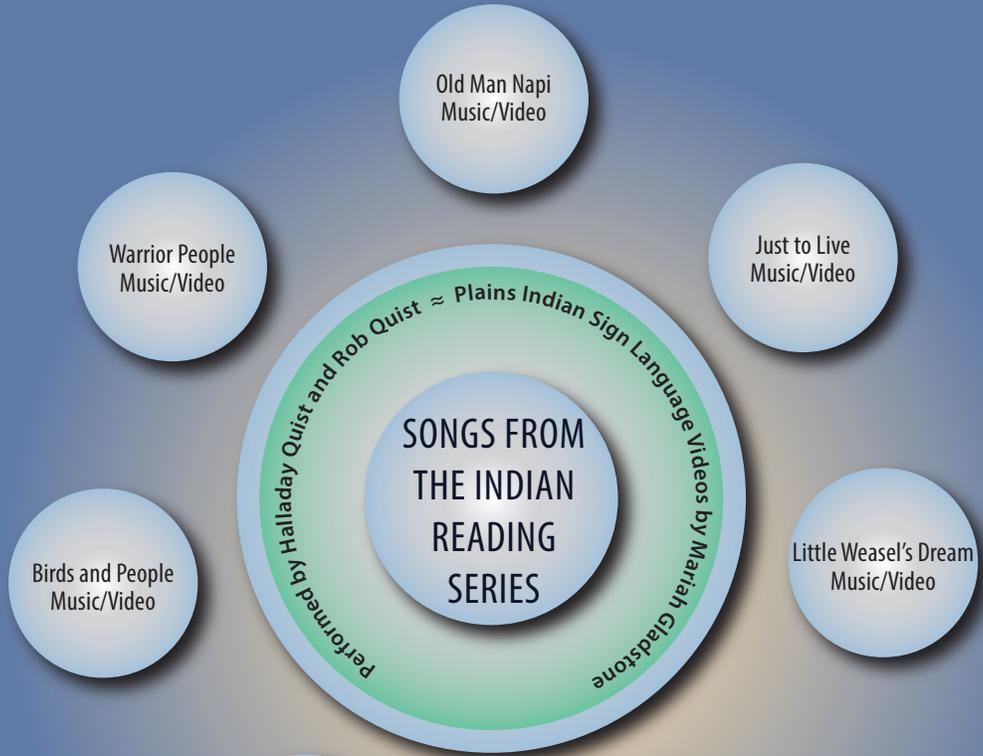


SONGS FROM THE INDIAN READING SERIES



Indian Education for All Resource for Grades K-8 English Language Arts, Music and Social Studies

These recordings and the accompanying sign language videos are products from the Cayuse Prairie School Indian Education for All K-12 Grant (2015-2016).



Month	Account	Debit	Credit	Balance
Jan	Pay Warrants	10		335.13
Feb	"	15		158.20
Mar	"	10		104.00
Apr	"	26		10.23
May	"	31		31.14
Jun	"	20		42,500.05
Jul	"	42		1,000.00
Aug	"	47		665.00
Sep	"	37		466.00
Oct	"	40		268.00
Nov	"	67		32.00
Dec	"	72		2.00
Jan	"	50		45.8
Feb	"	40		5.99
Mar	"	2		5.99
Apr	"	40		1.00
May	"	20		0.01
Jun	"	15		3.22
Jul	"	15		1.80
Aug	"	15		3.22
Sep	"	15		1.80
Oct	"	15		3.22
Nov	"	15		1.80
Dec	"	15		3.22
Jan	"	15		1.80
Feb	"	15		3.22
Mar	"	15		1.80
Apr	"	15		3.22
May	"	15		1.80
Jun	"	15		3.22
Jul	"	15		1.80
Aug	"	15		3.22
Sep	"	15		1.80
Oct	"	15		3.22
Nov	"	15		1.80
Dec	"	15		3.22
Jan	"	15		1.80
Feb	"	15		3.22
Mar	"	15		1.80
Apr	"	15		3.22
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Jun	"	15		3.22
Jul	"	15		1.80
Aug	"	15		3.22
Sep	"	15		1.80
Oct	"	15		3.22
Nov	"	15		1.80
Dec	"	15		3.22
Jan	"	15		1.80
Feb	"	15		3.22
Mar	"	15		1.80
Apr	"	15		3.22
May	"	15		1.80
Jun	"	15		3.22
Jul	"	15		1.80
Aug	"	15		3.22
Sep	"	15		1.80
Oct	"	15		3.22
Nov	"	15		1.80
Dec	"	15		3.22

SONGS FROM THE INDIAN READING SERIES

Performed by Halladay Quist and Rob Quist Plains Indian Sign Language Videos by Mariah Gladstone

These recordings and the accompanying sign language videos are products from the Cayuse Prairie School Indian Education for All K-12 Grant (2015-2106). Several stories from the [Indian Reading Series](#) were put to music by well-known Montana musicians Rob and Halladay Quist. In addition, Mariah Gladstone is featured in video clips signing each song using Plains Indian sign language.

