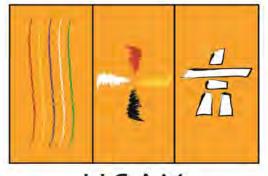


STORY BY SAA'KOKOTO TRANSLATION BY ANITA EAGLEBEAR ARTWORK BY MITCHELL POUNDMAKER

This is a work of fiction. Any similarity to persons living or dead is coincidental or expressed consent was authorized where similarities exist. All events are loosely based on stories, opinions, and experiences of selective Aboriginal youth in Calgary. This Graphic Novel is not to sold for profit by USAY or any other persons, however donations can be made at www.usay.ca. Several dialects of Blackfoot exist; only one dialect is represented in this work. Traditional Blackfoot Legends, stories, and characters inspired the artists and storywriter. This work is intended to be used as a language-learning tool, which should be combined with other resources to be effective in producing a proficient speaker. Readers are encouraged to consult fluent speakers to learn more about pronounciation and stress patterns.

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USAY Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth

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REASERCH ON THE BLACKFOOT LANGUAGE INDICATES IT IS ENDANGERED. MEANING THERE ARE LESS THAN 3000 FLUENT SPEAKERS CURRENTLY LIVING IN CANADA TODAY. AS MANY ELDERS WILL ATTEST TO LANGUAGE IS THE CORNERSTONE TO UNDERSTANDING ABORIGINAL WORLDVIEW, CEREMONY, TRADITION, AND NATURAL LAW. WITHOUT IT MANY ABORIGINAL PEOPLES FEEL CULTURAL CONFUSION AND LACK OF POSITIVE IDENTITY ASSOCIATION.

THE URBAN SOCIETY FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH (USAY) HAS OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS RECOGNIZED THE GROWING NEED TO EXPAND BLACKFOOT LANGUAGE RESOURCE TOOLS AMONG URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH AND ENCOURAGE LANGUAGE PRESERVATION. WE HAVE CREATED SEVERAL VOLUMES OF THE BLACKFOOT GRAPHIC NOVEL WHICH ARE INTENDED TO ACT AS A RESOURCE TOOL TO ACCOMPANY LANGUAGE CLASSES, DISCUSSIONS WITH ELDERS, AND OVERALL ENHANCE A YOUTH'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL IS A GREAT TOOL FOR LANGUAGE PRESERVATION. THROUGH THE PROJECT'S DEVELOPMENT, USAY IS ABLE TO CAPTURE A STORY RELEVANT TO URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH, SHOWCASE THE WRITTEN LANGUAGE AND SPOTLIGHT THE SPOKEN WORD AND ORAL HISTORY OF BLACKFOOT PEOPLES. THIS MEDIUM PROVIDES USAY WITH THE ABILITY TO REACH A LARGE POPULATION OF URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH IN WHICH TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE BLACKFOOT LANGUAGE AND ENHANCE RESOURCES FOR OTHER LANGUAGE LEARNING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE URBAN SOCIETY FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH (USAY) OR TO OBTAIN COPIES OF PREVIOUS BLACKFOOT GRAPHIC NOVELS, PLEASE CONTACT 403-233-8225 OR INFO.USAY.CA

OPENING PRAYER

AAYO IHSTIPATAPIYOOP, NOHK'KSIKAAKSKOHSAAKINAANN AHOHK KSISSTSIKOYIK.

O CREATOR, **BE** NEAR US TODAY.

KIMMAATOOKINAAN, ANAK KAANOMYANISTSITAPI NIT'HPIPOY.

TAKE PITY ON US. ALL PEOPLES INCLUDED.

OKY NIIT'H PIIPOY, ANNAK KAWAAPOOMAHKA, PAYOOTAH, SOOYITAPII.

ALSO I PRAY FOR ALL CREATURES WHO ROAM THE EARTH, ALL BIRDS AND ALL SEA CREATURES.

MAAKOOHKOMAANISTASOOKAPIS KSAHKOOM.

EVERYTHING ON EARTH TO REMAIN THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

ANAK MAATSOOPOOKHKOOTIMA MAAKOHKSI IIK'KHOTSIMAAS.

