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Arapaho Legends

ARAPAHO LEGENDS

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THE SCALPED MAN

Long ago when the Arapahos used to fight a lot, they would go out looking for enemy tribes. One time a number of men left to look for a fight and a young boy went with them. The boy was not very big but still he went along.

The group walked a long distance without encountering anyone. Finally, towards the end of the day, they came to a thick stand of brush and built a wood lodge where they would spend the night. After the lodge was completed they built a fire and cooked a meal for themselves. When night fell they amused themselves by telling stories.

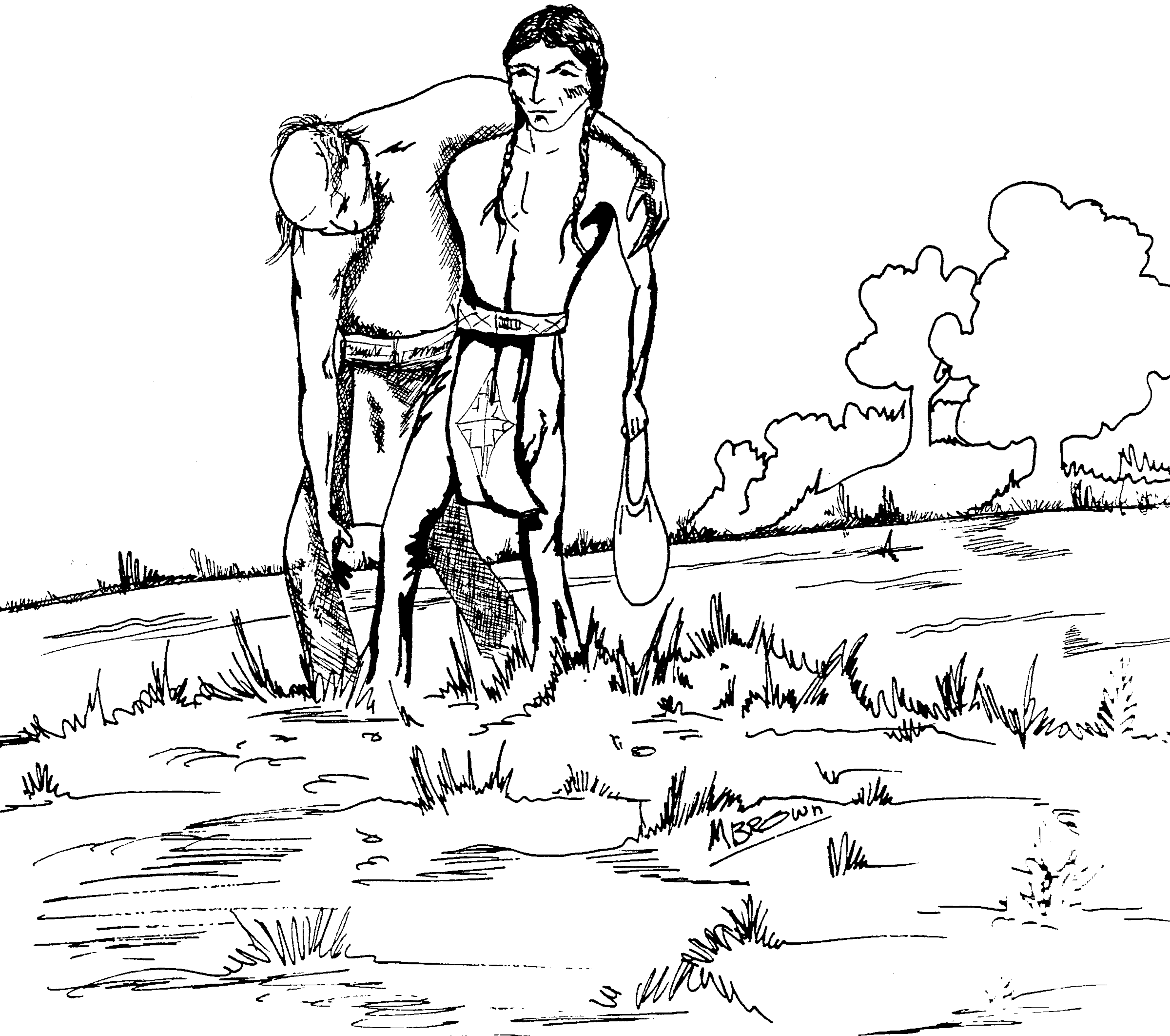
During the story-telling, the chief asked one man to go and get some water. The man refused, so the chief asked another man. The second man refused also, so the chief asked each of the other men. All of the men refused the chief's request because it was too dark. Finally, the young boy volunteered. The other men tried to discourage him by saying that it was too dark, but he went anyway. The boy picked up the water container and set off to the river.

The group had camped near the river and as the boy approached the bank he heard a strange sound. He thought it was the sound of a person moaning. The boy put the water container aside and went looking for the source of the sound. His search led him to a man who was badly wounded but still alive and lying behind a large bush. The boy retrieved the water container and filled it from the river. Then he returned to the wounded man and helped him to his feet. Together they returned to the camp.

Upon reaching the camp, the boy told the man to wait outside while he took the water in to the others. When he entered the lodge the boy told the men, "Here is the water."

The boy and all of the men heard the stranger moaning outside and the men grew frightened. Then the boy told how he had found the man lying wounded and how he brought him back to the camp. The boy told the men, "I will bring him in."

As the boy left the lodge the group of men watched the door apprehensively. When the boy brought the stranger into the lodge, the men saw that he had been scalped. Later, when the stranger became fully conscious, he found that he had no hair at all. After his wound healed, he had a bald, shiny head.



VOCABULARY: Find the meaning of the following words in the dictionary and then write a word in the blank that is synonymous. Use the synonym that fits the context of the story.

1. encounter
2. volunteer
3. retrieve
4. frighten
5. apprehensive
6. conscious
7. discourage
8. fight

APPLICATION: Substitute a synonym for the underlined word, using the correct form.

9. Long ago when the Arapahos used to fight a lot they would go out looking for enemy tribes.
10. The group walked a long distance without encountering anyone.
11. Finally the young boy volunteered.
12. The other men tried to discourage him because it was too dark.
13. The boy retrieved his water container and filled it from the river.
14. As the boy left the lodge the group of men watched the door apprehensively.
15. Later, when the stranger became fully conscious, he found that he had no hair at all.

ANTONYMS: Write an antonym on the blank line for the following:

16. discourage
17. retrieve
18. conscious
19. encounter
20. frighten

RETENTION: Your answers to the following questions will reveal how well you remember the details of the story, The Scalped Man.

1. Where were the Arapahos going?

2. Why were they going on this trip?

3. One member of the group was unusual. Who was it?

4. Where did they stay overnight?

5. What did these men do for amusement?

6. A protagonist is usually the leading character in a story; in the story, The Scalped Man, who was the protagonist?

7. Why did you respond as you did to the above question?

THE WHITEMAN AND THE COYOTE

There once was a whiteman who was travelling east when he came upon a herd of buffalo. As he watched the buffalo grazing he thought to himself, "How can I get at them?"

He began looking for a high cliff, and when he found one he made a marker with his robe near the edge. After he had done this he went back to the buffalo.

"Now, I have come to race with you," the whiteman said to the buffalo. "They claim that you are very fast."

"No, we do not want to run," the buffalo replied. "We are still enjoying our grazing."

"I am going to race with you for only a short distance," the whiteman insisted, so the buffalo agreed.



The whiteman continued, "There is one thing you cannot do. When you get near my robe you must close your eyes. You cannot open them until I tell you. We will turn around when we get to my robe."

The buffalo stood in a row, and when the whiteman told them to start, they all began running. He ran right along with them. As they neared the marker, the whiteman told the buffalo to close their eyes. The buffalo did as they were told and kept running. They did not see the cliff because their eyes were closed, and they fell over the cliff and were killed by the fall.

The whiteman was pleased by his trick and he took his robe and went down the cliff.



A river flowed nearby, and the whiteman began to butcher the buffalo. After he had butchered so many, a coyote appeared. The coyote came limping out pleading, "Please give me something to eat. I am very hungry and very thin. I am never able to find anything to eat."

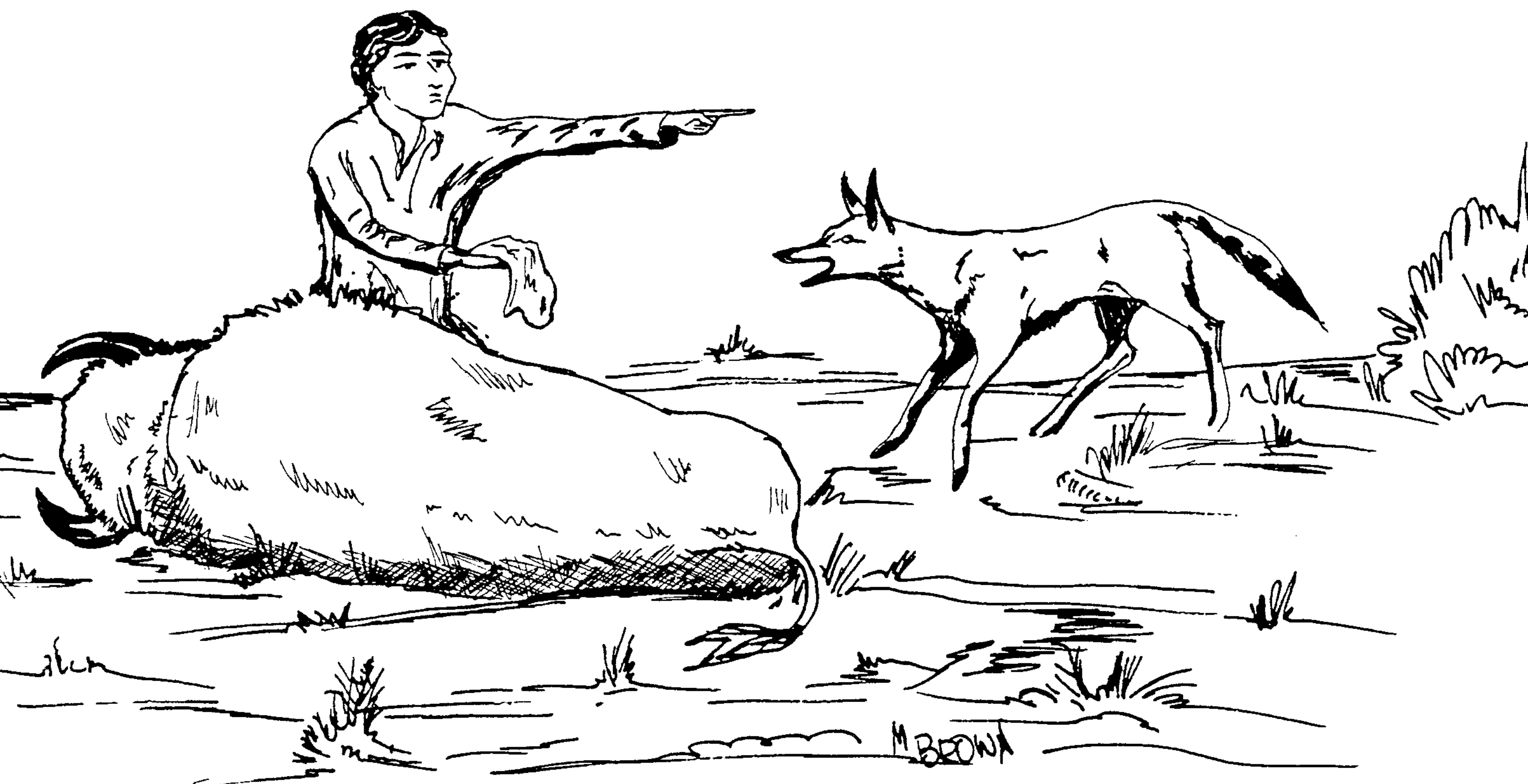
"Go away," said the whiteman, who was annoyed by the sudden appearance of the coyote. "I suppose you are going to bother me."

"Please, whiteman, feed me scraps or bones," begged the coyote. Whiteman just told him to go away, but the coyote would not leave.

Finally, the whiteman gave the coyote a piece of tripe, saying, "Here is some tripe. Go and wash it."

The coyote took the tripe and dragged it down to the river. He hid behind a bush and ate the tripe. When he had finished eating he went back to where the whiteman was butchering the buffalo.