As part of the grant activities, students at Cayuse Prairie spent a week reading stories from the Indian Reading Series and then learned one of the songs and the sign language based on the story. Students then performed the songs at a community concert. Special thanks to Kathy Manley-Coburn for her vision and project coordination.

Indian Reading Series Background

From 1972 – 1983 the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory Indian Reading & Language Development Program produced [140 culturally relevant stories](#) written by local Indian authors and illustrated by Indian artists. The result of this work was a unique supplementary reading and language development program. A teacher's manual was also developed to provide ideas and strategies for incorporating the stories into school reading programs.

① [A Little Boy's Big Moment](#) – Blackfeet Story

The Dance of Life by Rob Quist based on the story, A Little Boy's Big Moment (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Mariah Gladstone

② [Birds and People](#) - Crow Story

Birds and People by Halladay Quist (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Mariah Gladstone

③ [The Blacktail Dance](#) – Blackfeet Story

Just to Live by Halladay Quist based on the story, Blacktail Dance (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Mariah Gladstone

④ [How Marten Got His Spots](#) – Kootenai Story

How the Marten Got His Spots by Rob Quist (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Maria Gladstone

⑤ [Little Weasel's Dream](#) - Kootenai Story

Little Weasel's Dream by Halladay Quist (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Mariah Gladstone

⑥ [Old Man Napi](#) – Blackfeet Story

Old Man Napi by Rob Quist (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Mariah Gladstone

⑦ [Warrior People](#) – Blackfeet Story

Warrior People by Rob Quist (Music and Lyrics)

[Sign language video](#) by Mariah Gladstone



Songs and Lyrics from the Indian Reading Series Composed by Halladay Quist and Rob Quist

Birds and People by Halladay Quist

Come gather round hear what I say
I'll share a story from back in the day
Just a little something my elder taught me
About the difference between you and me
Take a look around and what do you see
Different kinds of birds flying through the trees
Some eating seeds and some like bugs
Some flying low or high up above
Some like to squeak and some like to chirp
Some like to whooo and some like to slurp
Some living in a nest, some in a hole
Some stay home, others flying to the poles
Birds are like people each have their own way
Of living a life in the world today
If we learn from each other we'll find a way
Birds are like People
Each have their own way
Birds are like People, People like Birds
Look at the people of this land
Different kind of man their own kind of brands
They speak their own language they live their own lives
They eat all kinds of food they have their own tribes
Like the Blackfeet, the Sioux, the Crow, the Cheyenne,
the Nez Perce, the Umatilla, and Yakima Clans
From the hills of the plains all the way to the coast,
Let's raise a glass and give them a toast!
Birds are like people each have their own way
Of living a life in the world today



If we learn from each other we'll find a way
Birds are like People
Each have their own way
Birds are like People, People like Birds
Birds are like people each have their own way
Of living a life in the world today
If we learn from each other we'll find a way
Birds are like People
Each have their own way
Birds are like People, People like Birds



The Dance of Life (A Little Boy's Big Moment) by Rob Quist

The morning sun chases shadows from the night

Painted tipis catch its golden light

The many tribes of the Blackfeet have come here

As they have for countless thousands of years

But this young boy is too excited to sleep

He holds a secret that's been so hard to keep

The sacred dance of those from so long ago

This day will finally become his very own

(Chorus)

And now the massive powwow drums beat a thunderous roll

Into his body it comes through his heart and his soul

It's his big moment his chance

As he steps into the very first dance of his life... The Dance of Life

(End of Chorus)

A rite of passage for a Blackfeet boy

The look of pride in his father's eye

The sacrifices that his mother gave

That he would one day be a Blackfeet brave

He dons his headdress made of porcupine quills

Carefully ties his rawhide ankle bells

One final breath and he answers the call

He is ready now to give it his all

(Chorus)



How the Marten Got His Spots by Rob Quist

Marten and Mink were brothers true, as any two brothers could be

Mink said "I'm a little older, you are my responsibility

You can never, ever be too trusting of any stranger that you see

I've been over the hill a time or two so Marten, listen to me"

