

RUNNING FREE

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

Running Free

Level IV Book 14

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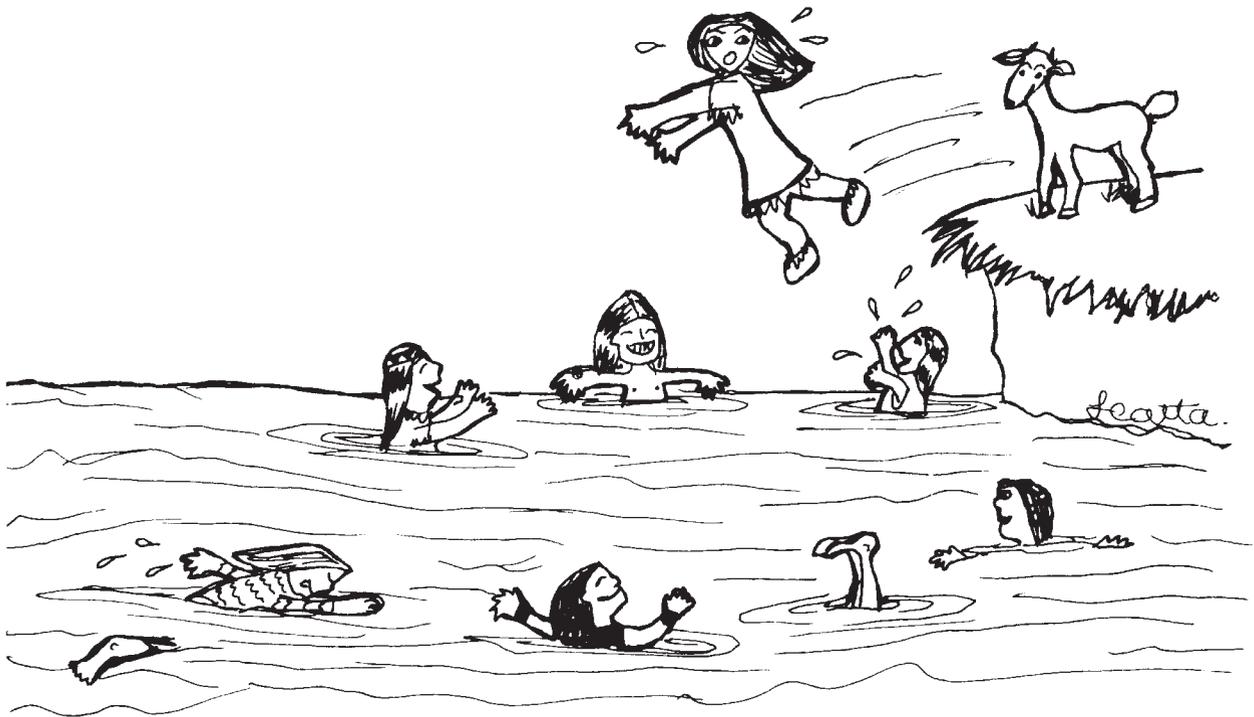
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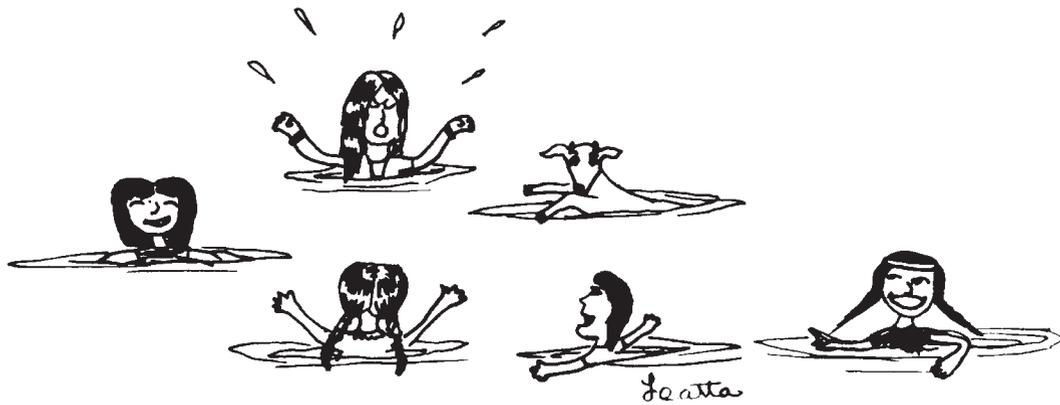
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When I was a little girl, I lived on the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation in Willapa Bay which is located on the northwest coast of Washington State. My four brothers and three sisters and I had a pet deer. He adopted us when he was just a little fawn. When we found him with a sore foot, my Dad put some special medicine on it to make it well. After that, he would show up at our back door every morning, looking for something to eat. My brothers and sisters and I would race out of bed to see who would get to feed him first. I would always find something first, because I always saved some of my fried bread for him from the night before.