"Whiteman," the coyote said, "the fish took the tripe away from me and ate it up. They are tough. They must have been hungry."



"Here is another one that you can go and wash," said the whiteman to the coyote. The coyote took the tripe and went off behind a bush and ate this second piece of tripe. After he had eaten all of the tripe he went back to the whiteman and told him the same story about the fish.

The whiteman gave the coyote a third piece of tripe, and the coyote went through the same routine as before. However, the whiteman noticed that the coyote looked full, with his belly bulging out. The whiteman became suspicious and jumped up to follow the coyote. He saw the coyote eating behind the bush, so he picked up a big stick. Then he went back to the buffalo and pretended to slice the meat.

When the coyote came back his belly was really bulging out from being so full. He told the whiteman the same story about the fish eating the tripe.

"Yeah," said the whiteman. "Here is another piece." Then he grabbed the big stick and hit the coyote, knocking him out. "He keeps bothering me," the whiteman thought to himself and he dragged the coyote away.

Along toward evening the coyote regained consciousness. The whiteman was still busy butchering and slicing meat. When the coyote got back on his feet he ran up a hill and howled to call the rest of the coyotes.

The coyotes all gathered, asking, "What is it?"

"That whiteman knocked me out," the coyote told his friends. "Tonight we are going to go and eat up all of his meat when he falls asleep."

The coyotes waited around until night fell. By then the whiteman was very tired, so he lay down and went right to sleep. As soon as he fell asleep the coyotes sneaked up slowly. They ate all of the meat and carried the bones away.

When morning came the whiteman woke up, satisfied with his rest. He stretched and looked around. Much to his surprise, he did not see any meat.

"It seemed like I had a lot of meat yesterday," he thought. "I even had some sliced meat, but now I do not see any." The whiteman began looking around for the meat, scolding himself, "I should have shared the meat with that coyote; then he might not have taken it all."

VOCABULARY: Using a dictionary, find the meaning of each underlined word below. Write the correct meaning of each word in the space provided.

1. "They claim that you are fast."

2. "I am going to race with you for only a short distance, the whiteman insisted,...."

3. "....and the coyote went through the same routine as before."

4. "Along toward evening the coyote regained consciousness."

5. "....the coyote regained consciousness."

6. "The whiteman became suspicious and jumped up to follow the coyote."

7. "The whiteman was annoyed by the sudden appearance of the coyote."

8. "...by the sudden appearance of the coyote."

9. From reading the story, which of the following words would you use to describe the coyote?

- a. beggar
- b. devious
- c. cunning
- d. all

10. Note some of the coyote's characteristics or actions that explain why you answered the above question as you did.

11. Which of the following words would best describe the whiteman?

- a. selfish
- b. generous
- c. conceited
- d. all

12. What purpose did the whiteman have in mind when he wanted to race with the buffalo?

THE BOY AND THE EAGLES

Long ago, when the Arapaho still moved around a lot, a young boy saw two baby eagles sitting on the edge of a cliff. As he watched the eagles he thought that he would get them down. When he got home he did not let anyone know that he had seen the baby eagles.

When he woke up the next morning he ate his morning meal; then he got a rope and went to where he had seen the baby eagles. He wanted to take the eagles down from the cliff, so he climbed up the rocks. The two little eagles were still sitting together. Checking the rope, he found that it reached exactly to where the little eagles sat. He tied the rope around some rocks; then he let himself down, leaving his bow behind.

Just as he was about to reach the place where the eagles sat, his rope broke. He could not climb back up or jump down because the nest was in a very high place. When the parent eagles returned to the nest they almost attacked the boy. All of the eagles, both big and little, eventually got used to him.



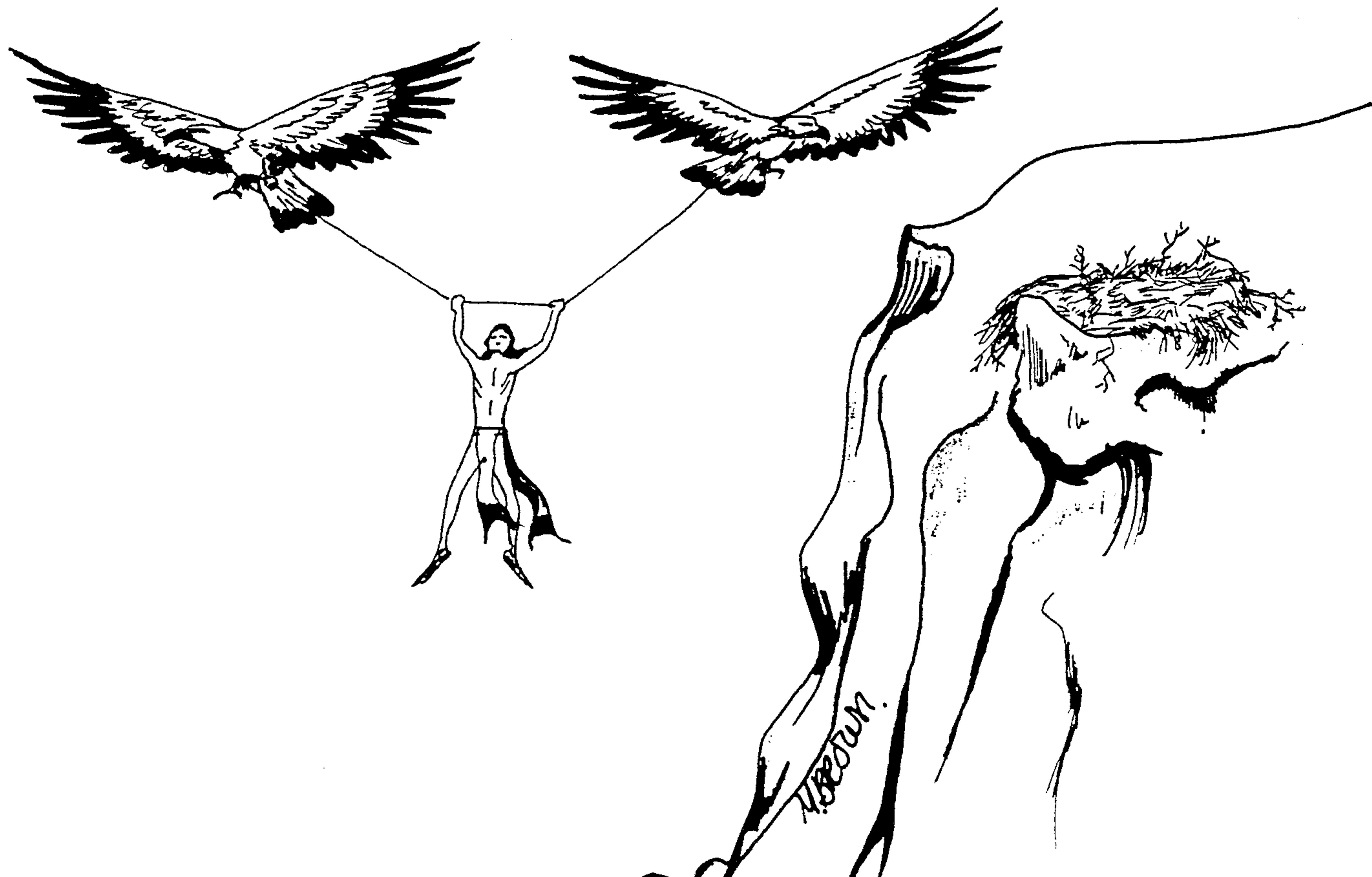
In the meantime, the boy's parents discovered that he was not in the camp. Everyone helped look for him, but in vain. He could not be found anywhere. Finally it was time to move camp and the boy was left behind.

After some time, the eagles became accustomed to the boy. They would allow him to eat with them when they brought in their kills. The big eagles would bring rabbits, prairie dogs and sage chickens.

Finally the little eagles were full-grown and big enough to fly. The boy still had a length of rope, so he hobbled the legs of both eagles. He carried the eagles to the edge of the cliff and jumped off, holding on to the rope. As they fell, the eagles started flapping their wings and at last they reached the ground. The boy untied the rope from the eagles' legs and released them.

The boy started walking, looking for the camp. He found where the encampment had been but everything was gone. Everyone had moved on. Then he started to walk in the direction that he thought they might have gone. After two days of searching he found the camp. His mother and father were happy to see him, and greeted him with hugs and kisses. The boy's father asked him where he had gone.

The boy replied, "I was getting little eagles down from a cliff and the rope broke. I couldn't get down and had to stay with the eagles until they were full-grown. When they were able to fly, they brought me back down."



VOCABULARY: Use the dictionary to find the definitions of the following vocabulary words; use the definition that fits the context of the story.

1. eventually: _____

2. accustomed: _____

3. hobbled: _____

4. vain: _____

5. encampment: _____

RETENTION: Your answers to the following questions will reveal how well you remember the details of the story, The Boy and the Eagles.

6. Who did the boy live with after he became stranded on the cliff?

7. What did the boy eat when he lived with the eagles?

8. How long did it take him to find the camp after he started walking?

9. How did the boy get down from the cliff?

10. Why did the boy get up on the rocks in the first place?

11. Why couldn't he get back down after he fell?



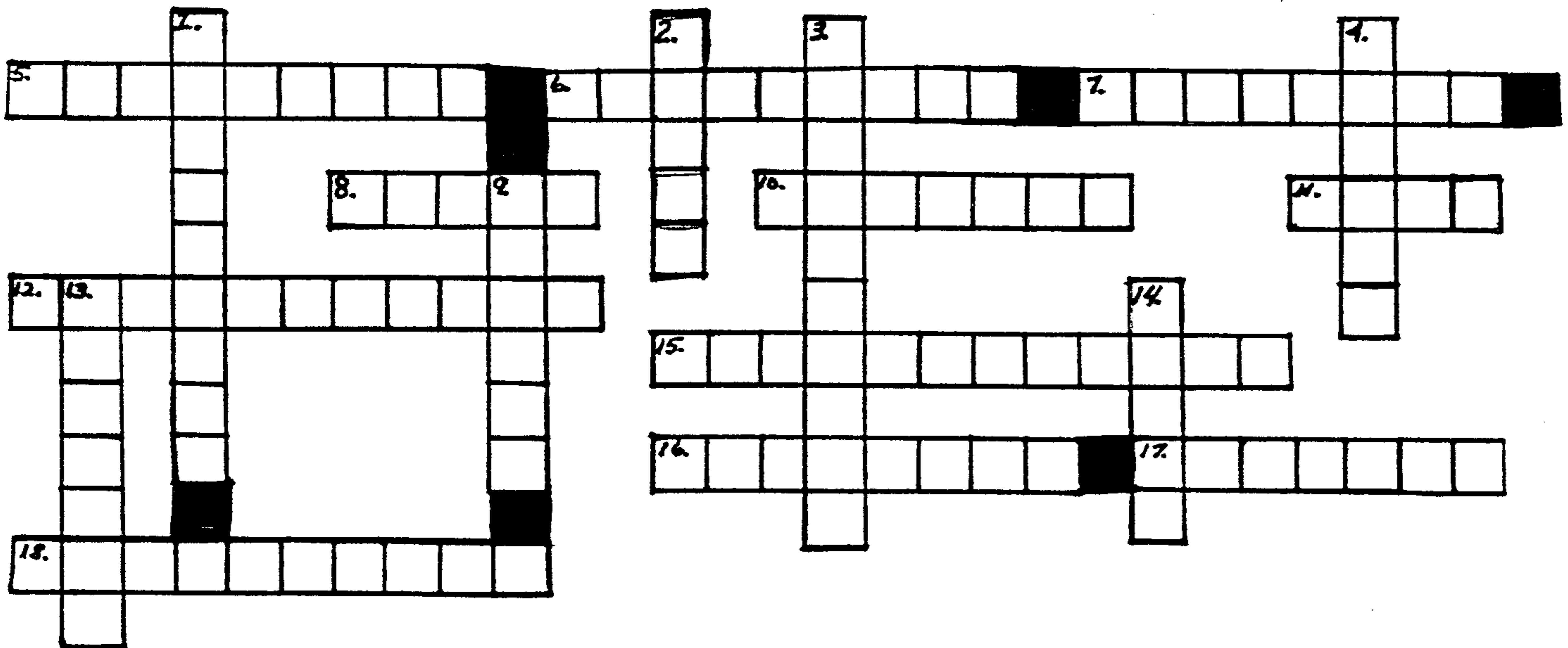
W
CROSS PUZZLE
R
D

The following clues were taken from the vocabulary exercises of The Scalped Man; The Whiteman and the Coyote; and The Boy and the Eagles.

ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5. to meet unexpectedly</p> <p>6. state of being fully awake</p> <p>7. to regain possession of</p> <p>8. to declare that something is true</p> <p>10. the story where the man had a bald head was "The _____ Man."</p> <p>11. useless, futile</p> <p>12. the leading character in a story</p> <p>15. feeling apprehension; anxious</p> <p>16. to cause fear to</p> <p>17. fastened legs so as to limit but not prevent movement</p> <p>18. a camp</p> | <p>1. to offer voluntarily</p> <p>2. to be troublesome to</p> <p>3. to dissuade or deter</p> <p>4. to obtain possession of again after loss</p> <p>9. to demand emphatically</p> <p>13. a series of acts performed regularly in the same way</p> <p>14. a conflict of any kind</p> |
|--|--|



THE WHITEMAN AND THE BUFFALO

A whiteman was walking along a river when he saw a buffalo standing alone. There was no one else there and the buffalo saw the whiteman picking berries. The whiteman told the buffalo, "You are by yourself and lying around trying to sleep."

The buffalo replied, "Yes, I am living a good life."

The man said, "Would it be alright for me to keep you company? We could stay together."

The buffalo said, "No. You should just walk on by, go away." The whiteman was very insistent about staying with the buffalo and refused to leave.

"Alright, stand over there," the buffalo said. Then the buffalo moved a short distance away. Suddenly the buffalo turned and charged the whiteman, saying, "Do not dodge away."

The whiteman did not obey the buffalo, and he stepped quickly aside just as the buffalo got close to him. "I told you not to move," said the buffalo.

"Alright, this time I will not move away, I will stand still," the whiteman said.

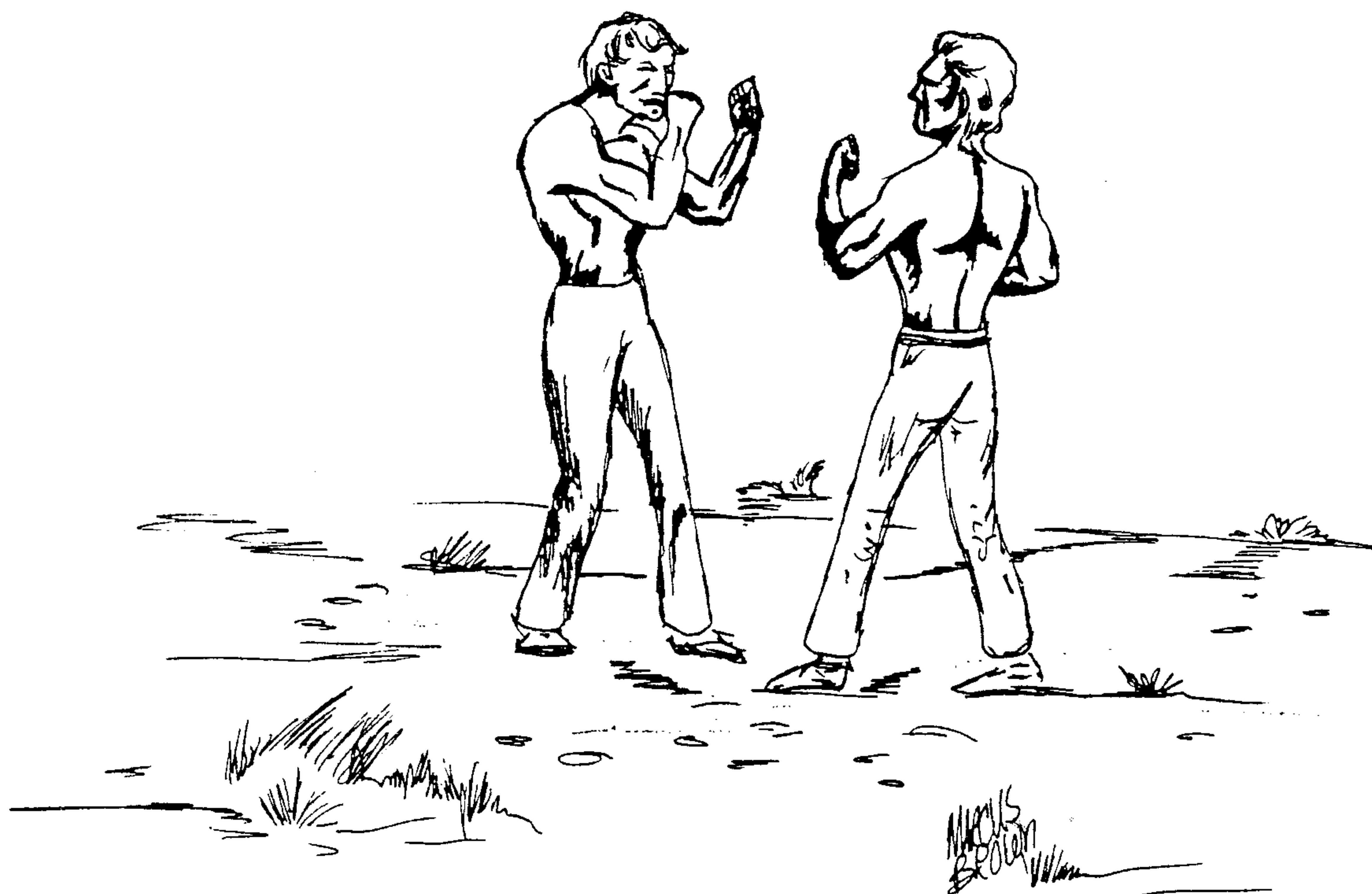


Then the buffalo again walked a short distance away, then turned and charged. When the buffalo got right up to the whiteman, he would jump out of the way again. "I told you not to get scared and jump out of the way but you are still jumping aside. Finally, the fourth time, the buffalo emphatically told the man not to jump aside. So he charged again and this time the whiteman did not move. He butted the man who then turned into a buffalo. Now there were two buffalo.

Later, when they were finished fighting, they laid in the sun. Then the buffalo who had been there first took off somewhere by himself. Only the whiteman who had turned into a buffalo was left. Shortly thereafter, another whiteman arrived on the scene. He saw the buffalo sunning himself and approached him, saying, "You are living a good life, may I join you? I could keep you company."

"No," said the buffalo; however, the whiteman was very insistent and finally the buffalo agreed. The buffalo told the whiteman, "Alright, stand over there. When I come charging at you do not get scared and jump out of the way."

The buffalo moved a short distance away and the whiteman remained standing in one spot. The buffalo turned back and charged the whiteman, who jumped aside at the last moment. This went on for awhile, until the buffalo finally butted the whiteman. Suddenly, the buffalo turned back into his original self and there were two whitemen fighting. They continued fighting, giving each other fancy jabs, and that is how the sport of boxing began.



VOCABULARY: Using the dictionary, find the definitions of the following words; write the definition that best fits the context of the story.

1. insistent: _____

2. emphatically: _____

3. company: _____

4. dodge: _____

5. charged: _____

INFERENCE: How well you reach an opinion from facts will be revealed by your answers to the following questions:

6. Why do you think the whiteman wanted to join the buffalo?

7. Do you think the buffalo wanted the whiteman to join him?

8. What sport still popular today was mentioned in the story?

9. How did you think the story would end?

10. Why did you respond as you did to number 9?

THE STORY OF BLUEBIRD

This is a story of a man named Bluebird. He once pulled an elk-woman out of the mud, but in the process he became stuck, too. He also pulled another woman out, who turned out to be a buffalo-woman. Bluebird later married these two women.

One day there was gambling going on in Bluebird's camp. The crowd was playing a game called "Big Wheel." It is not known exactly what the Big Wheel was, but at any rate the crowd was playing this game. Bluebird was one of the players. As the game was going on, Bluebird's son came running up to him. This boy had long slender legs. He was the son of Bluebird and Elk Woman.

The boy said to Bluebird, "Father, my mother is calling you over there." Bluebird went and talked briefly to Elk Woman, then returned to the gambling game.

Soon, another child came; he was short and stocky. This was Buffalo Woman's and Bluebird's son, a buffalo calf. He said, "Father, my mother is calling you over there." Then he went to talk to Buffalo Woman. The buffalo-woman and the elk-woman noticed each other and became jealous of one another. The buffalo-woman was walking around angrily while the elk-woman built herself a wooden lodge. She built it with willows called red birch. The buffalo-woman started trying to knock a hole in the lodge. She would hit the structure with her horns but would just leave a white mark on the willows. That is why these willows have white marks on them today.

The buffalo-woman told her husband, the bluebird, "I am going to take our son and go back home, back to the buffalo." So she took her son and left in anger. Then Bluebird had a confrontation with Elk Woman, although this part of the story is not told. He was lonesome for his son, the buffalo calf, because his wife had taken him away from his heart. He was very lonesome.

Bluebird announced to his people, "I am going to look for my son. I am lonesome for him. I am going to follow them and bring them back." He then told the men of the camp, "In case I am killed where I am going, you will receive a sign. You will see dust rise up to the sky. Then you will know that I have been killed. You must then build a sweatlodge and think about the different types of birds and which one you would ask to look for me in case I am killed."

The one bird they all kept thinking about was the magpie. However, many were doubtful of the magpie's ability to accomplish any task. They said, "He has weird eyes," and "I don't think he can do anything useful," and on and on.

When Bluebird was gone for sometime looking for his son, he came upon a hilltop, the first of four. He climbed over the first hilltop, and when he walked down, an old bison was standing alone. Bluebird was tracking his son and his son's mother. He went over another hill and saw one old bison standing there again. He said to the bison, "Have my son and his mother come by here on these trails? I am following them."

The old bison replied, "Yes, they are just going over the hill." So Bluebird continued to follow them. He climbed over another hilltop and down, and each time he saw the old bison standing there. Each time Bluebird would ask him if he had seen his son and his mother. The old bison would reply that they had just disappeared over a hilltop, saying, "There is a high ridge over there; that is where they have gone over just now." Part of this story is not revealed, but it is believed that Bluebird stayed overnight sometimes. Each time there were hills or high ridges; there were three, then four hilltops that he climbed. Each time he would only see the one, lone old bison standing there. Finally, the old bison told Bluebird that his son



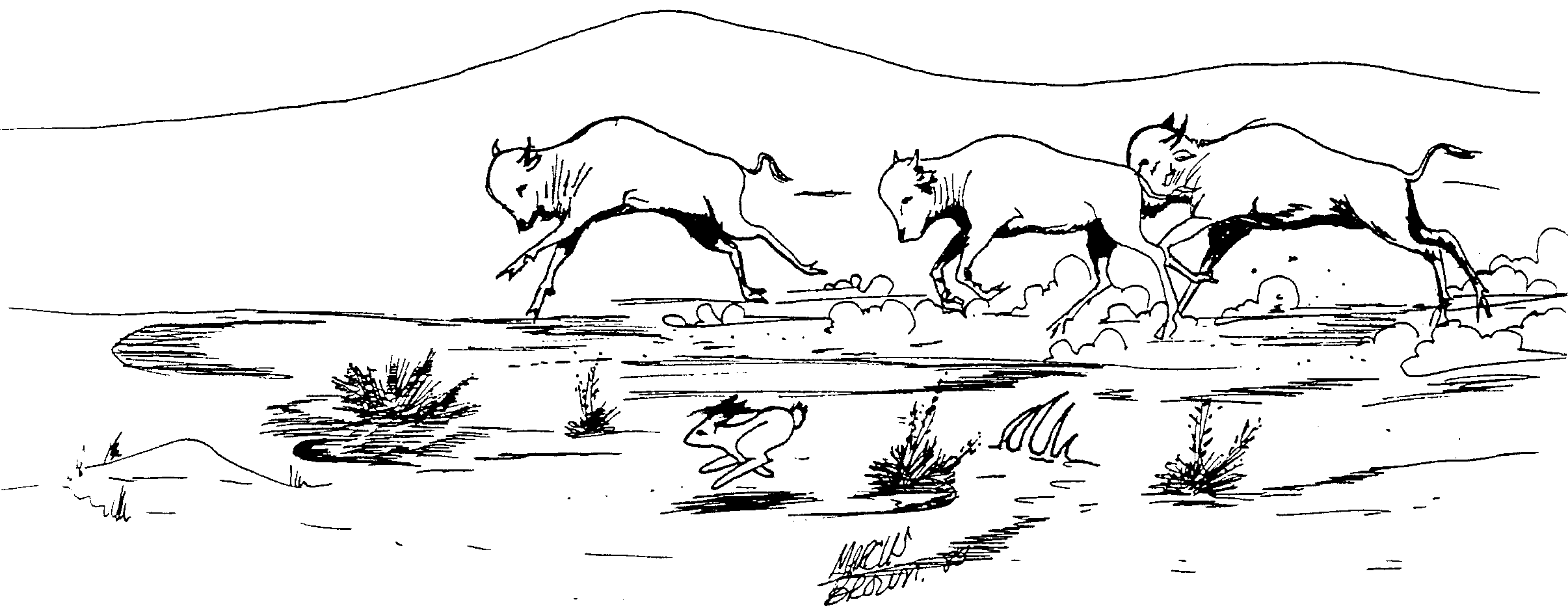
and the mother had just gone over a ridge and could not be seen anymore. Then Bluebird walked in the direction the old bison had shown him. When he reached the place, he found much to his amazement, many, many buffalo in a herd that reached in every direction that Bluebird looked. The buffalo-woman had rejoined the herd already. Bluebird walked on down the hill but was stopped by another buffalo. The buffalo questioned Bluebird's presence there and Bluebird replied, "I have come for my son. That is the reason I am here."