(Chorus)

Don't go over the hill, brother, you better stay close to home

If you don't have a big brother like me, brother, you better just leave it alone

There's a heap 'a trouble over the hill brother, cunning and treachery

You never know when you're gonna be needing a brother, a great big brother like me

(End of Chorus)

But then giving in to curiosity, Marten soon went over the hill

He saw Bear hanging out by the tipi, looking for a little time to kill

When she went back into the lodge, well, he foolishly followed her in

Bear said "take a seat" and then offered him a wooden bowl of pemmican

But as he reached for the dish, Bear grabbed his arm and pulled him into the fire

He struggled and screamed with all his might, the flames burned hotter and higher

And it scorched his coat, but he scrambled hard, finally he broke free

Running over the hill he could hear Mink's words "Boy, you didn't listen to me"

(Chorus)

When Mink got home to the lodge that night, no sign of Marten anywhere

When at last he pulled the blanket back he found Marten hiding there

When he showed his brother his burn spots Mink put medicine on his sores

And that's how the Marten got the spots that he'll wear forever more

(Chorus)



Just to Live by Halladay Quist

Hard Times Come Again

Our only prayer is just to live

Things get so low sometimes you gotta reach out higher than you

You can do what the Blackfeet do

I'll send a dance to you, Just to Live

Gather round family and friends

A sacred fire, burns within

We'll dance all night until the morning song is sung.

I'm a lone star woman on this blessed Blackfeet night.

I'll send a dance to you, Just to Live

Just to Live

Just to Live

Blacktail running through the night

My dream shines in Grandfather's light

Only you can see, what your dance could truly be

Let it set you free, ooooh

Let it set you free, ooooh

I'll send a dance to you, Just to Live

Just to Live



Little Weasel's Dream by Halladay Quist

It was late fall. The whortleberries were ripe for picking. A party of Kootenai women decided to travel on horseback way up in the mountains behind Lone Pine, where the children could play and the berries were particularly sweet.

After hours of picking, one of the women noticed that she hadn't seen her son, Little Weasel, for quite some time. She scanned the horizon with no sight of him. Little Weasel was having such a marvelous time in the forest, playing in the bear grass, dangling from the branches, chasing the beetle bugs, such a time that he hadn't realized he had wandered off, far in the woods.

Little Weasel's Dream

When he realized he was lost he began to call out desperately. He ran through the woods, searching for his mother, for anyone, for anything that could point him in the right direction. He ran to the top of closest ridge and saw nothing that even looked familiar. He soon became exhausted and sat down to cry.

Little Weasel's Dream

Without warning, a big black bear came running towards him, out of the woods, branches breaking and crackling along the way. Little Weasel cried out, an echoing screech that traveled through the forest.

Little Weasel's Mother heard him and ran to him. She found him in the bear grass, fast asleep in the midst of a bad dream. She picked him up and held him gently in her arms, happy that he was safe.

Aren't you glad it was a dream, Little Weasel

Not everything is what it seems,

Hope this time you learned your lesson, oh little weasels

Not everything is what it seems

Little Weasel's Dream

Little Weasel's Dream



Old Man Napi by Rob Quist

Old Napi's father was the sun, his mother the moon,
He began in the south, and all too soon
He was making the prairie, making the mountains
Making the forests, making the world
And as he did all this, he journeyed forth,
He brought water from the springs as he traveled North
The lakes and the waterfalls, rocks and rills
The grass on the Sweetgrass Hills

(Chorus)

Old Man Napi... (1) All the birds, rivers and trees
(2) More buffalo than you can see
(3) All the people of the world you'll see

Old Man Napi ... (1) For the bears he made the honey bees
(2) A horse gentle as he can be
(3) Try to live in harmony

Take another look around, at every living thing that can be found
The Great Maker gave it all to you and me, with Old Man Napi

(3) It's yours and it's wild and free, how much better could this all be, because
of...Old Man Napi, Old Man Napi

(End of Chorus)

When he saw all the animals running wild
He decided he'd create a woman and a child
Told 'em what to do when they had no meat
There were fish in the river for everyone to eat
They learned about fire, they learned how to live
On the roots and the berries that the earth would give
Learned how to grow, and have a good life
With a bow, an arrow and a knife

(Chorus/lead)



He said "go away by yourself to a mountain or a stream

Wait for a vision or maybe a dream

If your will is strong, your heart is true

Your spirit power will come to you

And one day men will come from the East

Changing your world, disturbing the peace

You may not want to live the way they do

But be strong, happy and true"

(Chorus)



