

NEW WORDS:

- victor
- coups
- considered
- honorable
- society
- prey
- respected
- argued
- procupine
- disappeared
- quillwork
- scalp
- uneasy
- burial
- herd
- butchered
- opposite
- alongside
- soul
- uneaten
- invisible
- exchanged
- ceremony

INDIAN LOVE STORY

Duckhead Necklace/Indian Love Story

Developed by members of the Assiniboine Elders Board of the Fort Belknap Reservation

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Indian Values/Description of Culture

Summary:

A young warrior who wanted to prove himself in battle before taking a wife went to talk to his sweetheart. She told him not to go. She was satisfied with what he already had to offer her and feared she could not live without him. Promising to marry upon his return, the young warrior left.

When he returned he found his sweetheart had died and was buried in a tepee. Sending the other warriors in his party on, he chose to remain with the dead body for four nights. On the morning after the fourth night he was awakened by the spirit of his girl friend who had seemingly come back to life. The girl's spirit remained with the warrior for four years, helping him steal horses and earning him many honors. She left, finally, telling him to marry her sister.

Sometimes we do not realize how much our own actions may affect others. The young warrior did not take seriously the pleading of the young girl. When he realized that he should have listened to his girl friend, he tried to make amends by staying with her dead body. He was rewarded with her spiritual presence for four years and received many other honors. However, one cannot and should not live their life solely on the wishes of another. We must all be responsible for our own actions.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. This story is difficult to relate to young children without considering the enormous changes which have occurred in Indian culture and the evolution of adaptation of other practices relating to human interaction.

Review information presented earlier about the manner of courtship that the local tribes used in the old days. Is this any different than the manner of courtship known today? In some Plains tribes a boy about the age of 5th or 6th grade might have his first kill (buffalo). At this age he would also be going from boyhood to manhood through rites such as fasting or seeking a vision (good dream about oneself, a personal religious experience).

How a person feels about himself/herself often reflects that person's ability to change, act, communicate, etc. What did the young man want or think he needed? Point out that it is admirable to try to become a better person. No two people think exactly alike. Accepting uniqueness is the key to love, respect and trust.

Have students research the manner of courtship, burial and marriage practices of several different tribes. Have them report to the council lodge group on their findings.



2. Discuss the similarities and differences of this story with the *Young Warrior* read earlier. Note in one story the girl's spirit stayed four days while in this story she stayed four years. Remind them of the oral tradition and ask them to speculate on why these stories are not exactly the same.

To demonstrate how changes occur, have the class sit in a large circle and have one person whisper a simple secret in the person's ear to the left. Proceed around the circle with the same secret until the last person has been told. Compare the last person's secret with the first and have students speculate on why they may be so different.

Student Activity Card(s):

See A Warrior's Return Activity Card (22A-22B)