LITTLE WEASEL'S DREAM

The Indian Reading Series

Level IV Book 7
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:

- Warren Clements — Warm Springs
  Chairman
- Clement Azure — Devils Lake Sioux
- Walter Moffett — Nez Perce
- Emmett Oliver — Quinault
- Bob Parsley — Chippewa
- Lloyd Smith — Warm Springs
- Max Snow
- Jeanne Thomas — Yakima
THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Little Weasel's Dream
Level IV Book 7

Developed by the Kootenai Cultural Committee of the
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Cleo Kenmille, Coordinator
Glen James
Verna James, Illustrator
Madeline Couture
Sarah Bufton
Sophie Matt
Sarah Eneas
Patricia Hewankorn
Joseph Antiste, Consultant
Agnes Kenmille
Debbie Joseph, Illustrator
Howard Kallowat, Jr., Illustrator

Illustrated by Debbie Joseph

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
It was the middle of August. The berries were ripe and ready for picking. A party of seven women decided to take their children whortleberry picking. They planned to go up into the mountains behind Lone Pine.

They had to travel by horseback. They loaded their picking baskets on the horses. The children had to ride double and even triple. The younger children rode with their mothers.
The women and children rode for many hours until they found a spot with enough berries to fill their baskets. They stopped, unloaded their baskets and piled them near the berry patch.

To nearby trees they tied their horses with enough lead rope to graze. Someone saw signs of wild animals so they had to be extra careful. The children were given strict orders to stay close together near the elders. The older children were expected to watch the younger ones.
The women were so busy picking that they forgot about everything else. Late in the afternoon when the baskets were full, they decided it was time to start home. The women told the children to get ready for the long, slow trip home.
One of the women noticed that she hadn't seen her three year-old-son Little Weasel for quite some time. She became alarmed when she found that no one else had seen him either. The women and children began looking all over for Little Weasel.
Little Weasel was playing and having such a fun time that he didn’t realize he had wandered too far and was lost. When he realized he was lost, he began running, desperately trying to find his mother. He couldn’t find his mother or anyone else. He sat down on a log and began to cry.
Suddenly, he heard branches breaking behind him. When he turned around, he saw a big, black bear coming towards him. Little Weasel was very frightened.
He began to scream for help as loudly as he could. The women were about to give up their search and send for help from their village. Then they heard Little Weasel cry out for his mother. She ran to him, picked him up and held him in her arms. She was so happy that her son was safe.
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 Sq^3a’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