Warrior People by Rob Quist

She could see him even now as home he rode
His horses working hard to bear this heavy load
As they crossed the streaming water
Snowbird knew her own grandfather
When he gave the secret sign that was their code
His many years had etched fine lines across his face
Yet he moved with great fluidity and grace
A hunter home with meat and glory
First their dinner, then a story
Snowbird welcomed him back home with her embrace

(Chorus)

Every morning he would rise before the sun
To give respect, before a new day had begun
To the Sun and Earth Mother
Just as he had shown to others
Long had his Warrior People run

(End of Chorus)

From the Saskatchewan to the Yellowstone, our home
Down the Old North Trail to Mexico, we'd roam
Though misty mountains, prairie sunny
Life was good for the Pikuni
Though now, Blackfeet and Blood is how we're known
One day, you'll have a daughter of your own
Please remember all my stories when you've grown
Tell her of the bear and eagle
And about the Warrior People
And her great grandfather whose spirit has flown

(Chorus)



And every morning, rise before the sun
To give respect before a new day has begun
To the Sun and Earth Mother
Just as we must show to others
Long may our Warrior People Run



[Montana Arts Content Standards](#)

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding, including artistic ideas and works by American Indians.

[Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts](#)

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

Key Ideas and Details

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

[Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians](#)

[Essential Understanding 1](#)

There is great diversity among the twelve sovereign tribes of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments. Each tribe has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.

[Essential Understanding 3](#)

The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions, and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Additionally, each tribe has its own oral histories, which are as valid as written histories. These histories predate the “discovery” of North America.

[Essential Understanding 6](#)

History is a story most often related through the subjective experience of the teller. With the inclusion of more and varied voices, histories are being rediscovered and revised. History told from an Indian perspective frequently conflicts with the stories mainstream historians tell.



"The Dance of Life" (A Little Boy's Big Moment)

1

Translators note: This is the easiest of the songs in terms of speed and sign simplicity, but it may present problems because the signs take away much of the poetics of the song. The signs translate over easily but not word for word. Because of this, I encourage teachers to make sure the students understand the meaning of the lyrics. This will help them remember the much simpler sign translations. Look to the first line for an example of how this is represented throughout the song.

The morning sun chases shadows from the night

MORNING

Painted tipis catch its golden light

MANY TIPI SUN

The many tribes of the Blackfeet have come here

ALL BLACK MOCCASINS COME

As they have for countless thousands of years

EQUAL COME MANY TIMES

But this young boy is too excited to sleep

MAN SMALL¹ NO SLEEP

He holds a secret that's been so hard to keep

POSSESSION² STORY NO SPEAK

The sacred dance of those from so long ago

BIG MEDICINE DANCE

This day will finally become his very own

MAN SMALL POSSESSION

¹ In Indian sign language, the sign for BOY is simply MAN and SMALL

² The sign for POSSESSION indicates the signs following the word belong to the sign before the word



And now the massive powwow drums beat a thunderous roll

NOW BIG DRUM SING

Into his body it comes through his heart and his soul

MAN SMALL HEAR DRUM

It's his big moment his chance

NOW MAN SMALL

As he steps into the very first dance of his life...

STEP DANCE

The Dance of Life

DANCE LIFE

A rite of passage for a Blackfeet boy

MAN SMALL MAKE³ MAN

The look of pride in his father's eye

SUCKLE MAN⁴ HEART GOOD

The sacrifices that his mother gave

SUCKLE⁵ MAKE PAST TENSE LIVE⁶

That he would one day be a Blackfeet brave

NOW MAN SMALL EQUAL MAN WAR⁷

³ The sign MAKE is used in the place of BECOME. This is a spot where it may be helpful to explain the meaning of a rite of passage to the students as it will help them understand the signs saying "Boy becomes a man"

⁴ The sign for FATHER is the combined signs for SUCKLE (on the left side of chest) and MAN.

⁵ The sign for MOTHER is simply SUCKLE (on the right side of chest)

⁶ The sign LIVE is used for LIFE. In this case his mother made (MAKE + PAST TENSE) the boy. This is an example of sacrifices all mothers make for their children.

⁷ The sign for WARRIOR is the combined signs for MAN and WAR. (Of course you could always make it a female warrior as well)



He dons his headdress made of porcupine quills

HEADDRESS QUILL BEAD

Carefully ties his rawhide ankle bells

LEGGINGS TIES

One final breath and he answers the call

NOW DANCE

He is ready now to give it his all

ALL HEART MAKE DANCE

And now the massive powwow drums beat a thunderous roll

NOW BIG DRUM SING

Into his body it comes through his heart and his soul

MAN SMALL HEAR DRUM

It's his big moment his chance

NOW MAN SMALL

As he steps into the very first dance of his life...