The buffalo said to him, "Yes, he is here with his mother but you can not just take them away. You will have to complete four trials before you can take him. It is up to the elder bison what they decide to do. They might let you have your son."

All the elder bison were called together. While they were gathering, Bluebird's son suddenly appeared by his side and he secretly tied a plume on his hair.

"Now," the buffalo said to Bluebird, "the buffalo calves are going to race and if your son comes in first, that will be the first trial completed." Then the younger male buffalo lined up to race. They began running and ran in a curve. On they went, farther and farther, then finally they began turning back. Bluebird's son came in first. "Well, that is the first trial completed," the elder bison told Bluebird.

Then the second time, the young buffalo all were to sit in a row. All the young buffalo calves looked the same. The elder bison had told Bluebird that he would have to pick out which one was his son. Again, his little son ran up to him and said, "Father, I will wiggle my left ear. That way you will know it's me."



The calves all looked alike to Bluebird and he walked back and forth pretending to look for his son. He saw his son wiggling his left ear but he pretended to pass him; then he turned around and pointed to him, saying, "This is my son." The elder bison agreed and that was the second trial completed.

The third trial was for the buffalo calves to dance. "Your son is going to dance, too, and you will have to pick out which one he is," the elder bison instructed Bluebird. The young buffalo began to dance. Suddenly, Bluebird found a turtle somewhere and put it quickly under his son's hoof. This little buffalo calf danced on the turtle. He made a loud noise by dancing with the turtle under his hoof. The rest of the buffalo calves disappeared into the ground, but this one little buffalo calf stayed in one place.

After the singing stopped, Bluebird said, "This is my son," pointing out the one who had the turtle under his hoof. The old bison agreed that it was indeed his son.

"You are right," said the buffalo. "Now, for the fourth trial. You will listen to stories for four nights. You must stay awake all four nights; you cannot sleep. If you can stay awake all four nights you can take your son. If not, we will trample you to death." They were purposely trying to keep his son from him. He had to complete all four trials if he wanted to take his son back with him.

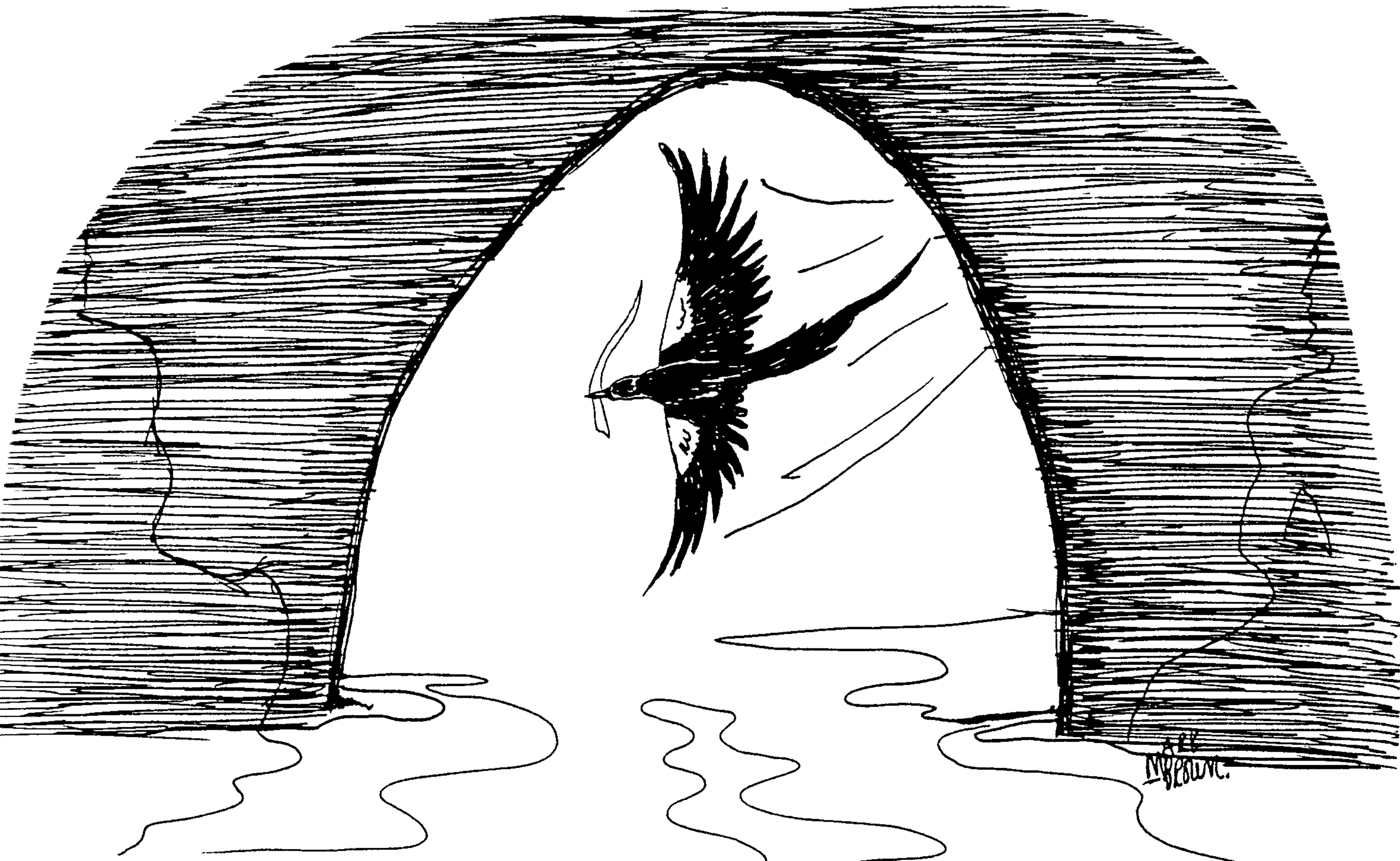
The first night, he was able to stay awake; he was able to stand it. He was also able to stay awake the second night; he did not get sleepy. However, on the third night he started to get drowsy and sleepy. The little buffalo calf would run up to his father and tap him. "Father, don't go to sleep; stay awake. Don't fall asleep I want to go back home with you." The little buffalo calf was becoming uneasy because his father was falling asleep. He was unable to stay awake. Bluebird's son said to his father, "Please wake up, Father," but to no avail. He was asleep. As he had been told, if he fell asleep he would be trampled until there was nothing left of him.

The words he had said before his departure from his camp came true. The men of the camp saw the sign: dust was rising to the sky. They told each other, "Bluebird is dead. We must send Magpie to look for him." So that is what they did. They told him, "You are going to look for Bluebird." So Magpie flew off in his quest to find Bluebird. In the meantime, the rest of the men began constructing a sweatlodge. They began preparations for the sweatlodge ceremony. They waited for Magpie to find Bluebird.

The magpie flew to the place where they had seen the dust rising and he found where the ground had been trampled. Magpie kept hopping around from place to place, wondering where Bluebird had met his death.

He also kept listening for any sounds he might hear. Suddenly, he heard groaning very faintly. He hopped closer to where the groaning was coming from. He hopped around and moved his head from side to side in an attempt to hear the groaning better. Finally, he came to a spot where he heard the groaning loudly. He looked and saw a blade of grass sticking up with a small amount of blood on it. He bit off a piece of this grass and flew back to camp with it. When he arrived the old men and the others were already in the sweatlodge. The door was open, so Magpie flew in with the blade of grass and announced that he had found Bluebird. They closed the door and began to pray and smudge themselves, singing medicine songs. They did all the things that are usually done in the sweatlodge ceremony - praying, singing, and pouring water on the hot rocks. When they completed the sweatlodge ceremony they opened the door. When the door was opened, Bluebird was sitting there. He was a person again, alive and whole.

It is believed that he is the one who turned our way of life around. It is said that if things did not turn out like they did, the buffalo would eat humans instead of humans eating buffalo.



VOCABULARY: Find the meanings of the following words in the dictionary. Substitute synonyms for the underlined words that fit the context of the story.

1. "....Bluebird also had a confrontation with Elk Woman."

2. "....they were also doubtful of the magpie's ability to...."

3. "....of the magpie's ability to accomplish any task."

4. "....he will have encountered four hilltops."

5. "....an old bison was standing alone."

6. "....you will have to complete four trials."

7. "Please, wake up, father," but to no avail.

8. "....in his quest to find Bluebird."

9. "The words he had said before his departure came true."

10. "....in an attempt to hear the groaning better."

11. "They closed the door and began to pray and smudge themselves."

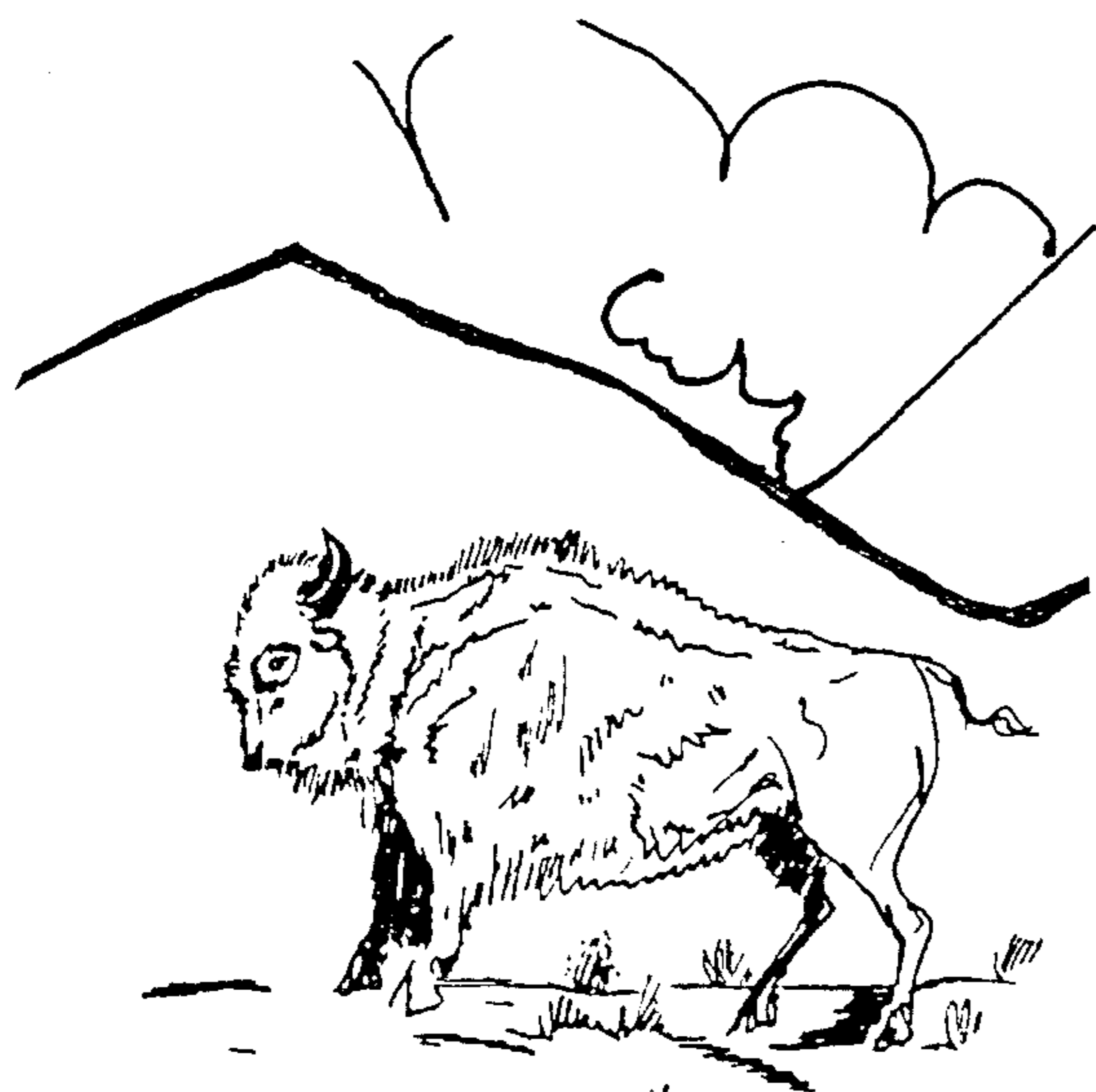
RETENTION: Your answers to the following questions will reveal how well you remember details of The Story of Bluebird.

