



# Kootenai Stories

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

## Owl's Eyes

### Seeking a Spirit

Level IV Book 11

Developed by the Kootenai Cultural Committee of the  
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No. 400-80-0105 with the Educational Equity Group/Multicultural/Bilingual Division  
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Printed and bound in the United States of America

# Owl's Eyes





This is a story of how Owl got his big eyes.  
Long long ago, Owl had small eyes. Owl would spend most of his  
time sitting high in the trees.



Owl had a friend whose name was Mouse. Owl and Mouse always played together.

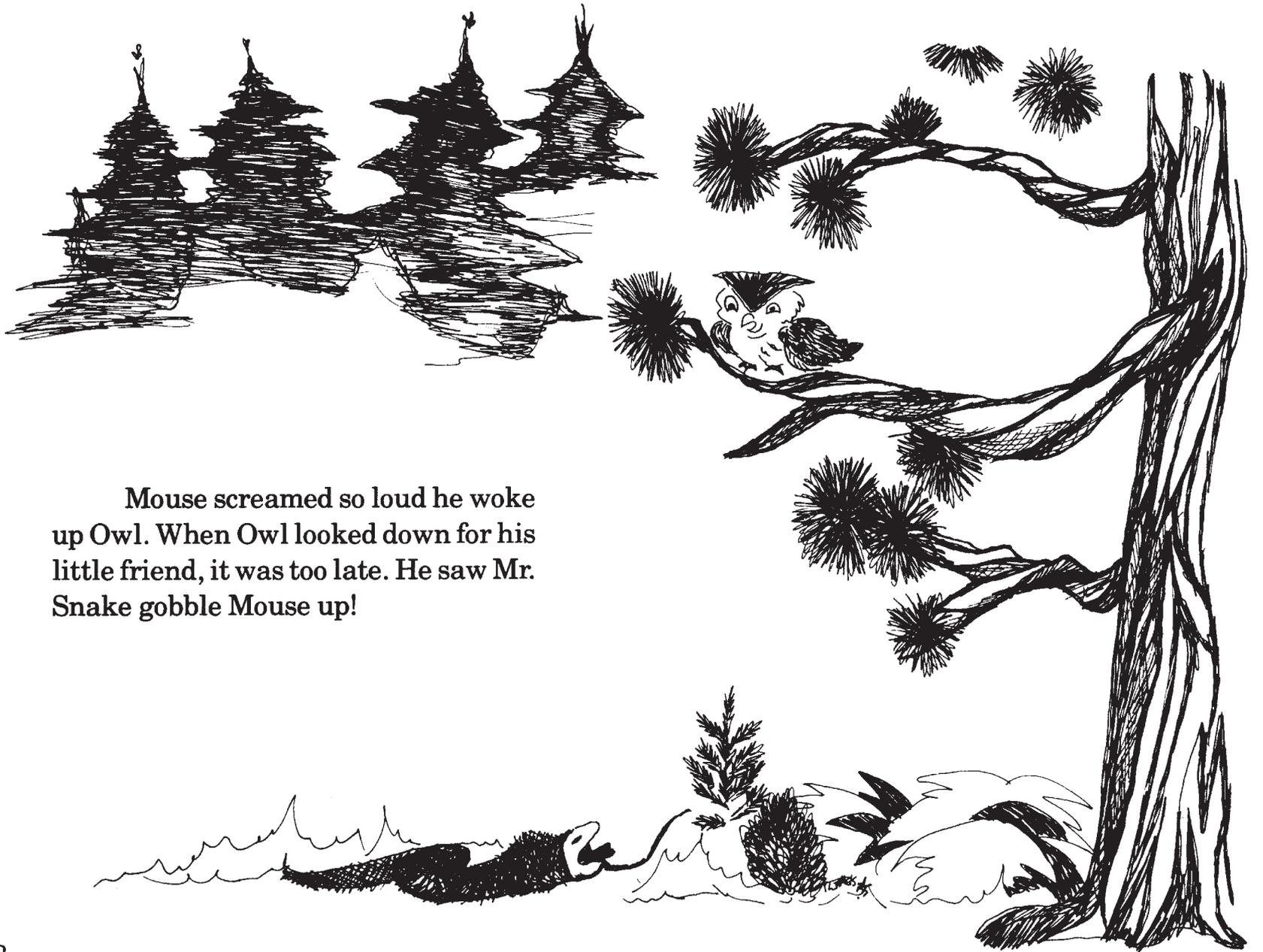
One night Owl was sitting high in his tree. Mouse called to Owl, "Owl, please come down and play with me." Owl never heard his tiny friend because he was sound asleep.



Nearby, Mr. Snake was quietly crawling through the grass. He heard Mouse crying. "Oh Owl, won't you come down and play with me?" Mouse cried.

Quickly, Mr. Snake slithered over to Mouse. When Mouse turned around and saw Mr. Snake, he screamed!





Mouse screamed so loud he woke up Owl. When Owl looked down for his little friend, it was too late. He saw Mr. Snake gobble Mouse up!



There wasn't a thing Owl could do. His tiny friend was gone.  
Owl was so surprised he opened his eyes wider and wider. This is  
how Owl got his big eyes.



