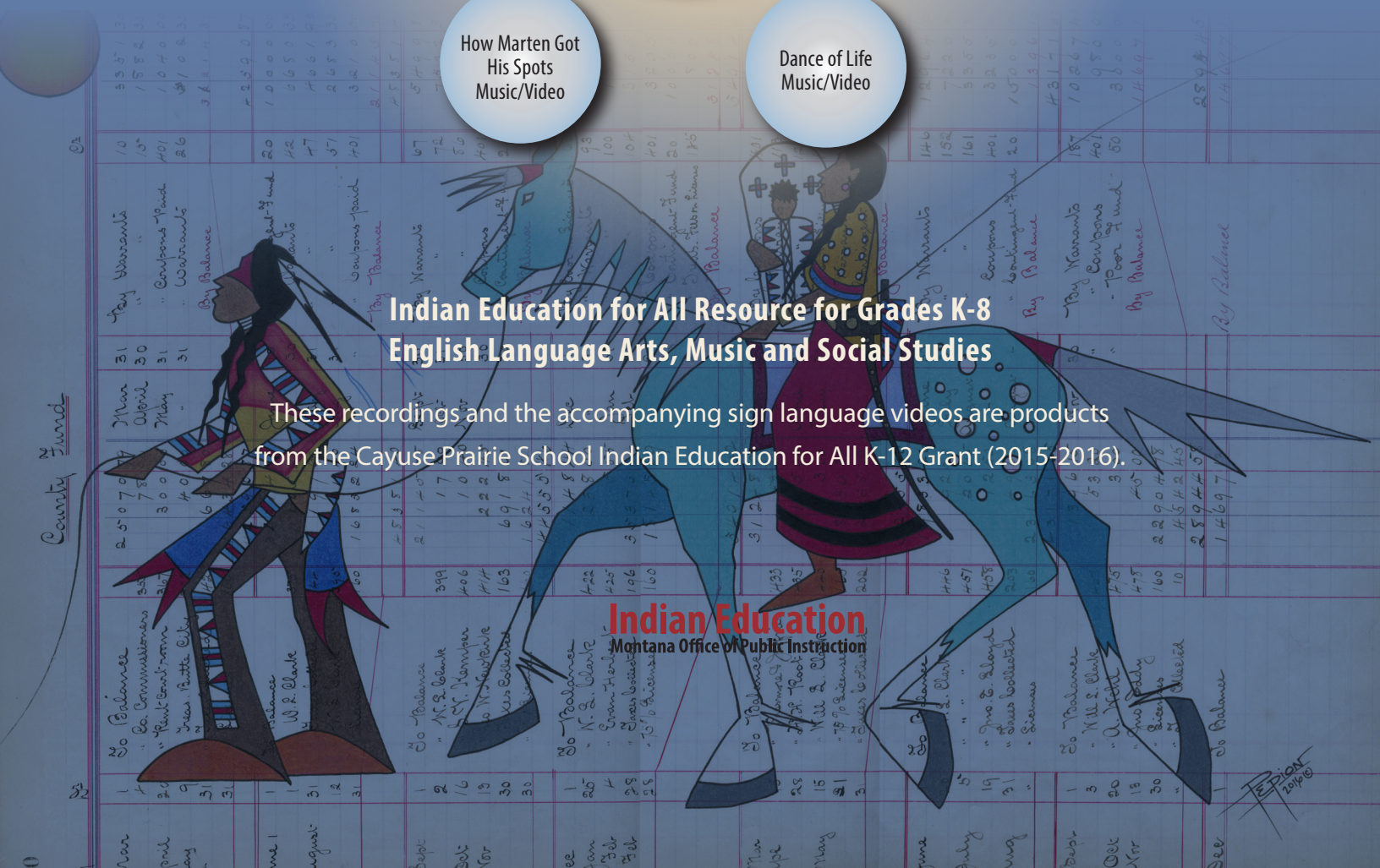
# SONGS FROM THE INDIAN READING SERIES



**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).

**Indian Education**
Montana Office of Public Instruction

# 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.

❶ 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

❷ Birds and People - Crow Story
Birds and People by Halladay Quist (Music and Lyrics)
Sign language video by Mariah Gladstone

❸ 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

❹ 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

❺ Little Weasel's Dream - Kootenai Story
Little Weasel's Dream by Halladay Quist (Music and Lyrics)
Sign language video by Mariah Gladstone

❻ Old Man Napi – Blackfeet Story
Old Man Napi by Rob Quist (Music and Lyrics)
Sign language video by Mariah Gladstone

❼ 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 SMALL[1] NO SLEEP**

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

**POSSESSION[2] 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**

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[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 MAKE[3] MAN**

*The look of pride in his father's eye*

**SUCKLE MAN[4] HEART GOOD**

*The sacrifices that his mother gave*

**SUCKLE[5] MAKE PAST TENSE LIVE[6]**

*That he would one day be a Blackfeet brave*

**NOW MAN SMALL EQUAL MAN WAR[7]**

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[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 POSSESSION[1] ELDER SPEAK**

*About the difference between you and me*

**EQUAL YOU WITH ME**

*Take a look around and what do you see*

**QUESTION[2] YOU SEE?**

*Different kinds of birds flying through the trees*

**ALL FLY[3] 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"**

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[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 ALL[4] MAKE[5] 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**

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[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,*

**INDIAN[6] 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/TOGETHER[7] 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 prayer[1] 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 ALL[2] DANCE MORNING**

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

**I ALONE STAR WOMAN GOOD NIGHT**

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[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 SMALL[1] 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 MOON[1] 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 GOOD**[2]

*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 DEER**[3] **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*

**FISH**[4] **ALL EAT**

*They learned about fire, they learned how to live*

**MAKE FIRE MAKE LIVE**

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[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 the 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 GOOD**[5]

[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 SUNSHINE**[6]

*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**

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[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"**

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*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 RIVER[1] WITH ELK RIVER[2]**

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

**ME ALL POSSESSION EARTH[3]**

*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**

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[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**