12. What bird went to look for Bluebird?

13. Where did Bluebird come alive again?

14. How did Bluebird meet his death?

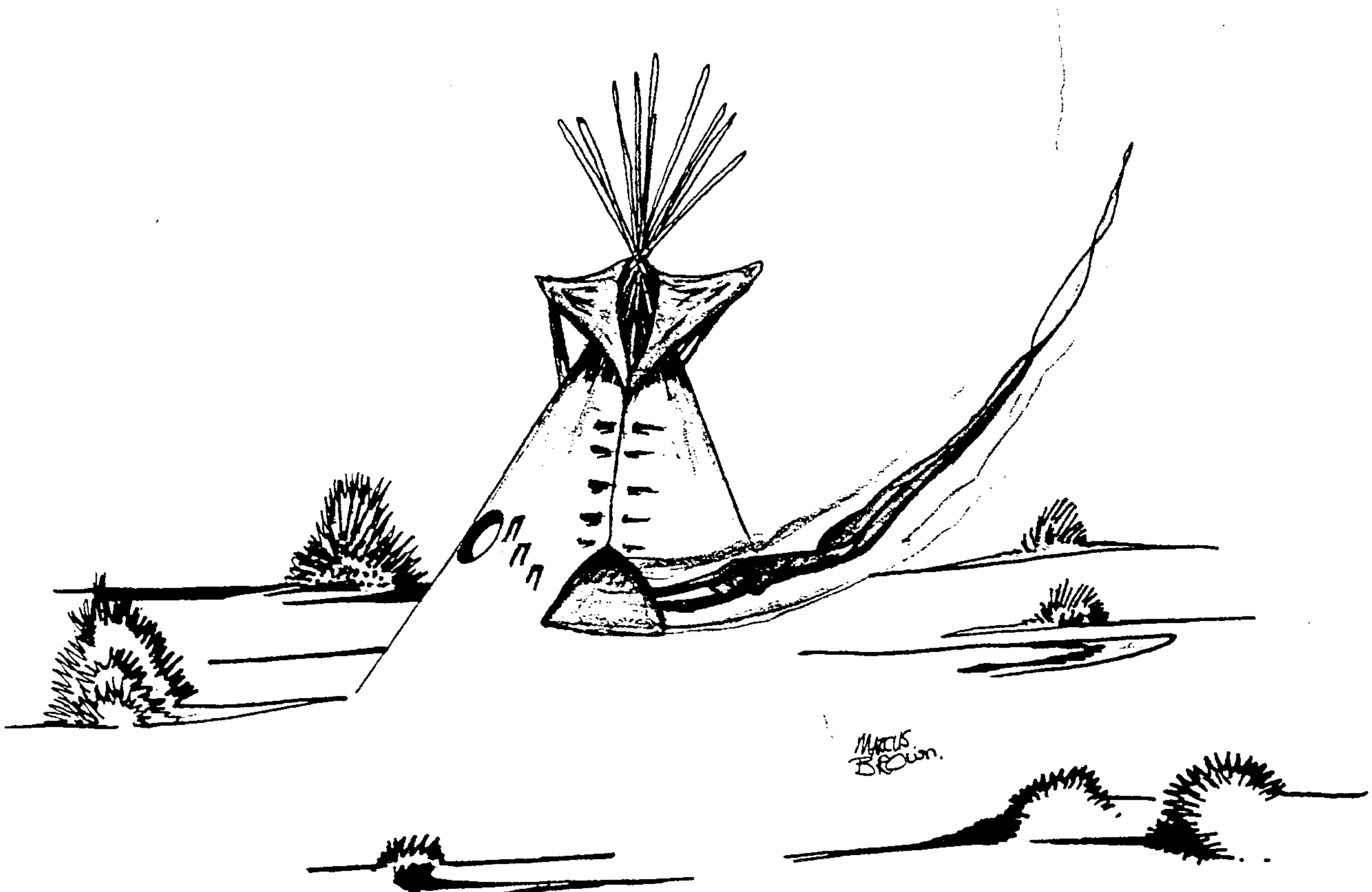
15. By what sign did the people of the village know of Bluebird's death?



WAR PARTY

A long time ago there was a large Sioux camp. There were some young men in the camp who planned to go on a war party. When they had finished preparations they all left to go and look for the enemy. Before the hunting party got back to their camp a woman got very sick and died. The people set up a tipi. They used tipi poles and tied them crisscross to make a scaffold inside the tipi. Then they brought in some wood, pots and pans, and some dried meat. When they were done, they laced up the door securely and closed the ear flaps on the tipi. In the meantime, the men who went out to look for the enemy were all killed except for one. This man went back to look for the camp where they had started from. When he got there all he saw was a lone tipi. He found that it was laced very tight, so he cut the thongs that it was tied with. He then went into the tipi and found wood there already. He built a fire to warm himself. He did not see the woman on the scaffold, who had been dead for some time. He did not open the ear flaps on the tipi to let the smoke out and it became very smoky inside.

As the smoke got thicker he heard someone moving around; then the woman coughed. "Open the earflaps," she said. When the smoke cleared, he saw the woman on the scaffold. She asked him to untie her, so he did. Then the woman sat up and got down from where she was. She asked him if he was hungry.



"Yes," he replied. "I haven't had anything to eat for some time now." He told her about the men who had been with him on the war party and that he was the only survivor. The woman then told him to go and get some water, so he went to get some at the river nearby.

This woman who had died and had been tied on the scaffold cooked a meal for the man. They stayed for the night. He asked her where the people had moved to. She said she did not know where they had gone; "They left me behind," she said.

"Well, I guess we will try to find them," he said to the woman. They searched until they found the camp. When he went into the camp the people asked him where the rest of his friends were. He told them they had all been killed and that he was the only one left. There was only one tipi left where the camp had been and that's where he went. He told them of the woman who had died and had been tied on the scaffold and how she had come to life again. Then they all began to cry and wail. They told him to go and get her so he went back and got the woman. He brought her into the camp. The next morning they made a sweatlodge and both the man and the woman went in to sweat. Afterwards, they got married and lived together for a long time. They both lived full lives as human beings.

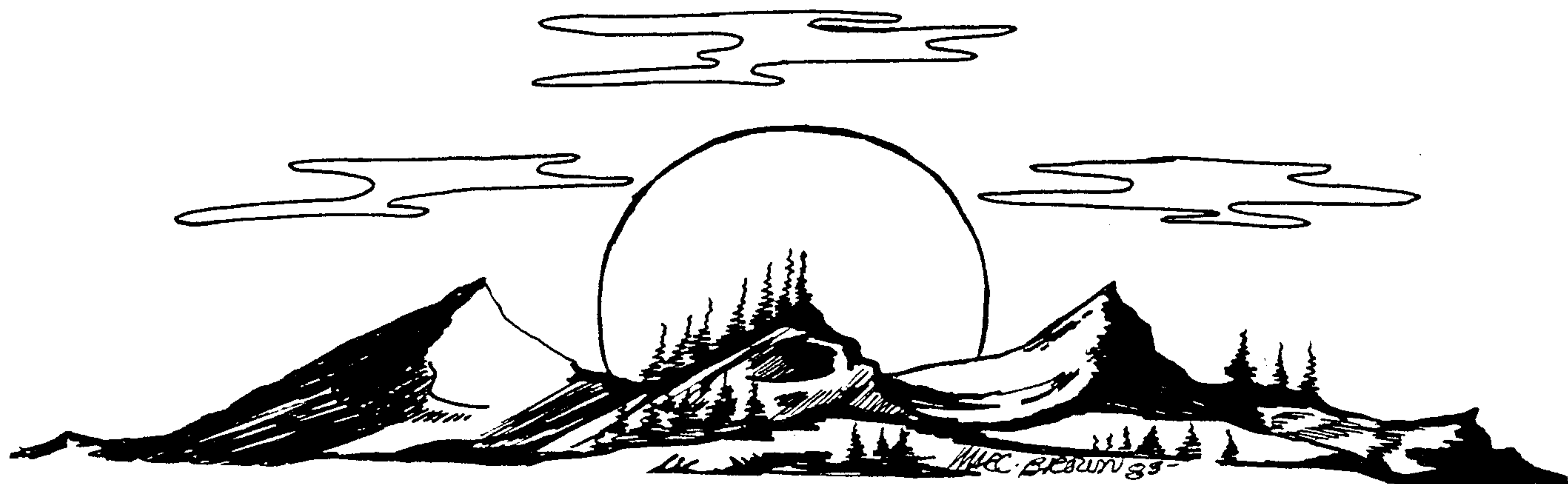


When he took the young girl into his home, he immediately forbade her to dig wild onions for his son. Those that have two sprouts were the kind she was instructed not to dig.

This moon-man used to go hunting and he would bring home his kill. Meanwhile, the girl he brought home would think about what he had forbidden her to do. While Moon-man was skinning his kill, his wives would be eating parts of the meat. "Ok, whoever crunches the best will be the one I love the most," he would tell them. Now, the Indian girl was very good at crunching, but frogs do not have teeth, and the frog woman was embarrassed by this. She turned and sat facing the other way. While facing the other way, she put some charcoal in her mouth. She chewed on it because she wanted to be the one who crunched the best and to be loved by the moon-man. Her husband came around facing her and checked on her. The moon-man laughed at her.

"Oh, gosh! I am just sick and tired of you," she shrieked at him. "You are always picking on me. From now on, I hope everyone will look upon you and know how you are and others will see it." After this she jumped at him and landed on his chest. That is probably why it looks like there is a frog on the moon when it is full.

Now, when the moon-man would go hunting, his young wife would still think about him forbidding her to dig wild onions. She was still bothered by this. One day she went ahead and dug up some wild onions, the kind he had forbidden her to dig. She accidentally poked a hole through the ground and when she looked down, she saw where she used to live and where she grew up. She immediately became lonesome; memories came flooding back to her and she wanted very badly to go back home. Then she covered up the hole to conceal it. She then collected the sinew she had been saving. She tied the ends together to make a rope. Finally, she thought it was time to lower herself down the rope to go home. She put a stake in the ground and tied the rope to it. She put their son on her back. Then she lowered herself down farther and farther until she was safely on the ground; then she was safely home.



RETENTION: Your responses to the following questions will reveal how well you remember the details of the story, Moon Man.

1. What were the young girls admiring in the evening?

2. What did the "Star Man" turn out to be?

3. Why did the moon forbid the Indian girl to dig any wild onions?

4. Who was the Moon Man's first wife?

5. When the Indian girl lowered herself down the rope, who did she take with her?

6. Was this child her own and Moon Man's or someone else?

(a.)

(b.) Why did you answer as you did?