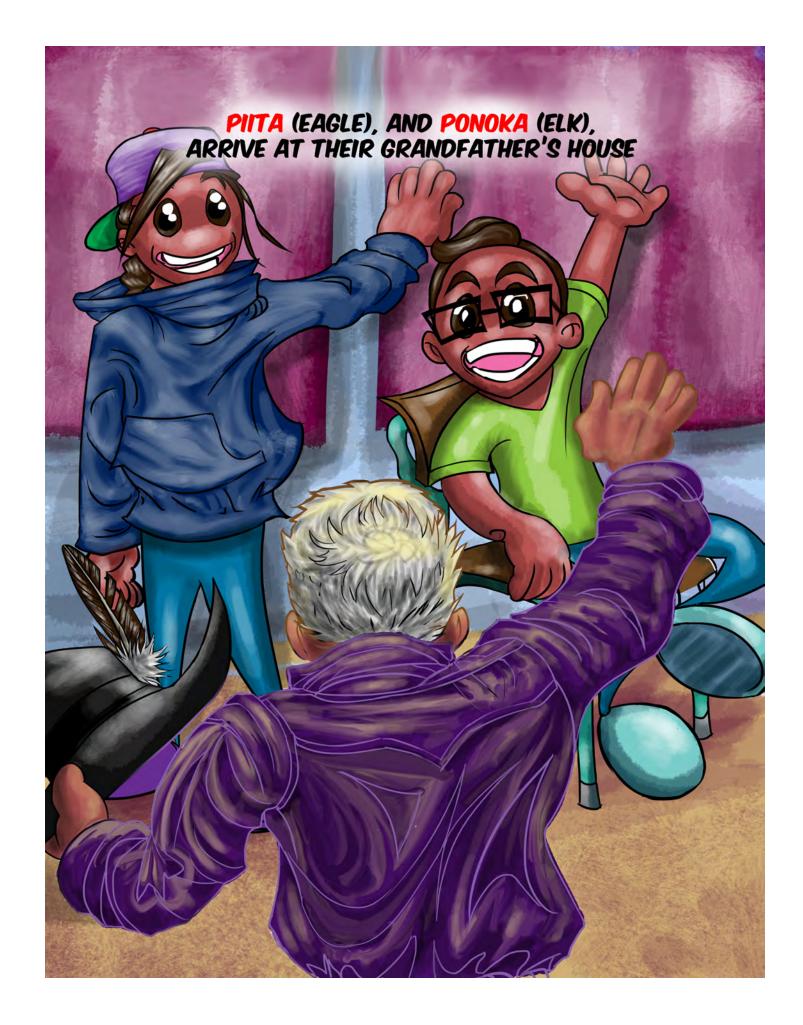
ALL UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE TO AQUIRE THEIR NEEDS.

NOOMHPIIPOY ANAK KANAITAPI MAKOOHSOOKAPIS OPATAPIISOWIY.

FOR ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE A GOOD LIFE, GOOD HEALTH.

OKY NINOOHKITOOT'HSISK MIISAAMIPAATAPIYSIN, MIISTAWAATSIMAAN, KAAMOTAANI, KOOTSIMAAN.

ALSO I ASK FOR, ALONG LIFE, TO RAISE ALL MY CHILDREN TO ADULTHOOD, TO ESCAPE HARM, AND TO HAVE ALL MY NECESSITIES TAKEN CARE OF.