STEP DANCE

The Dance of Life

DANCE LIFE



Birds and People

2

Come gather round hear what I say

COME GATHER LISTEN I SPEAK

I'll share a story from back in the day

I SPEAK STORY LONG TIME AGO

Just a little something my elder taught me

I POSSESSION¹ ELDER SPEAK

About the difference between you and me

EQUAL YOU WITH ME

Take a look around and what do you see

QUESTION² YOU SEE?

Different kinds of birds flying through the trees

ALL FLY³ TREES

Some eating seeds and some like bugs

EAT *MIME EATING SEEDS* BUG

Some flying low or high up above

FLY LOW (crouch) HIGH (tippy toes)

Some like to squeak and some like to chirp

SPEAK "SQUEAK" SPEAK "CHIRP"

Some like to Whooo and some like to slurp

SPEAK "WHOO" SPEAK "SLURP"

¹ The sign POSSESSION following any word indicates possession. Ex. DOG POSSESSION indicates something belong to the dog.

² The QUESTION sign at the beginning of a sentence indicates the following is a question

³ The sign FLY is also used to for BIRD because of the verb-based nature of Native languages.



Some live in in a nest, some in a hole

LIVE TREE LIVE BELOW

Some stay home, others flying to the poles

SIT HOME FLY

Birds are like people each have their own way

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE

Of Living a life in the world today

LIVE EARTH NOW

If we learn from each other we'll find a way

ME ALL⁴ MAKE⁵ EQUAL ALL GOOD

Birds are like People

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE

Each have their own way

ALL WALK PATH

Birds are like People, People like Birds

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE PEOPLE EQUAL FLY

Look at the people of this land

LOOK ALL PEOPLE

Different kind of man their own kind of brands

MANY PEOPLE

They speak their own language the live their own lives

MANY SPEAK MANY LIVE

⁴ The signs ME and ALL combined create the sign for WE

⁵ The signs for MAKE, LEARN, DO, and BUILD are all the same and I will use them interchangeably



They eat all kinds of food they have their own tribes

MANY EAT MANY GATHER

Like the Blackfeet, the Sioux, the Crow, the Cheyenne,

INDIAN⁶ SIOUX CHEYENNE

the Nez Perce, the Umatilla, and Yakima Clans

NEZ PERCE WITH ALL

From the hills of the plains all the way to the coast,

MOUNTAINS PRAIRIE BIG WATER

Lets raise a glass and give them a toast!

ALL WITH/TOGETHER⁷ GOOD

Birds are like people each have their own way

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE

Of Living a life in the world today

LIVE EARTH NOW

If we learn from each other we'll find a way

ME ALL MAKE EQUAL ALL GOOD

Birds are like People

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE

People like birds

PEOPLE EQUAL FLY

⁶ On this part I chose to pick a few of the tribes that were easy to sign because the song is so quick and many tribes require multiple signs.

⁷ The signs for WITH, TOGETHER, and AND are all the same.



Birds are like people each have their own way

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE

Of Living a life in the world today

LIVE EARTH NOW

If we learn from each other we'll find a way

ME ALL MAKE EQUAL ALL GOOD

Birds are like People

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE

Each have their own way

ALL WALK PATH

Birds are like People, People like Birds

FLY EQUAL PEOPLE PEOPLE EQUAL FLY



“Just to Live “

3

Hard Times Come Again

BAD TIME COME AGAIN

Our only prayer¹ is just to live

MAKE MEDICINE LIVE

Things get so low sometimes you gotta reach out higher than you

HEART IS ON THE GROUND LIFT HIGHER

You can do what the Blackfeet do

COLOR BLACK MOCCASSINS

I'll send a dance to you,

MAKE MEDICINE DANCE

Just to Live

ALONE LIVE

Gather round family and friends

GATHER ALL

A sacred fire, burns within

MEDICINE FIRE

We'll dance all night until the morning song is sung.

ME ALL² DANCE MORNING

I'm a lone star woman on this blessed Blackfeet night.

I ALONE STAR WOMAN GOOD NIGHT

¹ The word for PRAYER is the combination of signs for MAKE and MEDICINE.

