

NEW WORDS:

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BASKET WOMAN

Blue Jay - Star Child/Basket Woman

Developed by members of the Muckleshoot Planning Committee

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Coastal Region

STORY TYPE(S): Indian Values

Summary:

Children, playing outside, are called in by their Grandmother. One child does not obey and a voice thunders at him to listen to his Grandmother. The Grandmother gives the children a vivid description of Basket Woman who is said to capture children who do not listen and obey.

This story stresses the importance of listening and obeying one's elders. The Basket Woman is used as an example of consequences paid for disobedience.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Listening is a skill which can be developed. Discuss what listening well really involves. How does TV affect how people listen? Does having pictures affect how well we listen and use our imagination? Refer to the oral tradition activity used with *The Weasel and the Eagle*.

How important is listening in passing stories from one generation to the next? Try some listening activities.

- Read aloud short stories or poems and ask students to picture in their minds what is taking place. Have them try drawing their pictures.
- Ask students to sit quietly in the classroom and write down as many sounds as they can in a five minute interval. Have them change their location and repeat the activity. Discuss about the sounds they may not have noticed before. Ask them to speculate why they have not.



2. Ask students to think of a little sister or brother. What are some things that an extremely young person should be warned about? Ask students to write a story which will show a young inexperienced person how important it is to respect such things as the water, the woods, the winds, etc.



3. Discuss other “boogeyman” stories which are used to convince others of the dangers of poor behavior. How effective is fear as a motivator for proper behavior?



4. As a class group make a list of things that can be done to show respect for elders. After a list is compiled, ask each student to mark each item according to how often each individually has shown such respect. They may use the categories **often**, **sometimes** and **hardly ever**, depending on how regularly these things are done. What else could be done?

You may want to have your class make gifts for an elderly person they know. Organize a visit to a home for elderly people or invite some people to your class to share their experiences of growing up.

Student Activity Card(s):

See Earth, Sky, Water Activity Card (2C-2D).