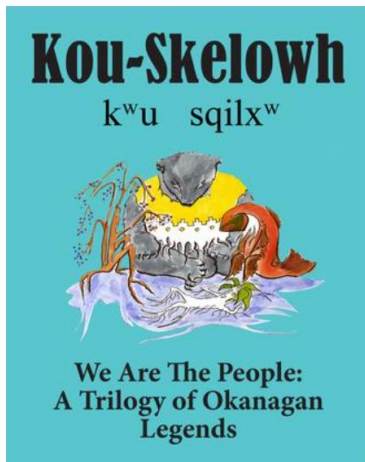




We Are the People: A Trilogy of Okanagan Legend

Adapted format to use in a shared script with students.

Story: How Food Was Given

Story Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5oCwNU9sNw>

Characters:

Narrator

Chief Black Bear

Chief Spring Salmon

Chief Bitterroot

Chief Saskatoon Berry

Fly

Narrator:

In the world before this world, before there were people, and before things were like they are now, everyone was alive and walking around like we do.

All Creation talked about the coming changes to their world.

They had been told that soon a new kind of people would be living on this earth. Even they, the Animal and Plant people would be changed.

Now they had to decide how the People-To-Be would live and what they would eat.

The four Chiefs of all Creation are:

Chief Black Bear:

I am Black Bear, Chief for all creatures on the land.

Chief Spring Salmon:

I am Spring Salmon, Chief for all creatures in the water.

Chief Bitterroot:

I am Bitterroot, Chief for things under the ground.

Chief Saskatoon Berry:

I am Saskatoon Berry, Chief for things growing on land.

Narrator:

They held many meetings and talked for a long time about what the People-To-Be would need to live. All of the Chiefs thought and thought.

Chief Saskatoon Berry (Discussing among the four chiefs):

What can we give to the People-To-Be to eat that is already here on earth?

Chief Bitterroot:

There seems to be no answer.

Narrator:

Spring Salmon says to Black bear...

Chief Spring Salmon:

You are the oldest and wisest among us. You tell us what you are going to do.

Chief Black Bear:

Since you have all placed your trust in me, I will have to do the best I can.

Narrator:

He thought for a long time and finally said...

Chief Black Bear:

I will give myself, and all the animals that I am Chief over, to be food for the People-To-Be.

Narrator:

Then Black Bear asked Salmon...

Chief Black Bear:

What will you do?

Chief Salmon:

You are indeed the wisest among us. I will also give myself and all the things that live in the water for food for the People-To-Be.

Narrator:

Bitterroot, who was Chief of all the roots under the ground said...

Chief Bitterroot:

I will do the same.

Narrator:

Saskatoon Berry was last and she said...

Chief Saskatoon Berry:

I will do the same. All the good things growing above the ground will be food for the People-To-Be.

Narrator:

Chief Bear was happy because there would be enough food for the People-To-Be.

Chief Black Bear:

I will lay down my life to make these things happen.

Narrator:

Because the great Chief Bear had given his life, all of Creation gathered and sang songs to bring him back to life. That was how they helped heal each other in that world. They all took turns singing, but Bear did not come back to life.

Finally, it came to Fly. He sang...

Fly:

You laid your body down. You laid your life down.

Narrator:

His song was powerful. Bear came back to life. The Fly told the four Chiefs...

Fly:

When the People-To-Be are here and they take your body for food, they will sing this song. They will cry their thanks with this song.

Narrator:

Then Bear spoke for all the Chiefs...

Chief Black Bear:

From now on when the People-To-Be come, everything will have its own song. The People-To-Be will use these songs to help each other as you have helped me.

Narrator:

That is how food was given to our people. That is how songs were given to our people. That is how giving and helping one another was and still is taught to our people. This is why we must respect even the smallest, weakest persons for what they can contribute. That is why we give thanks and honour to what is given us.