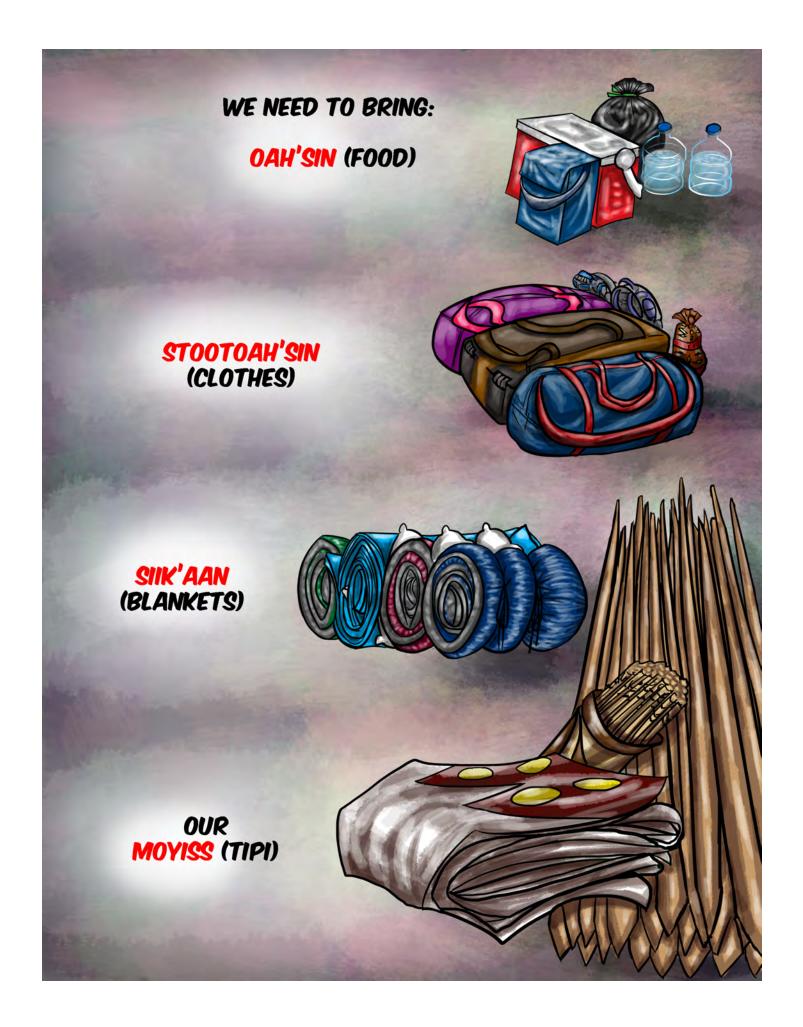


GRANDFATHER IIT'ANII (SAID) AKAA'POAP (WE'RE GOING ON A JOURNEY) APINA'KOOS (TOMORROW)





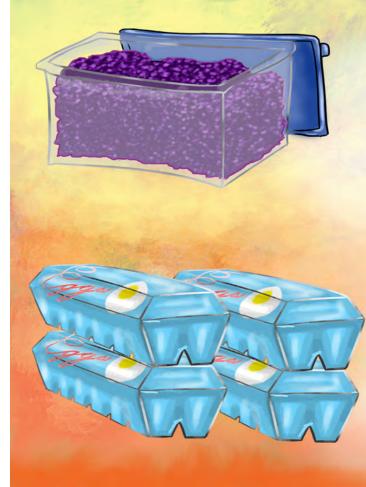




THE FOOD WE WILL BRING WILL BE;

AOH'KI (WATER)

KAIYII (DRIED MEAT)



MII'NI (BERRIES)

OWAA (EGGS)

OOKAAK (GO TO SLEEP) APINAKOAS (TOMORROW) WE START OUR JOURNEY PIITA (EAGLE) AND PONOKA (ELK) IKITAAMSIYA (WERE VERY HAPPY AND EXCITED)



KAATOYISIIKS (SWEET GRASS HILLS)

ASINAAPI (WRITING ON STONE PROVINCIAL PARK)

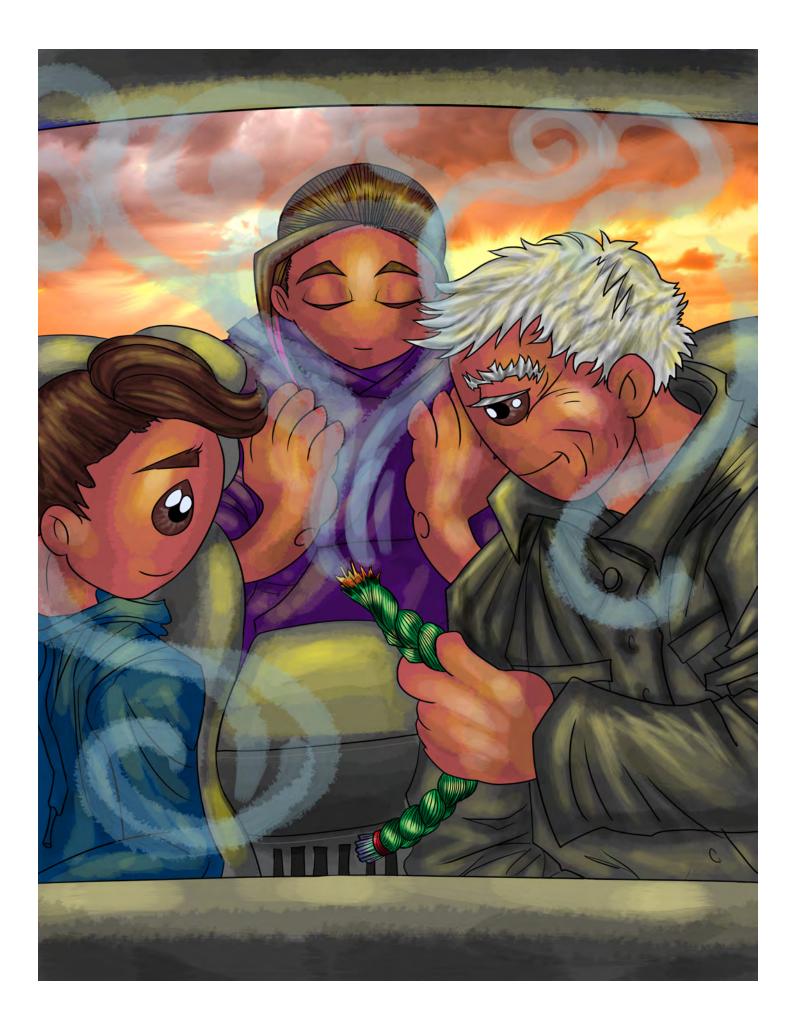
NINASTAKO (CHIEF MOUNTAIN)

