

NEW WORDS:

Assiniboine
encampment
proposing
mature
lectured
medicine man
broken hearted
disappeared

A YOUNG WARRIOR Ghost Stories

Developed by members of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Description of Culture

Summary:

A young warrior who had planned to marry the chief's oldest daughter went on a raid to retrieve some stolen horses. When he returned he found that the girl he was to marry had died of a broken heart and was lying in a tepee guarded by a young man. The young warrior took the man's place and as he was grieving for his lost sweetheart, she came to life. He lived with the spirit of the dead girl for four days until it was time for her to go to the spirit world. Before she left she directed the young warrior to return to camp and marry her sister, which he did.

This story gives examples of some cultural practices of the Assiniboine tribe, specifically courtship, warriorhood and the treatment of the dead. The young warrior learned that any goal worth achieving involves some sacrifice. He gained horses but lost his sweetheart. His devotion to his dead sweetheart was repaid with the life long companionship of her sister.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Discuss the practices of the Assiniboine described on page 12. Compare what happened in courtship then to what takes place today. Ask students to speculate on why such practices may have been observed. Compare this to *Mary Queequee-sue's Love Story*.



2. Ask students to identify ways in which a young warrior might prove himself in the days of this story (i.e., stealing horses, counting coups, good hunter, etc.) How do men prove themselves today? Have students brainstorm ideas individually first and then make a list on the board.

Students may want to vote on which things are the most difficult to achieve, giving reasons why they think so.

Student Activity Card(s):
See Horse Stealing Activity Card (9A-9B).