² ME ALL is the sign for WE



I'll send a dance to you,

MAKE MEDICINE DANCE

Just to Live

ALONE LIVE

Just to Live

ALONE LIVE

Just to Live

ALONE LIVE

Blacktail running through the night

DEER RUN NIGHT

My dream shines in Grandfather's light

I SLEEP SEE GOOD

Only you can see, what your dance could truly be

YOU SEE POSSESSION DANCE

Let it set you free, ooooh

FREE

Let it set you free, ooooh

FREE

I'll send a dance to you,

MAKE MEDICINE DANCE

Just to live

ALONE LIVE

Just to Live

ALONE LIVE



How the Marten Got his Spots

4

Marten and Mink were brothers true, as any two brothers could be

TWO ANIMAL SMALL¹ BROTHER

Mink said "I'm a little older, you are my responsibility"

SWIMMER SAY I OLD

"You can never, ever be too trusting of any stranger that you see"

NO LISTEN QUESTION PEOPLE

"I've been over that hill a time or two, so Marten, listen to me"

I PAST TENSE OVER HILL YOU LISTEN ME

"Don't go over the hill, brother, you better stay close to home"

NO OVER HILL BROTHER SIT HOME

"If you don't have a big brother like me, brother, you better just leave it alone"

NO POSSESSION BIG BROTHER ME NO

'Cuz' there's a heap a' trouble over the hill, brother, cunning and treachery

MUCH BAD OVER HILL TRICKSTER

You never know when you're gonna be needing a brother, a great big brother like me"

YOU NO KNOW QUESTION BIG BROTHER ME

(2) But then giving in to curiosity, Marten soon went over the hill

SMALL ANIMAL NIGHT OVER HILL

He saw Bear hanging out by the tipi, looking for a little time to kill

SEE BEAR WITH TIPI

¹ The sign for MINK is SMALL ANIMAL SWIMMER and the sign for MARTEN is SMALL ANIMAL NIGHT. Therefore, the they are two small animals (which will sign by making our hand slither to indicate the movement of the animals)



When she went back into the lodge, well, he foolishly followed her in

BEAR GO IN TIPI WALK

Bear said "take a seat" and then offered him a wooden bowl of pemmican

BEAR SAY SIT DOWN WITH EAT

But as he reached for the dish, Bear grabbed his arm and pulled him into the fire

BEAR PULLED LITTLE ANIMAL NIGHT FIRE

He struggled and screamed with all of his might, but the flames burned hotter and higher

FIGHT FIGHT FIRE BIG

And it scorched his coat, but he scrambled hard and finally he broke free

FIRE COAT FIGHT FREE

Running over the hill he could hear Mink's words "Boy, you didn't listen to me"

WALK FAST OVER HILL HE HEAR YOU NO LISTEN ME

"Don't go over the hill, brother, you better stay close to home"

NO OVER HILL BROTHER SIT HOME

"If you don't have a big brother like me, brother, you better just leave it alone"

NO POSSESSION BIG BROTHER ME NO

'Cuz' there's a heap a' trouble over the hill, brother, cunning and treachery

MUCH BAD OVER HILL TRICKSTER

You never know when you're gonna be needing a brother, a great big brother like me"

YOU NO KNOW QUESTION BIG BROTHER ME



When Mink got home to the lodge that night, no sign of Marten anywhere

SWIMMER TIPI NO SEE ANIMAL SMALL NIGHT

When at last he pulled the blankets back, he found Marten hiding there

***MIME PULLING BLANKETS BACK* SEE LITTLE**

When he showed his brother his burnt spots, Mink put medicine on his sores

SEE SPOTS SWIMMER MAKE MEDICINE SPOTS

And that's how the martens got the spots that they'll wear forever more

ANIMAL SMALL NIGHT SPOTS FOREVER

"Don't go over the hill, brother, you better stay close to home"

NO OVER HILL BROTHER SIT HOME

"If you don't have a big brother like me, brother, you better just leave it alone"

NO POSSESSION BIG BROTHER ME NO

'Cuz' there's a heap a' trouble over the hill, brother, cunning and treachery

MUCH BAD OVER HILL TRICKSTER

You never know when you're gonna be needing a brother, a great big brother like me"

YOU NO KNOW QUESTION BIG BROTHER ME

(Repeat)



Little Weasel's Dream

5

It was late fall.

AUTUMN

The whortleberries were ripe for picking.

BERRY PICKING

A party of Kootenai women decided to travel on horseback way up in the mountains behind Lone Pine, where the children could play and the berries were particularly sweet.

ALL WOMEN RIDE MOUNTAINS CHILDREN JUMP AROUND TASTE GOOD

After hours of picking, one of the women noticed that she hadn't seen her son, Little Weasel, for some quite time.

MUCH TIME NO SEE LITTLE

She scanned the horizon and with no sight of him.