MOOKOOWAAN'SOY (BELLY BUTTES)

MOAHKSI'SIIT'OOMOY (NOSEHILL) IS A LOOKOUT THE SIIKSIKAY'TSITAPI (BLACKFOOT) USED A LONG TIME AGO AAK'AMAATOOS'IMOAP (WE WILL SMUDGE WITH SWEET GRASS) AND OFFER PIISTAH'KAAN (TOBACCO)

TO NA'A (MOTHER EARTH) FOR A SAFE TRIP





THIS IS THE AAMSKA'POOHTSI (SOUTHSIDE) OF NOSEHILL

TO THE PIH'KOHTSI (EAST SIDE) IS WHERE NATOOSI (FATHER SUN) RISES

ON THE NIM'ISTSI (WEST SIDE) YOU CAN SEE MII'STAAKIIST (THE MOUNTAINS)

WE ARE AT THE AAK'STAAKSIN (MEDICINE WHEEL OR LAND MARK)

WHAT TYPE OF ANIMALS CAN BE FOUND ON NOSE HILL, PITTA (EAGLE) AND PONOKA (ELK)?

0

0

0

0

PIITA (EAGLE) SAID



KAANAIS'KINA (MICE)



Aap'a (weasels)

> Sinopa (Foxes)

Awaka'si (deer)



MAMYA'TSIKIMI (MAGPIES)

KAANAIS'KINA (MICE)

> MAI'STOO (CROWS)

IIMITA (DOGS)

GYAAN'AYI (THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF).

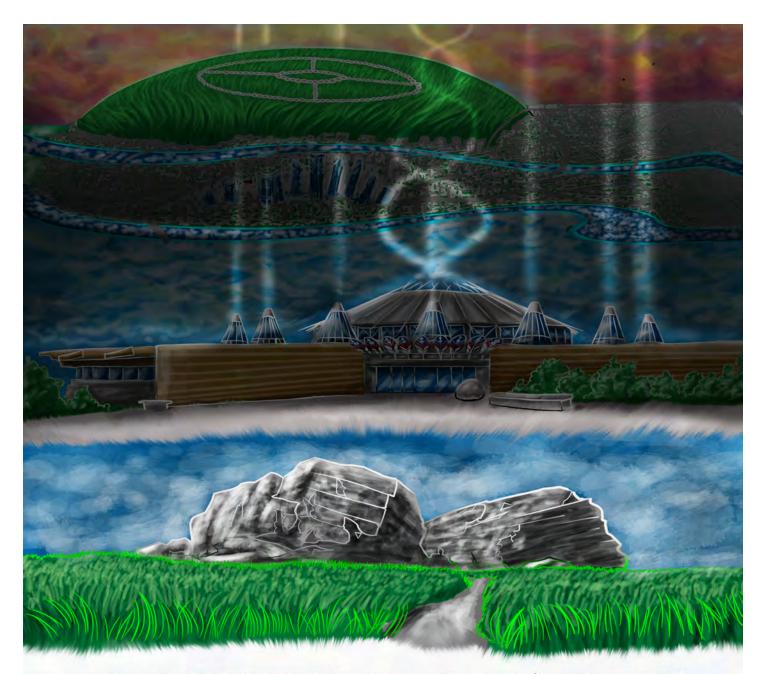
KITAY'NIIP (YOU CAN SEE) THE TWO RIVERS MOAHKIN'STSIS (THE ELBOW RIVER) AND NAMAY (THE BOW RIVER) FROM THIS LOOKOUT