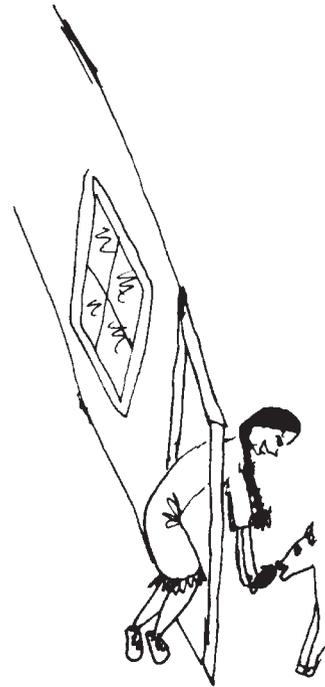
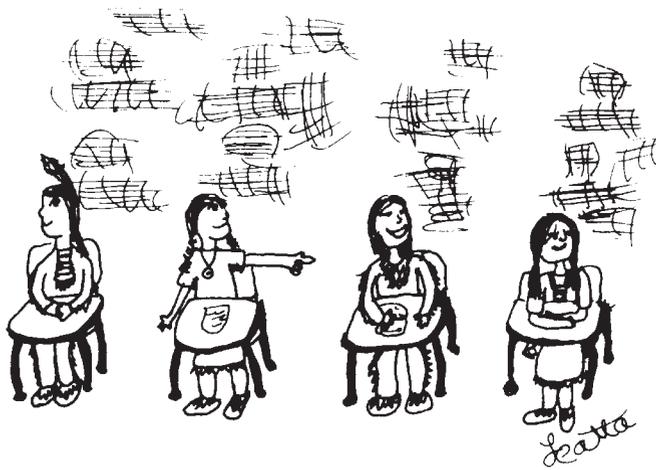
He was our very special friend, and we named him "Running Free." He would follow us everywhere. He would even go swimming with us. One day, as I was standing on the bank of the river and everyone else was already in the water playing and hollering, Running Free came up behind me and gave me a big push. Into the water I went. Everyone just laughed.



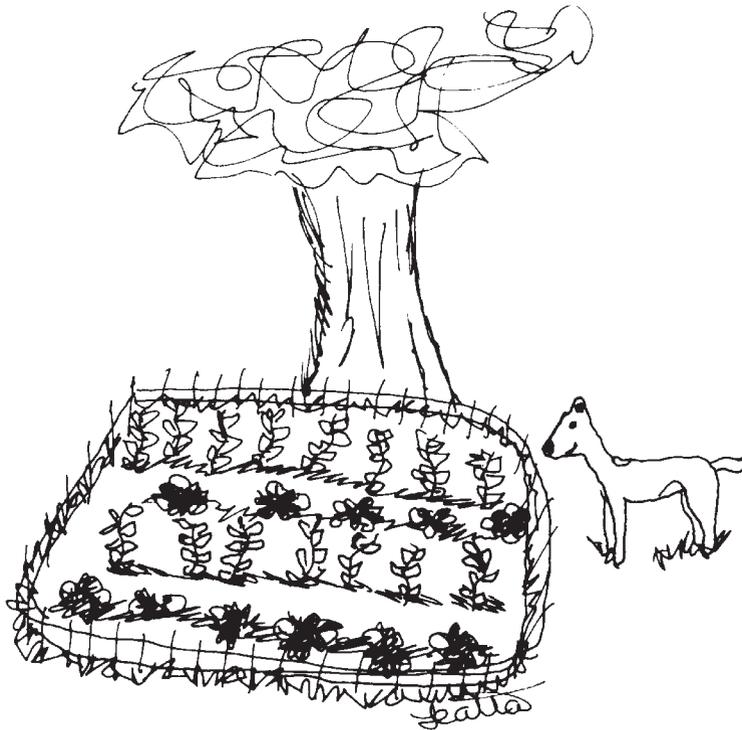
I came bubbling out of the water and there was Running Free. He was swimming around me with such an innocent look that I just couldn't get mad at him.