7. How did the Indian girl feel when she accidentally punched a hole through the ground?

8. Why did she lower herself down the rope?

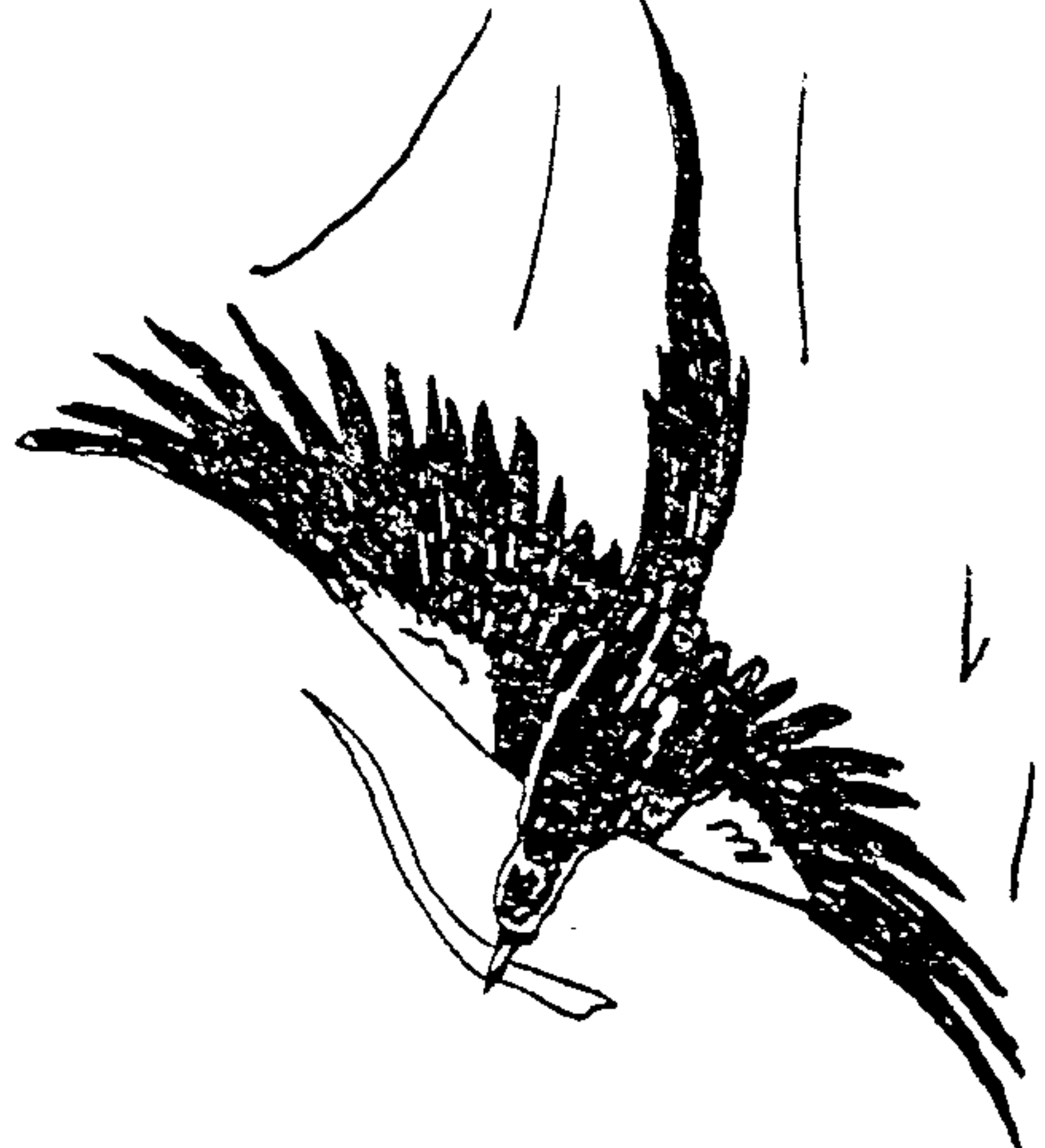
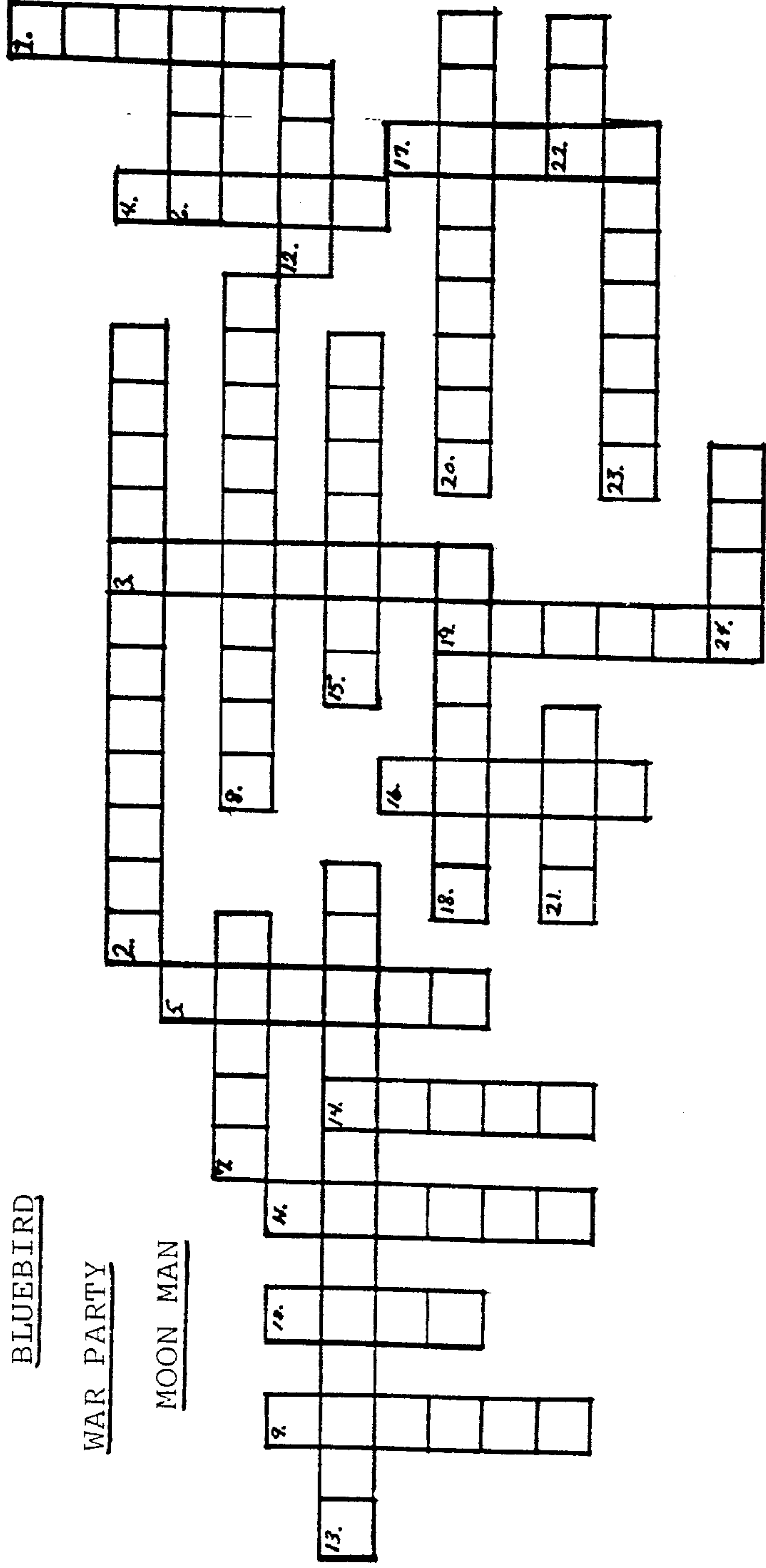
9. Where was the Moon Man when the Indian girl made her escape?

10. Who did the Moon Man say he would love the most and why?

BLUEBIRD

WAR PARTY

MOON MAN



ACROSS

- 2. Showing emphasis
- 6. what did the Indian girl make out of sinew?
- 7. Another word for "buffalo"
- 8. Succeed in doing; to fulfill
- 12. To utter a long, sad cry; to lament
- 13. A bold face-to-face meeting with an enemy
- 15. Rushed forward in an attack
- 18. The capacity or talent to do something
- 20. The beginning of a journey
- 21. The number of times Bluebird met a bison; a popular number used by several Indian tribes in ceremonies, circle of life, etc.
- 22. Moon Man's home was in the _____
- 23. An effort to accomplish something
- 24. Moon Man was first thought to be a _____

DOWN

- 1. Moon Man's wife used this to fashion a rope.
- 3. Companionship
- 4. Trying one's patience or endurance
- 5. The sport mentioned in the story, "The Whiteman and the Buffalo."
- 9. To declare emphatically
- 10. Moon Man's first wife was a "_____-woman".
- 11. Moon Man forbade his wife to dig these.
- 14. effectiveness; advantage
- 16. The tribe in the story "War Party".
- 17. The act of seeking something used to tie the door of a tipi

THE WHITEMAN AND THE BEAR-WOMEN

One day the whiteman was journeying down the river. He saw a tipi along the way. As he travelled on, he found some chokecherries, so he picked quite a few and put them in his pockets. He came upon another tipi with smoke coming out from the top. Slowly, he approached the tipi. Hearing children talking and playing inside, he threw the chokecherries into the tipi. The children grabbed the berries from one another.

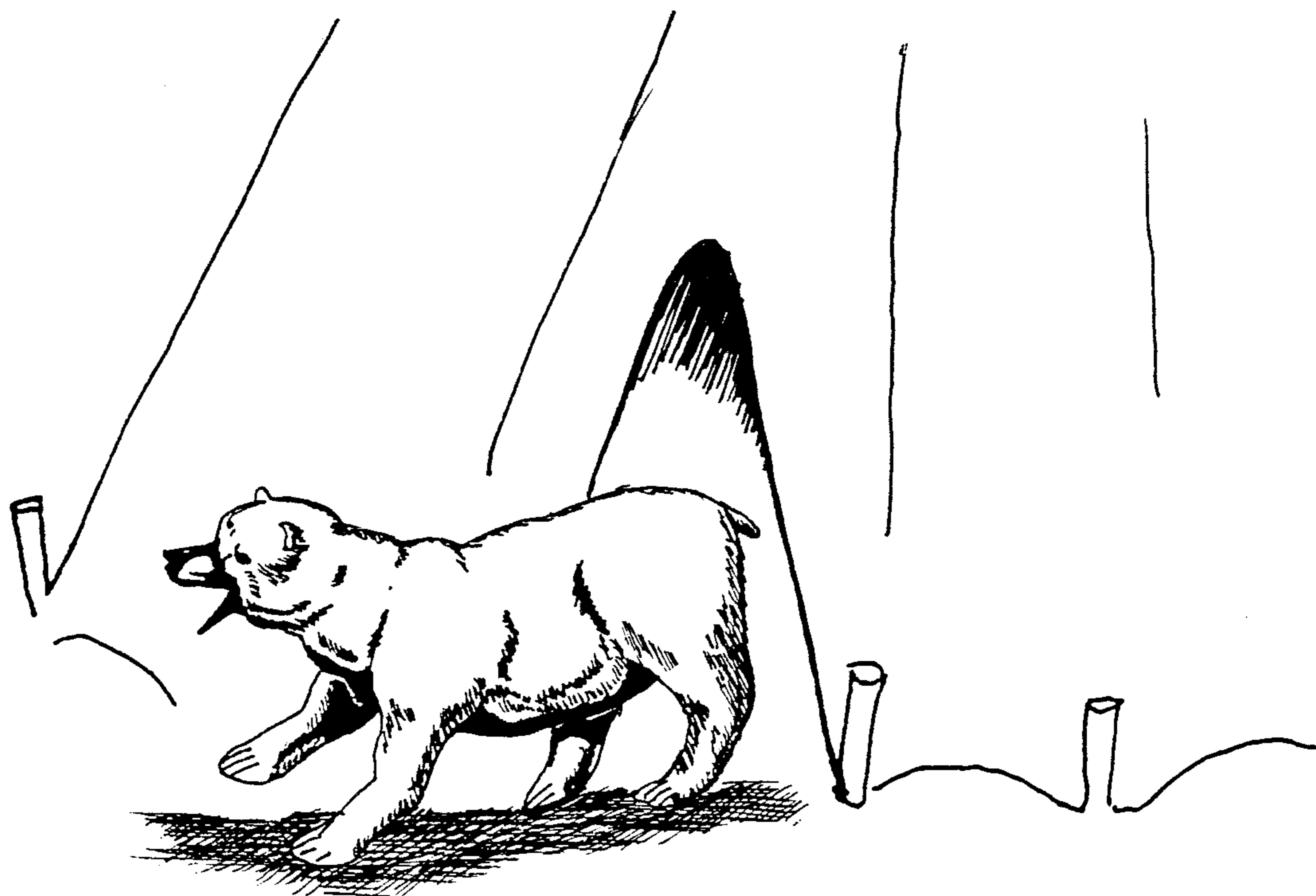
"Go out and see. It might be your uncle, the whiteman," said one of the bear-women. When they came outside the children turned out to be bear cubs. The children invited him into the tipi.