NOW WE SHALL GO TO SOYOH'POAHKOO (BLACKFOOT CROSSING HISTORICAL PARK) IN SIKSIKA (BLACKFOOT NATION) EAST OF MOAHKIN'STSIS (CALGARY)

SOYOH'POAHKOO (BLACKFOOT CROSSING HISTORICAL PARK) IS WHERE THE SIKSIKAYTSITAPI (BLACKFOOT) MADE INAIS'TSI (TREATY) WITH THE IINA'WAKI (QUEEN) IN 1877





OUR NEXT STOP IS OHKOTOOK (OKOTOKS) OHKOTOOK (THE ROCK LOCATED WEST OF OKOTOKS) CAME TO BE WHEN NAPI (CREATOR) WAS CHASED BY OHKOTOOK (THE ROCK NEAR OKOTOKS)

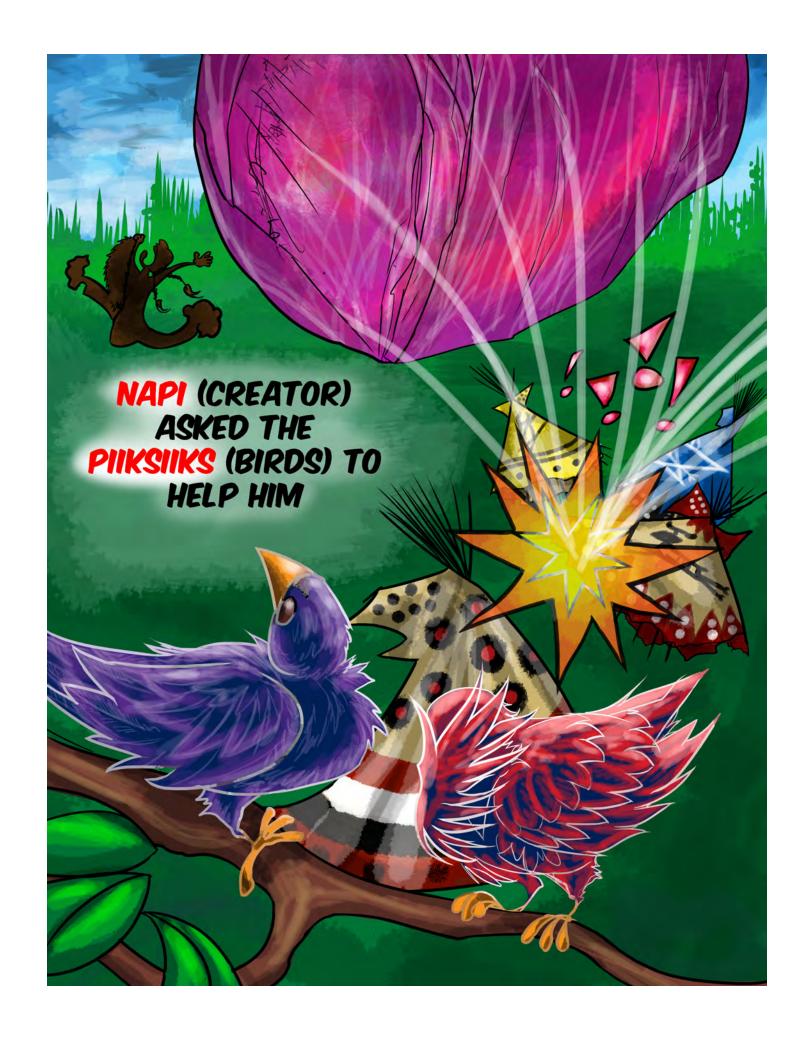