Running Free would try to follow us to school. We had to walk about two miles to school. Trying to ditch him sure was a problem. He would follow about half a block behind us. Everytime we turned around to holler at him, he would duck into the bushes and hide with one eye peeking at us. So, most of the time he would end up at school. Everyone liked him though, even the teacher. Running Free would romp and play with all the kids. He loved to play tag but he always won because he was so fast! He would catch us before we could run very far.



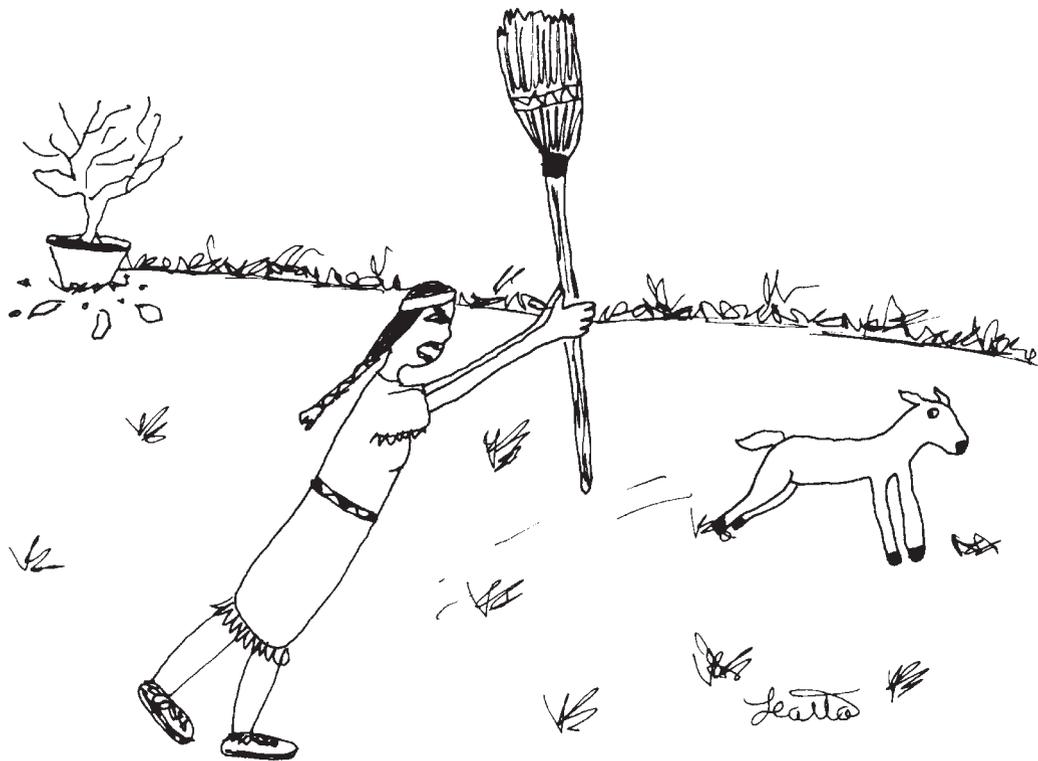
Our teacher would pretend she didn't like Running Free and say, "Take him home!" But most of the time, she would just pretend he wasn't there. Every once in awhile, she would throw something out for him to eat.



My dad had a garden with all kinds of vegetables in it: peas, corn, carrots, and so on. Running Free would not bother it. He would just stand at the edge of the garden and stare at all the good things to eat, but not touch one thing. It was as if he knew it would be wrong to bother it.



Running Free would stand under our apple tree. With big sad eyes he looked at us, as if to say, "Please get me an apple." We would climb up the tree and throw down apples for him until our mother would catch us and make us quit. She would tell us, "Don't feed him so many apples because it can make him sick."



One day, my mother put one of her favorite plants outside in the sunlight. She had a lot of plants that she liked, but this one was her favorite. Running Free saw it and he must have thought, "Wow! A treat for me!" He ate all the little red berries off of it. My mother was so mad that she grabbed a broom and chased Running Free all over the yard, swinging the broom and screaming at him! She never did hit him though. Afterwards, Running Free was so ashamed of himself because he knew he had done something wrong. He would go up to her and lick her hand, as if to say, "I'm sorry, please forgive me."



