



We Are the People: A Trilogy of Okanagan Legend

Adapted format to use in a shared script with students.

Story: How Turtle Set the Animals Free

Story online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV10JR4To3s>

Characters:

Narrator

Dream Voice

Turtle

Muskrat

Eagle

Narrator:

Eagle was very fast. He raced all the Animal People and beat them. Even Fox and Wolf lost. All the Animal People who lost these races became Eagle's Slaves.

Eagle was Chief of all the animals, except for Turtle who lived with his partner Muskrat. They were free because they were the only ones who did not race Eagle.

They knew they could not run very fast, but one night Turtle had a dream. He was told

Dream Voice:

"You must race Eagle tomorrow to free the Animal People. They must be free when the People-To-be come."

Narrator:

In the morning turtle told muskrat...

Turtle:

Get up! Go for a swim! Get Ready! We must race Eagle.

Muskrat:

You cannot beat him, Turtle! You cannot beat him! He flies too fast.

Turtle:

I know. All of our people lost before, but my dream told me to race and win.

Narrator:

Together the two friends went to Eagle's camp. Turtle told Eagle...

Turtle:

I want to race with you tomorrow.

Eagle:

All right, Turtle. Tomorrow we race, when the sun comes up. If you win, the Animal People are yours.

Turtle:

Yes

Eagle:

If I win Turtle, I will keep you here. You are betting your life on this race.

Narrator:

As Turtle crawled away, all the Animal People laughed, because they did not think they would ever be free.

Next day, Turtle met Eagle for the race. Eagle told him...

Eagle:

Choose your place, Turtle. I will race you any distance you decide.

Turtle:

Any place?

Eagle:

Our people hear me, any place, Turtle.

Narrator:

Quickly Turtle said...

Turtle:

Then carry me up in the air Eagle. I will tell you when to drop me. From there we will race. Whoever reaches the ground first wins the race.

Narrator:

Eagle began to get worried. He took Turtle high up. Turtle yelled...

Turtle:

Let Go!

Narrator:

Eagle dropped him...

He fell like a rock. Eagle tried to catch up to him. Turtle stuck out his head.

Turtle:

E-e-eee! Hurry, Eagle! I will beat you!

Narrator:

Then Turtle pulled his head in and fell faster. The Animal People watched. They all shouted for Turtle. Muskrat jumped around and his tail whipped the air. His partner was winning. Eagle was close! He thought...

Eagle:

Turtle will hit the ground like a rock!

Narrator:

Turtle did, but he stood up and told the Animal People...

Turtle:

Now I will be Chief in making this decision. You are free. Go where you like, Animal People. Anywhere!

Narrator:

The Animal People scattered. They would tell the People-To-Be about the first races. Turtle spoke to Eagle...

Turtle:

You know, I cannot always beat you, Eagle, but I had a dream, and I learned how to beat you. I will never overtake your speed. You will always be the fastest one. You will always catch what you want to eat. When the People-To-Be come, they will dream too, and they will learn from their dreams, just as I did.