LOOK AROUND NO SEE

Little Weasel was having such a marvelous time in the forest, playing in the bear grass, dangling from the branches, chasing the beetle bugs, such a time that he hadn't realized he had wandered off, far in the woods.

LITTLE CRAWLY ANIMAL WALK JUMP AROUND FOREST BUGS NO KNOW WALK

NO SEE

Little Weasel's dream

LITTLE CRAWLY ANIMAL SEE GOOD

When he realized he was lost he began to call out desperately.

KNOW LOST YELL

He ran through the woods, searching for his mother, for anyone, for anything that could point him in the right direction.

WALK FAST LOOK FOR MOTHER PEOPLE

He ran to the top of closest ridge and saw nothing that even looked familiar. He soon became exhausted and sat down to cry.

WALK MOUNTAIN SLEEPY CRY



Little Weasel's dream

LITTLE CRAWLY ANIMAL SEE GOOD

Without warning, a big black bear came running towards him, out of the woods, branches breaking and crackling along the way.

BIG BEAR WALK FAST FOREST BREAK

Little Weasel cried out, an echoing screech that traveled through the forest.

LITTLE CRAWLY ANIMAL YELL FOREST

Little Weasel's Mother heard him and ran to him.

POSSESSION MOTHER HEAR WALK FAST

She found him in the bear grass, fast asleep in the midst of a bad dream. She picked him up and held him gently in her arms, happy that he was safe.

SEE LITTLE ASLEEP SEE BAD HUG

Aren't you glad it was a dream, Little Weasel

QUESTION HAPPY SEE BAD LITTLE CRAWLY ANIMAL

Not everything is what it seems,

NO ALL SEE KNOW

Hope this time you learned your lesson, oh little weasel

YOU LEARN KNOW LITTLE CRAWLY ANIMAL

Not everything is what it seems

Little Weasel's Dream

Little Weasel's Dream



"Old Man Napi"

- 6 Translators note: Because of the speed of this song, many lines are translated with slang or abbreviated signs. I have done my best to ensure that the signs could tell a story on their own without the lyrics. In some cases that means straying from a direct translation.

Old Napi's father the sun, his mother the moon,

SUN WITH MOON¹ POSSESSION BABY

He began in the south, and all too soon

WALK

He was making the prairie, making the mountains

MAKE GRASS MAKE MOUNTAIN

Making the forests, making the world

MAKE TREES MAKE EARTH

And as he did all this, he journeyed forth,

WALK PATH

He brought water from the springs as he traveled North

CARRY SPRING

The lakes and the waterfalls, rocks and rills

WATER LAKE WITH RIVER

The grass on the Sweetgrass Hills

GRASS ABOVE MOUNTAIN

Old Man Napi

OLD MAN

¹ This is a very very abbreviated way of saying this, but this is the most efficient way of making the line intelligible, given the speed of the signs and the fact that MOTHER and FATHER both have multiple signs to make the complete word



All the birds, rivers and trees

FLY RIVER TREE

Old Man Napi ...

OLD MAN

For the bears he made the honey bees

BEAR EAT "buzz" TASTE GOOD²

Take another look around, at every living thing that can be found

LOOK ALL LIFE EARTH

The Great Maker gave it all to you and me, with Old Man Napi

BIG SPIRIT MADE ALL WITH OLD MAN

When he saw all the animals running wild

SEE DEER³ RUN

He decided he'd create a woman and a child

MAKE WOMAN WITH BABY

Told 'em what to do when they had no meat

SPEAK QUESTION HUNGRY

There were fish in the river for everyone to eat

FISH⁴ ALL EAT

They learned about fire, they learned how to live

MAKE FIRE MAKE LIVE

² The sign for SWEET, or in this case HONEY, we combine the signs for TASTE and GOOD along with buzzing

³ Rather than signing for multiple animals, I've chosen to just use the sign for deer, since it's quick and allows us to mention them.

⁴ The sign for FISH is normally in combination with sign for water, but this song is fast so we are using sign language slang.



On the roots and the berries that the earth would give

EARTH GROW EAT

Learned how to grow, and have a good life

MAKE GROW LIVE GOOD

With a bow, an arrow and a knife

WITH BOW KNIFE

Old Man Napi...

OLD MAN

More buffalo than you can see

SEE MANY BUFFALO

Old Man Napi...