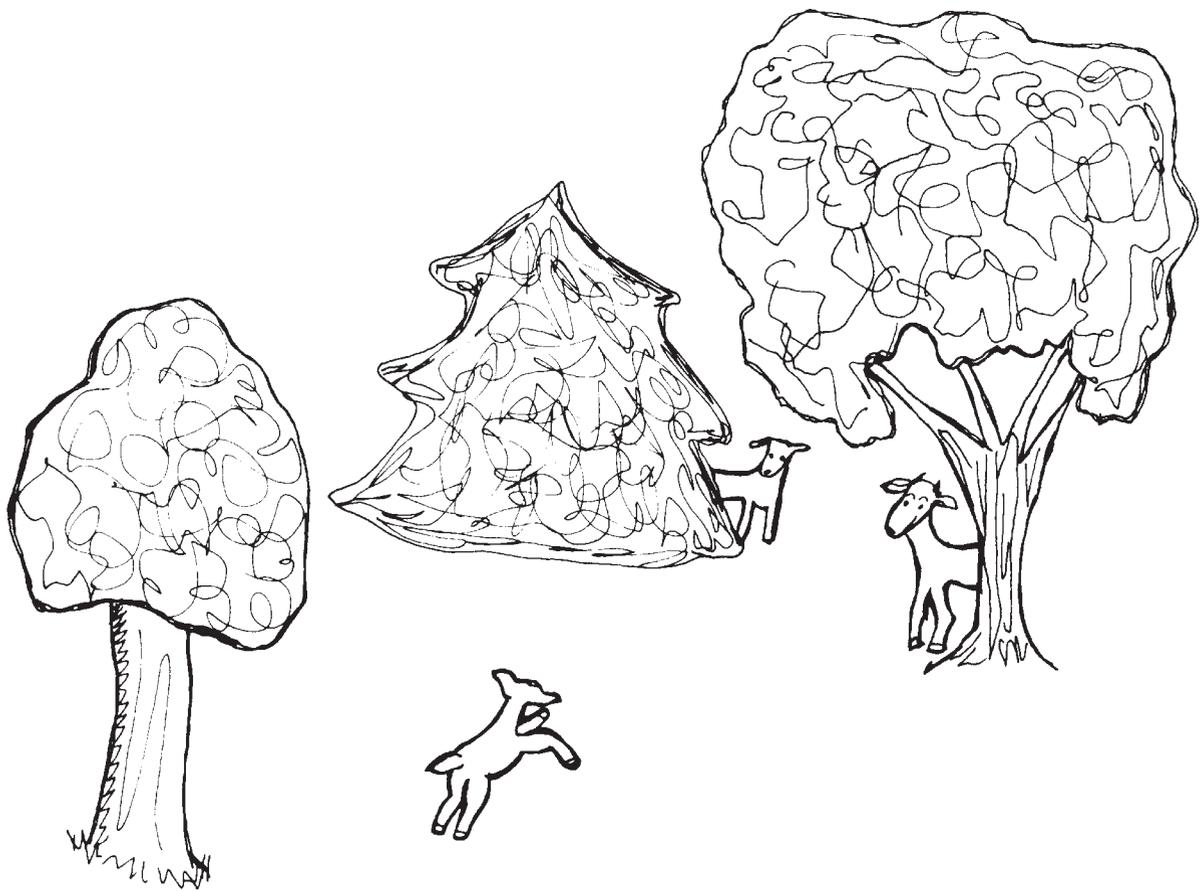
When we played Hide and Seek, he would always peek and lead me to my brothers and sisters. They would get mad and make us quit playing. We had a lot of good times playing with Running Free.



Our uncle Tom would always bring us a special treat each time he came to visit. He would always bring a treat for Running Free, too. He would bring beef jerky that he had dried himself. It was a long thin strip of beef dried in a smokehouse. Running Free was just crazy about it. He would see our uncle coming and be the first one to greet him and get his treat.



Dried beef and dried smelt were just like candy to us and uncle would always have a sack full. We would nibble on it all day long. It was so good!



Running Free got a little older. He didn't play with us as much. He just kind of laid around, looking at us. We thought he was sick and pleaded with Dad, "Please make him well." Dad told us, "Running Free is not sick. He's getting old enough that he needs his own kind in order to be completely happy. Don't worry. He still loves you."

One morning, Running Free wasn't at the back door like he usually was. We ran all over the yard hollering for him. "Running Free! Running Free!" We looked everywhere for him but he just couldn't be found. My heart felt heavy and sad. I knew he was gone for good. Running Free had gone to join his own kind.



LEATTA ANDERSON



MACCLURG VIVIAN

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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