The whiteman entered and said, "Maybe you don't go around much. There are a lot of chokecherries where I came from. You ought to go and pick berries."

"Where?" the bear-women questioned.

"Up there where I came from. The bushes are just laden with berries," he told them. So the bear-women said they would go and pick chokecherries. "You can go and pick berries. I will stay here and watch the children and sing them to sleep," he offered.

After a short time the bear-women were ready to leave and said to the whiteman, "We are going now to pick berries."



A short time after the bear-women left, the whiteman killed the bear cubs and cut their heads off. He made a big fire and put the bodies in a pot to boil. He took the cubs' heads and put them on the bed. He covered them and made them look like they were asleep with their heads sticking out of the covers. He let the bodies cook for some time. After a long while the bear-women returned home. They did not know that their children had been boiling for some time already. The whiteman had cooked them for the bear-women.

"You can eat now," the whiteman told the bear-women. "I just now got through putting the children to sleep. Well, I'll be on my way now," he said and left hurriedly. As soon as he got outside, he started running away. He had committed a great wrong to the bear-women by killing their children. He ran away from there as quickly as he could.

When the bear-women began eating, they sensed a foreign taste in the meat. "It tastes like our children," said one of the bear-women. "Look and see if they are asleep," she commanded. They jerked the covers off the bear cubs and found that only their heads were there. "We are going to chase him and kill him," they shouted.

The whiteman had already been gone for some time but the bear-women gave chase anyway. Whiteman was becoming tired and looked back to see if the bear-women were coming. He tried to run faster but he was already tired. "Oh, I wish there was a cave somewhere. One with two openings," he said. He repeated the same thing again. Then he saw a cave and sure enough there was an opening on both sides of the cave like he wished. He ran to it and ran in, then out the other side. He closed it tight after himself. He was very quick. Then the whiteman walked in a large circle and saw the bear-women. They were standing by the cave that he had run into. He walked over to them and asked what had happened.



"A whiteman ran in there. He killed our children," responded the bear-women.

"You get ready and I will go in and throw him out, then you can kill him," he instructed the women. Then he went in. He pretended to make a lot of racket inside and scratched his face up. He came back out and said, "He is very tough. He scratched up my face. You can go in yourselves and I'll watch out for him. He might come out this way. If you find him, you must throw him out."

"We can't find him," they hollered after going inside.

"There are side holes and that is where he is at," the whiteman responded. In the meantime he had gathered some wood and set fire to it.

"It's real smoky in here," the bear-women said.

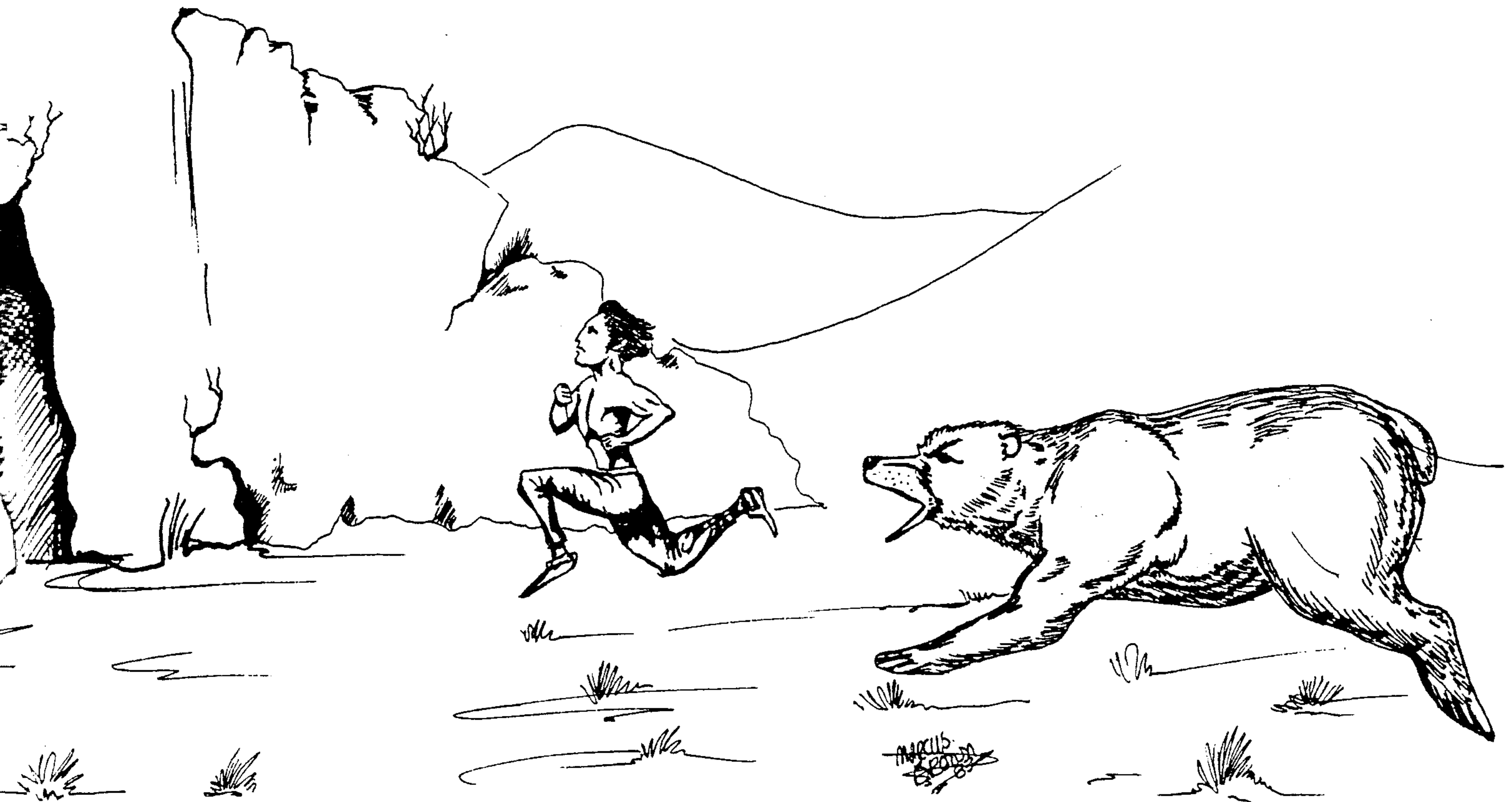
"Smoke birds are flying by," the whiteman said. He told them to keep looking for the whiteman. "He's inside," he insisted.

"There is a fire starting up," they shouted to him.

"Yes, fire starters are flying by," he told them.

"Oh, it's real hot," said the women.

"Yes, but keep looking for him although it's hot," the whiteman said to them. Then he made the fire bigger and that is how the whiteman burned the bear-women to death.



VOCABULARY: Use a dictionary to find the synonyms to the following words and write them in the blanks.

1. journey _____
2. laden _____
3. commit _____
4. foreign _____
5. approach _____
6. wrong _____
7. command _____
8. respond _____
9. instruct _____
10. racket _____

RETENTION: Your answers to the following questions will reveal how well you remember details of the story, The Whiteman and the Bear-Women.

11. What kind of berries did the whiteman pick?

12. How did the whiteman get the attention of the children he heard inside the tipi?

13. What excuse did the whiteman offer to get the bear-women out of the tipi?

14. Why did the whiteman offer to babysit?

15. What trick did the whiteman employ to fool the bear-women into thinking that their children were sleeping?

SLEEPING BOY BECOMES A HERO

Long ago there was a young man named "Sleeping Boy." He was called this because he liked to sleep a lot or just lie around. He had no ambition at all, and just lay around in the shade. There was only one thing that interested him and that was eagle feathers.

One day a crowd of people was playing a game somewhere, judging from the noises that Sleeping Boy was hearing. He listened for a while then decided to walk to where he heard the noise. The game the people were playing was called, "The Big Wheel." This game was played often although now we do not know exactly what the big wheel was.

When Sleeping Boy got to the crowd of people he saw his brother playing in the game. He had a lot of winnings that included many eagle feathers and still he was playing for more. Sleeping Boy wished for the feathers that his brother had won, so he asked if he could have some. Instead, Sleeping Boy's brother purposely started making cruel remarks to him.

"Sleeping Boy should hurry and go back to bed and sleep again," said the older brother. "He does not like to hunt," the older boy continued. "All he wants to do is lie around and sleep. He has no ambition. All he likes to do is eat and sleep."

Sleeping Boy's brother said these things in a very loud voice for all the crowd to hear. This embarrassed Sleeping Boy very much and he did not feel right. He felt very bad so he went back home and told his mother what had happened.

"I was asking my brother for some of the eagle feathers he had won but instead he began saying mean things to me in the crowd. He said all I do is sleep." Sleeping Boy went on, "So anyway, I think I will go look for some eagle feathers myself. I am going away to look for some."

"Oh, my," said Sleeping Boy's mother. "I have heard that the ones who live where they get eagle feathers are very tough and mean. It is hard to get the feathers." Sleeping Boy's mother felt fear in allowing him to go on this quest, the way mothers feel when their children attempt a daring feat. She felt this fear for him and scolded him.

Sleeping Boy's mother tried to dissuade him from going but he was insistent. He said, "No, by all means I am going to find eagle feathers. I am going to show my brother that I am a man, too." Then he began his trek. He started walking and by then it had become evening.

As he walked, he came upon an old lady. This old lady already knew who he was. "Oh, my gosh!" she exclaimed to herself. "My grandson! I wonder where he is going?" Then she asked him directly, "Where are you going, Sleeping Boy?"

Sleeping Boy replied, "I am looking for eagle feathers. My brother has many of them that he won. I pleadingly asked him for some but he purposely began deriding me." Sleeping Boy continued, "My brother really embarrassed me in front of all those people. That is why I am going through the trouble of finding eagle feathers myself."

"Oh, my, Grandson!" said the old lady. "It is said that the people who live there are very tough. I was very young and barely able to sit up when they first came around. I used to hear about them, but I don't know how far it is. I guess they are very mean, those who live there." The old lady went on, "I will help you out. I am going to give you some sinew, and in the evening you must make a fire and burn it. It will curl up and grow shorter. As it gets shorter, you will get closer to where the eagle feathers are."

Sleeping Boy followed the old lady's directions, and the next morning, he set off again. That evening he encountered another old lady, who already knew who he was. "Oh, my grandson!" she exclaimed. "Where are you going, Sleeping Boy?"