## Seeking A Spirit



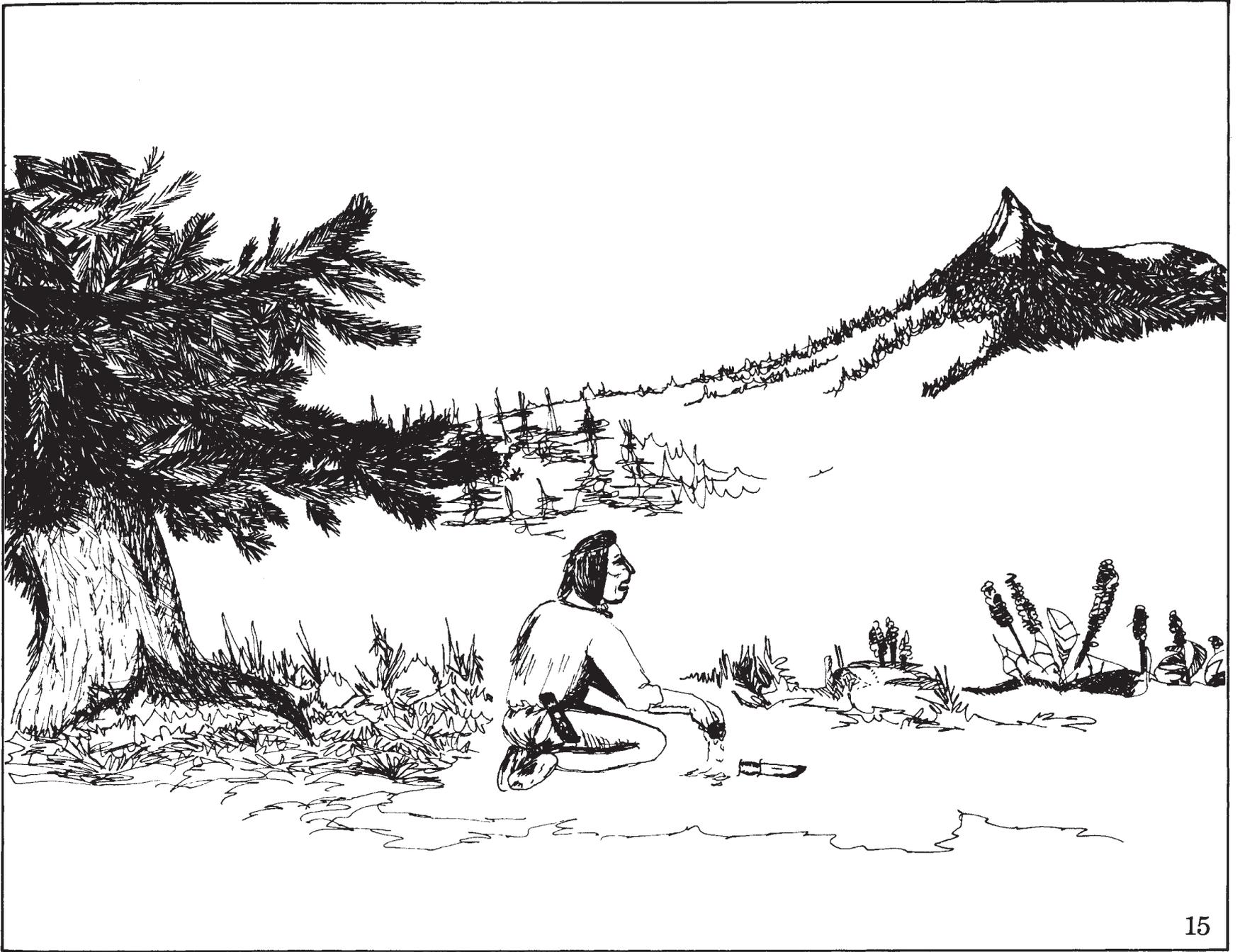


Long ago, there lived a young Kootenai boy whose name was Lassaw.

One day Lassaw left home and went to the top of a mountain. Lassaw wanted to seek a spirit. While Lassaw stayed on the mountain, he could not have any food or water.

After two days and nights Lassaw cut off the tip of his finger. He tore his shirt and used it to make a bandage.

Lassaw prayed. He told the Great Spirit his finger hurt very much. Lassaw said, "Help me. Give me something so I can become a great medicine man."



Lassaw's finger was bleeding. His bandage was soaked. Because his finger hurt very much, he pressed his hand to his side.

Suddenly, Lassaw saw a buffalo! The buffalo was drinking water. Lassaw knew there was no water nearby. The buffalo continued to drink and when it was finished, it looked at Lassaw.

The buffalo spoke to Lassaw in the Kootenai language. It told Lassaw, "I know you are hurt. I came to help you. Whatever you ask for, I will give you."



The buffalo disappeared. Lassaw had seen the spirit of the buffalo. He knew the buffalo's spirit would always help him.

Lassaw became a great buffalo hunter. He lived a long and a happy life.





**CLEO KENMILLE**

☆ G.P.O. : 1982—593-665

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<sup>3</sup>a'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 Teepee*  
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. *Teepee Making*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*  
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*  
Blackfeet Tribe



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