NAPI (CREATOR) TOOK THE COAT BACK AND OOHKOTOOK (THE ROCK) CHASED HIM Altr

m

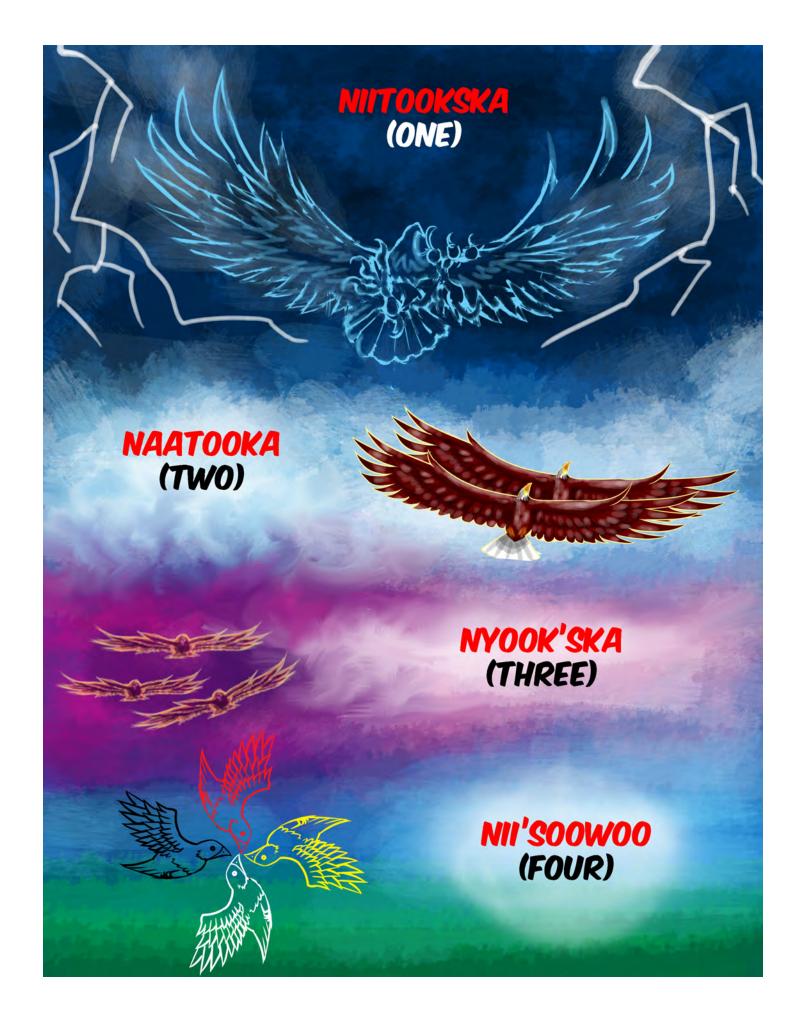




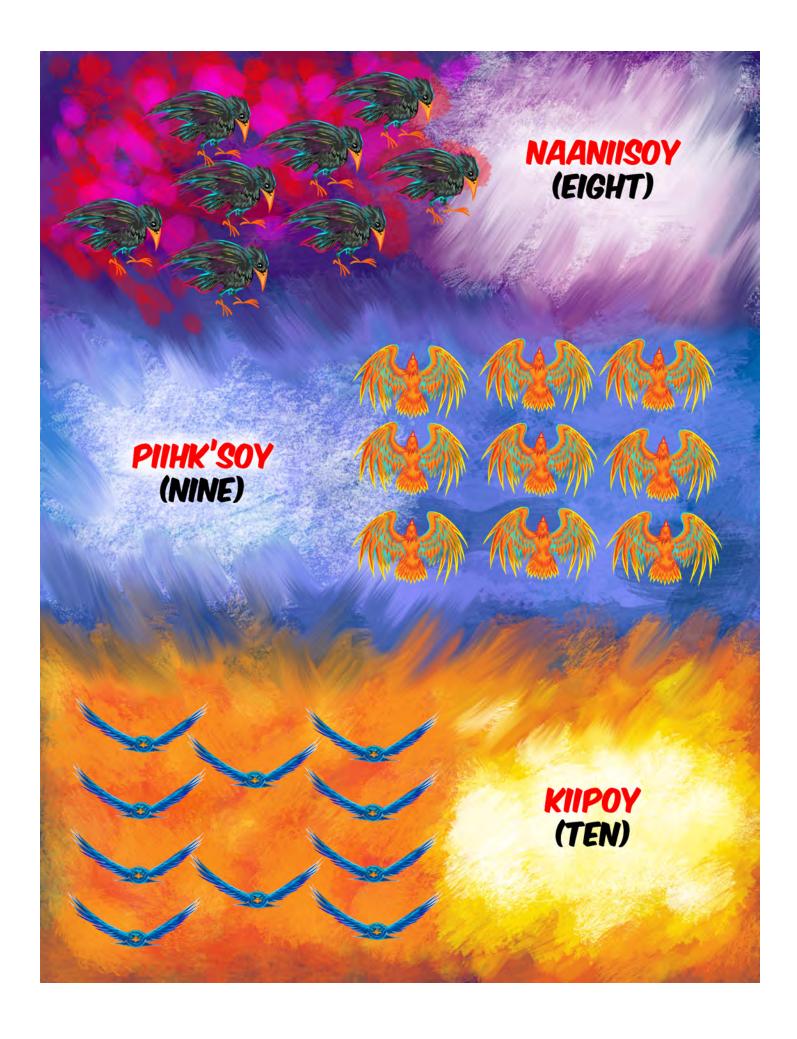


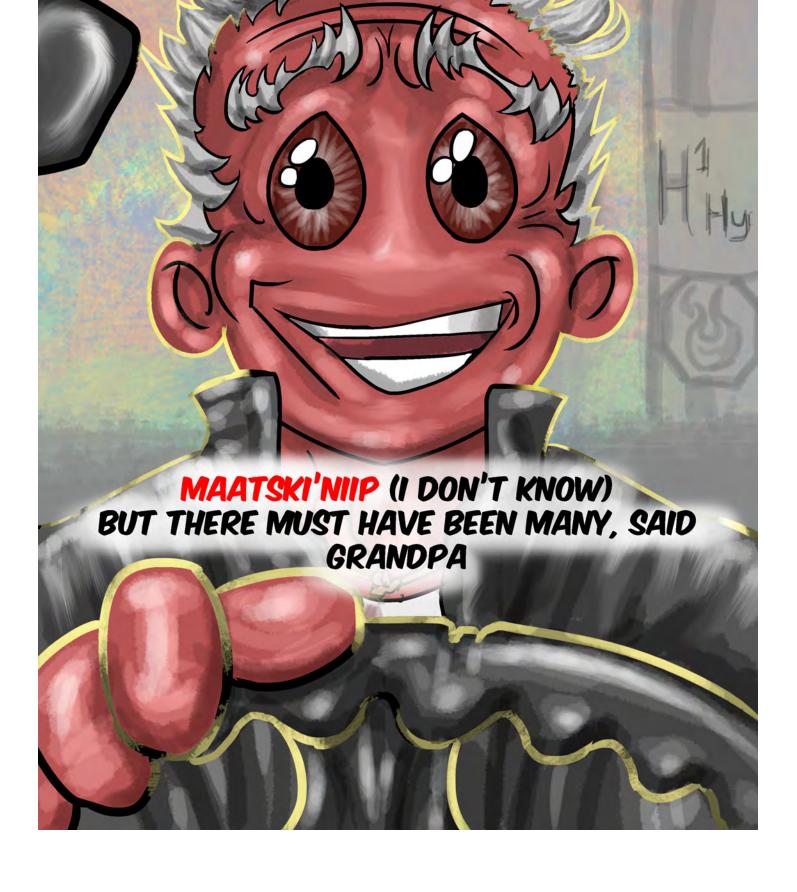
AFTER A LONG CHASE THE **PIIKSI** (BIRDS) FINALLY MANAGED TO CRACK IT IN TWO

