy—everyone except Coyote.

“I will kill the Sun,” said Coyote angrily to himself.

He made a bow and two arrows, and then went to the place where the Sun was to come up. He went in the night and found a good seat. When morning came he lay on his stomach and aimed his arrow at the right place.

The Sun rose. Coyote took good aim and was about to shoot. But his arrow caught fire. It was burning so fast that Coyote threw it away. Then everything around him caught fire. There was fire on all sides of him. Coyote ran and jumped into the river. He was almost burned. Then he saw a trail and lay on it. When the fire reached the trail, it turned back because there was no grass on the trail. So Coyote was saved.

Then he said, “Later generations will do this: when there is a fire, they will lie down on a trail. In that way they will be saved.”

## **journey**

**Define:** A **journey** is a trip.

**Example:** Our **journey** took us from the east coast to the west coast.

**Ask:** What **journey** would you like to take?

## **council**

**Define:** A **council** is a group of people who come together to solve problems and make decisions.

**Example:** The student **council** met to talk about how they could get better food in the cafeteria.

**Ask:** What would a city **council** talk about?

## **willing**

**Define:** **Willing** means that you want or are ready to do something.

**Example:** Madison was **willing** to help take care of the garden.

**Ask:** What chores are you **willing** to do in the classroom?

## **humid**

**Define:** **Humid** means that there is water in the air.

**Example:** Sweat rolls down my face on **humid** days.

**Ask:** What is something you might do on a day that is **humid**?

## **generation**

**Define:** A **generation** is all the people born around the same period of time.

**Example:** My parents call us the younger **generation**.

**Ask:** Do you belong to the same **generation** as your classmates or the same **generation** as your grandparents? Why?