OLD MAN

A horse gentle as he can be

HORSE BIG GOOD

Take another look around, at every living thing that can be found

LOOK ALL LIFE EARTH

The Great Maker gave it all to you and me, with Old Man Napi

BIG SPIRIT MADE ALL WITH OLD MAN

He said "go away by yourself to a mountain or a stream

SAID GO AWAY BY ITSELF

Wait for a vision or maybe a dream

WAIT SLEEP SEE GOOD⁵

⁵ The signs SEE and GOOD together form the sign for dream



If your will is strong, your heart is true

YOU POSSESSION GOOD HEART

Your spirit power is going to come to you

BIG MEDICINE COME

And one day men will come from the East

FUTURE WHITE PEOPLE COME

Changing your world, disturbing the peace

FIGHT LONG TIME

You may not want to live the way they do

PERHAPS YOU LIVE NO EQUAL

But stay strong, happy and true"

HEART GOOD SUNSHINE⁶

Old Man Napi...

OLD MAN

Many people of the world you'll see

ALL PEOPLE

Old Man Napi...

OLD MAN

You got to try to live in harmony

LIVE PEACE

Take another look around, at every living thing that can be found

LOOK ALL LIFE EARTH

⁶ The expression for GLAD or HAPPY is has the translation of "there is sunshine in the heart" so we use the signs HEART, MAKE, and SUN for this line.



The Great Maker gave it all to you and me...

BIG SPIRIT MADE ALL

It's yours and it's wild and free,

YOU POSSESSION BY ITSELF

how much better could this all be, because of...

QUESTION MUCH GOOD?

Old Man Napi (repeat 4x)

OLD MAN

Gave it all to you and me

MADE ALL

It's yours and it's wild and free

YOU POSSESSION

How much better could this all be

QUESTION MUCH GOOD?

Old Man Napi

OLD MAN



“Warrior People”

7

She could see him even now, as home he rode

WOMAN SEE MAN RIDE

His horses working hard to bear this heavy load

POSSESSION HORSE CARRY

As they crossed the streaming water

WALK WATER RIVER

Snowbird knew her own grandfather

SNOW BIRD KNOW POSSESSION MAN OLD

When he gave the secret sign that was their code

MAN MAKE SIGN LANGUAGE

His many years had etched fine lines across his face

MANY SNOWS EQUAL OLD

Yet he moved with great fluidity and grace

WORK EQUAL RIVER

A hunter home with meat and glory

HUNT CARRY DEER

First their dinner, then a story

EAT WITH STORY

Snowbird welcomed him back home with her embrace

SNOW BIRD HUG OLD MAN

(Chorus)

Every morning he would rise before the sun

MAN RISES BEFORE SUN

To give respect, before a new day had begun

GIVE LOVE BEFORE MORNING

To the Sun and Earth Mother

SUN WITH EARTH



Just as he had shown to others

ALL PEOPLE

Long had his Warrior People run

LONG TIME WAR PEOPLE LIVE

From the Saskatchewan to the Yellowstone, our home

BIG RIVER¹ WITH ELK RIVER²

Down the Old North Trail to Mexico, we'd roam

ME ALL POSSESSION EARTH³

Through misty mountains, prairie sunny

MOUNTAINS WITH PRAIRIE

Life was good for the "Pikuni"

PAST TENSE GOOD

Though now, Blackfeet and Blood is how we're known

INDIANS CALLED COLOR BLACK MOCASSINS

One day you will have a daughter of your own

FUTURE YOU POSSESSION WOMAN SMALL

Please remember all my stories when you've grown

SPEAK ALL I POSSESSION STORY

Tell her of the bear and eagle

SPEAK BEAR WITH EAGLE

And about the Warrior People

SPEAK WAR PEOPLE

And her great grandfather whose spirit has flown

SPEAK WOMAN POSSESSION OLD MAN DEAD

¹ The Blackfeet word for the Saskatchewan River translates to Big Northern River. We can add the sign for north (point north) if we have time in this part of the song.

² The Blackfeet call the Yellowstone River the Elk River

³ ME ALL is the sign for WE, and POSSESSION following makes that sign OUR. This line is simply saying OUR LAND.



(Chorus)

And every morning ... rise before the sun

RISES BEFORE SUN

To give respect, before a new day had begun

GIVE LOVE BEFORE MORNING

To the Sun and Earth Mother

SUN WITH EARTH

Just as we must show to others

ALL PEOPLE

Long may our Warrior People run

LONG TIME WAR PEOPLE LIVE

To the Sun and Earth Mother

SUN WITH EARTH

Just as we must show to others

ALL PEOPLE

Long may our Warrior People run

LONG TIME WAR PEOPLE LIVE

Long may our Warrior People run

LONG TIME WAR PEOPLE LIVE