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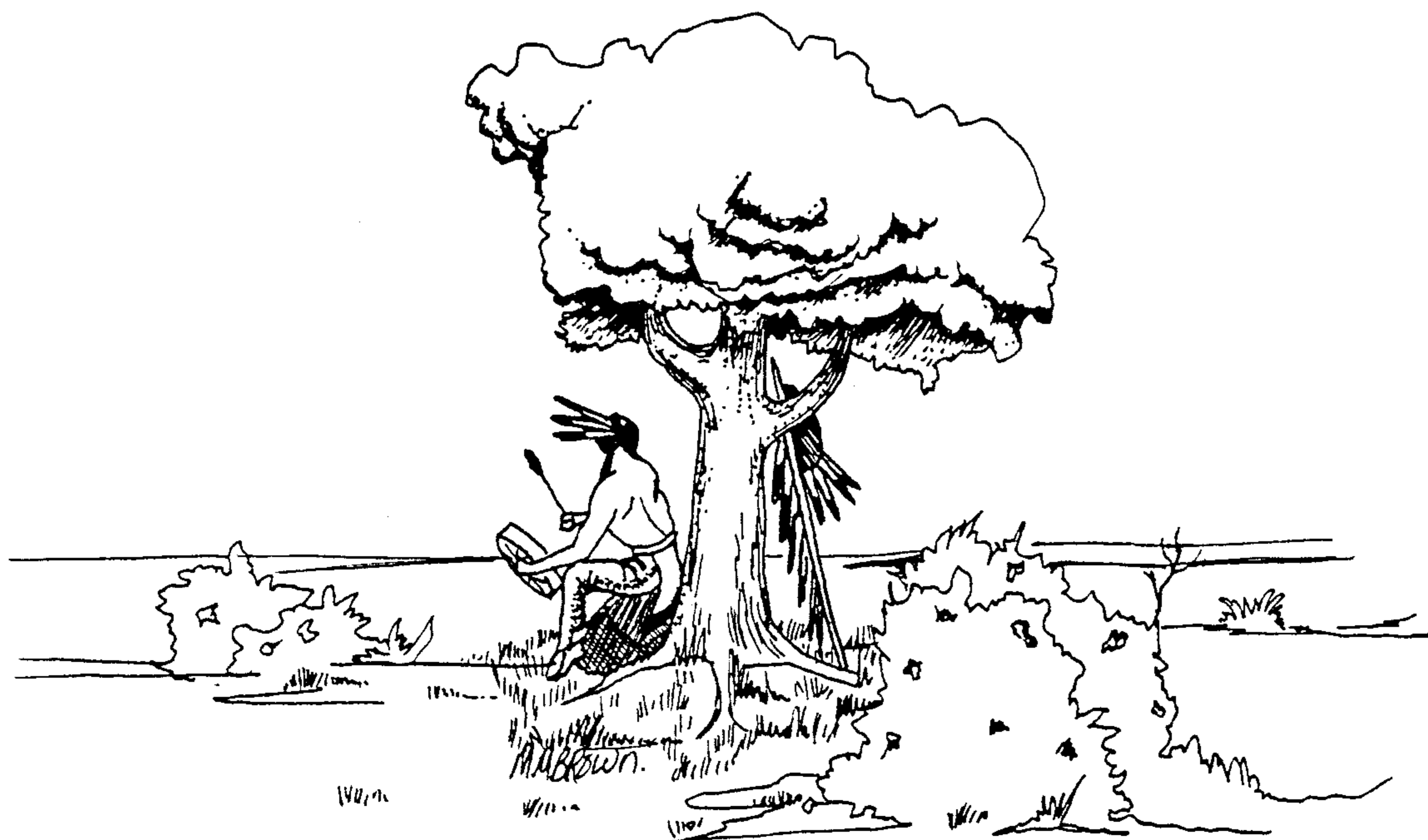
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The old lady went on, "He has a drum that he is always beating on. You must watch him. He likes to smoke all the time. When he looks away you are to hop over to the tree very quickly. There is a mound of brush near the tree; sit down there. Have your pipe ready ahead of time and judge about when he is looking the other way. Right away, light up your pipe. Puff very hard on your pipe and he will smell it. When he does he will say 'let me smoke.' You are to refuse him and tell him it will be up to you when you want to let him smoke. You must keep smoking the pipe, and when it is morning again he will take you to the place of eagle feathers."

Finally, morning arrived and Sleeping Boy set off with the old lady's instructions firmly in mind. He began walking, and just as the old lady had predicted, he arrived at the place where the tree and sentry stood. The sentry was looking around.

Sleeping Boy followed the old lady's instructions and when he sat down near the brush he had his pipe ready. He lit the pipe and puffed hard, and the aroma rose up to the sentry. The sentry's intense desire to smoke made him vulnerable to Sleeping Boy. The sentry began pleading, "Give me smoke. Give me smoke."

Sleeping Boy replied, "Wait, I am going to smoke first." He smoked lazily, taking his time. The sentry was becoming impatient and thought that Sleeping Boy would not share with him.

"Hurry, give me smoke," the sentry begged, but still Sleeping Boy refused.

Sleeping Boy reminded the sentry, "I will decide when to let you smoke."

The sentry was no longer concerned about keeping intruders out of their territory because he wanted to smoke so badly. Finally, he was allowed to smoke and the two became friends.

"When it is morning, I will take you to where the eagle feathers are," the sentry assured Sleeping Boy. "The ones who live there are very mean and tough, and they always keep watch," the sentry warned Sleeping Boy. "But you will out-smart them. The one who is the leader chops off the heads of intruders. Those who watch will be the ones to have their heads chopped off this time. The leader will do that himself," said the sentry.

When it became morning the sentry took Sleeping Boy to the place of eagle feathers. They got closer and Sleeping Boy began doing the things he had been instructed to do by the sentry. They came to a metal door that was raised slightly. Someone from inside told Sleeping Boy to put his head just inside the door. When Sleeping Boy did not do as he was told, the sentries poked their heads out the door. About this time, Sleeping Boy released the door and the sentries' heads were cut off. The leader no longer had anyone to back him up. He was alone. Sleeping Boy had him at a disadvantage.

The moment of truth had arrived and the leader told Sleeping Boy, "You have out-smarted me. You are tougher than I am. I will give you eagle feathers."

The leader gave Sleeping Boy many fine eagle feathers tied in bundles.

Sleeping Boy later married, and it turned out that he was the one who brought horses to the country. When he and his wife were preparing for the journey back to his country, Sleeping Boy's wife told him not to open his covers to show his face.

"When it is daytime you will always keep your face covered," she told him. "The horses will try to run us down, but do not be afraid. They will not harm us. Just do not open the covers to show your face," she instructed Sleeping Boy.

In the morning, they started out for his home carrying all the bundles of eagle feathers that were given to Sleeping Boy. While walking, it would sound as if the horses were nearly ready to over-run them. Sleeping Boy's wife urged him on and forbade him to open the covers, and he obeyed her. That evening he was allowed to uncover his face. The same thing took place on the three following nights. The fourth morning, still following the same procedures of keeping covered, they arrived at Sleeping Boy's home. Sleeping Boy had brought back many eagle feathers and many horses and had a grand give-away. He gave away eagle feathers and horses.

Sleeping Boy's brother came and said, "Brother, could you give me some eagle feathers and horses, please?" This same brother was the one who had been so cruel to Sleeping Boy before he started out on his adventure.

Sleeping Boy replied, "No, you cannot have any of my horses or any of my feathers. You embarrassed me by the things you were saying to me. It still hurts me. This is the way that I am showing you that I am a man, too. I looked for the feathers and got them myself. What you said before still hurts."



VOCABULARY: Use a dictionary to find the definitions of the following words. Write the definition in the blank spaces provided, using the definition that fits the context of the story.

1. ambition: _____

2. informed: _____

3. trek: _____

4. dissuade: _____

5. feat: _____

6. sentry: _____

7. predicted: _____

8. intense: _____

9. vulnerable: _____

10. disadvantage: _____

- 11. deride: _____

- 12. adventure: _____

- 13. assure: _____

- 14. aroma: _____

- 15. intruder: _____

RETENTION: How well you remember details will be revealed by your answers to the following questions:

- 1. What was Sleeping Boy's only interest, besides sleeping and eating?

- 2. How did he prove he was a man to his brother?

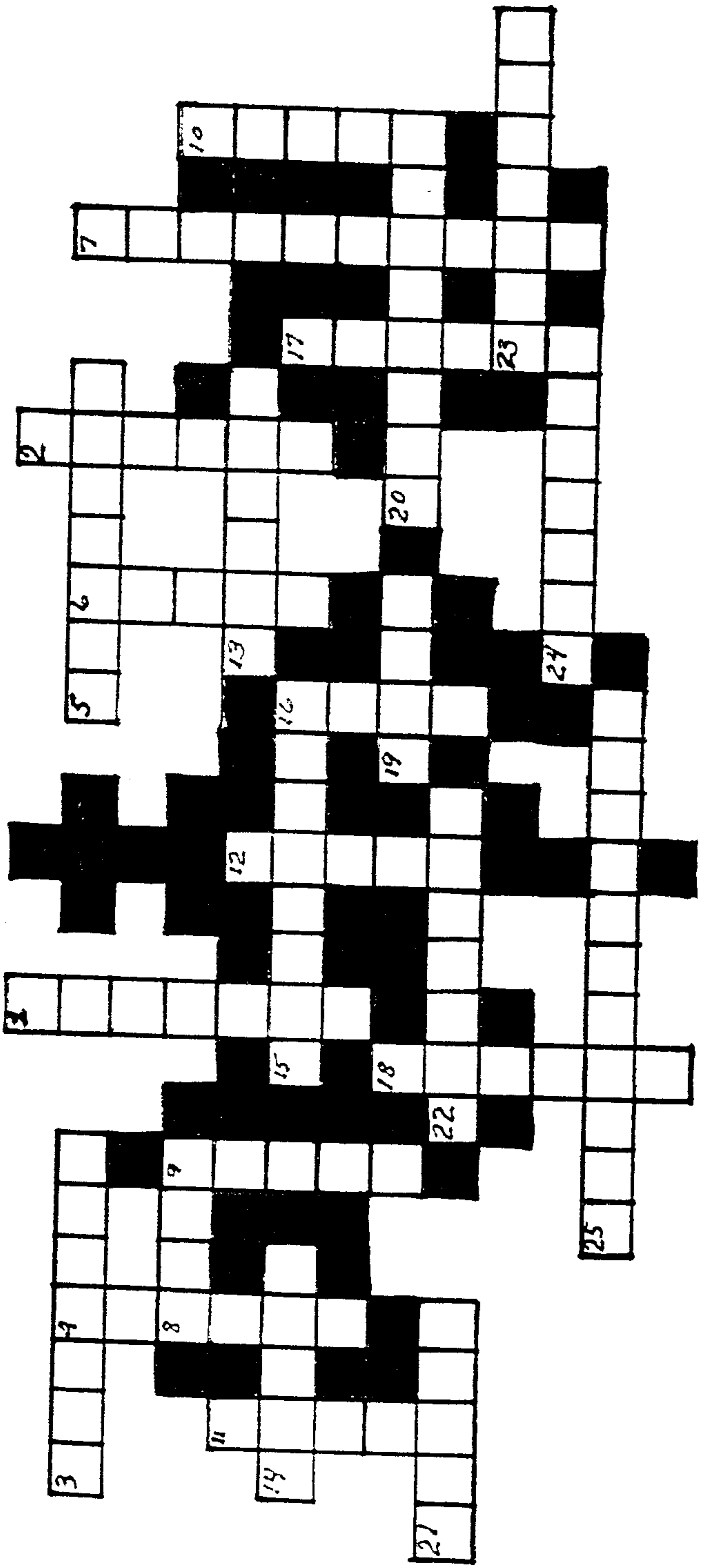
- 3. What game was Sleeping Boy's brother playing when he won the eagle feathers?

- 4. How many times did he encounter the old lady? _____
- 5. How did Sleeping Boy distract the sentry?

- 6. What else did Sleeping Boy acquire in his quest for the feathers?

- 7. What do you think Sleeping Boy should have done when his brother asked him for eagle feathers and horses during the give-away, and why?

THE WITTMAN AND
BEAR-TOMEN



ACROSS

- 3. Trek
- 5. To answer
- 8. The whiteman cut off the heads of these
- 13. Soldier posted to keep watch and guard something
- 14. Loaded with a burden
- 15. To give instructions; to direct
- 19. Remarkable action or achievement
- 20. Discourage or persuade against
- 21. Act of seeking something; search
- 22. Not belonging naturally
- 23. Narrated; told in detail
- 24. Strong in degree or feeling
- 25. Main character's name in the eagle feather quest

DOWN

- 1. Statement, given with authority that an action by performed
- 2. To give information to
- 4. Noise
- 6. The old lady gave this to Sleeping Boy
- 7. Unprotected; exposed to danger
- 9. What Sleeping Boy liked to do
- 10. What the sentry liked to do
- 11. The kind of feathers sought by Sleeping Boy
- 12. Morally bad; contrary to what is right
- 16. Journey
- 17. To declare confidently; promise
- 18. What Sleeping Boy acquired in addition to eagle feathers

SLEEPING BOY
BECOMES A HERO