HOW MANY **PIIKSI** (BIRDS) DO YOU THINK IT TOOK TO CRACK THE ROCK





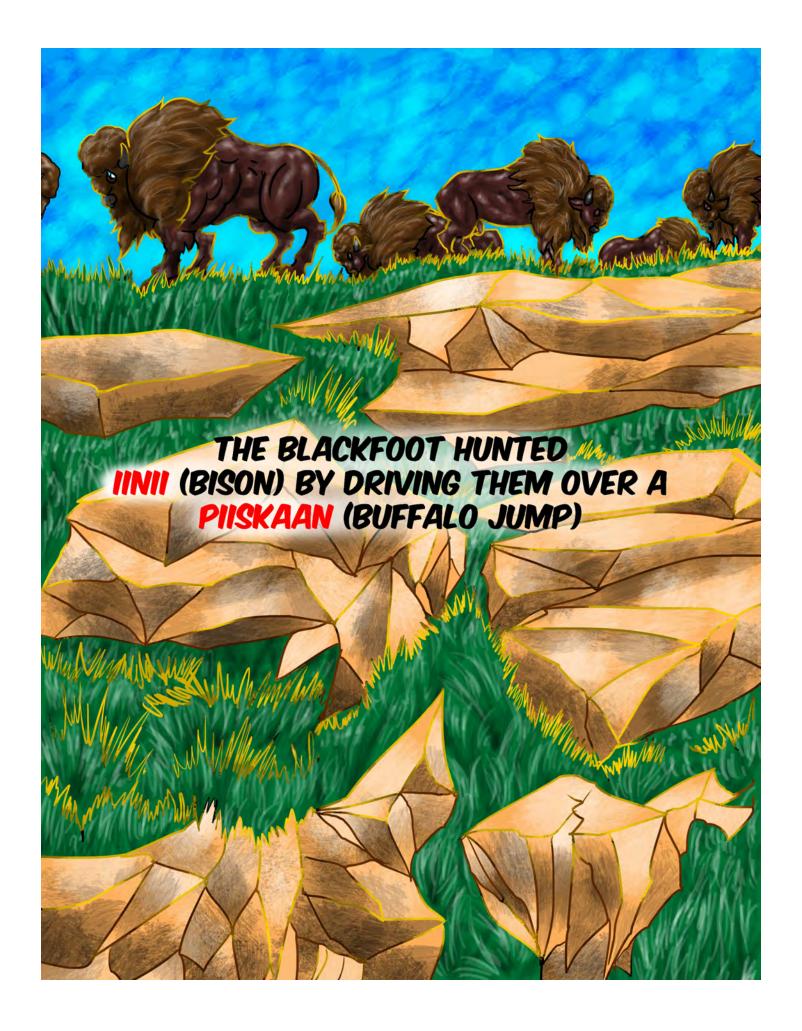


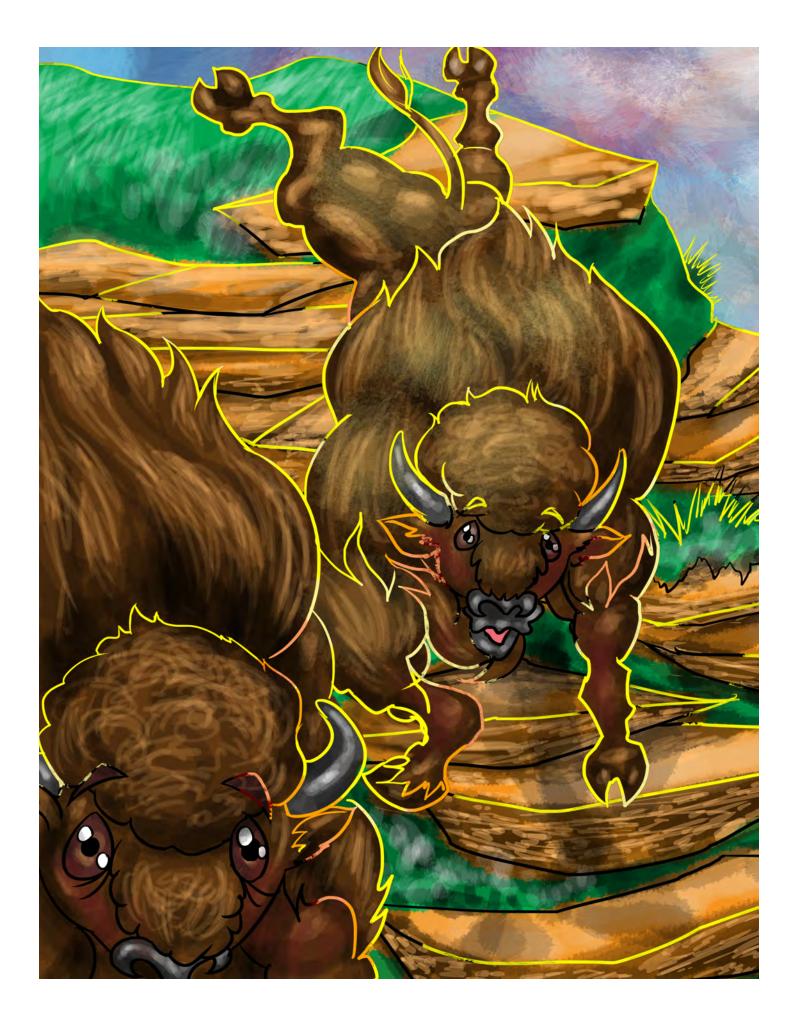


OKY (OKAY NOW) WE WILL NOW GO TO ITSI'PAAKSIK'SKINSKOOTSI PISKAAN (HEAD SMASHED IN BUFFALO JUMP) LOCATED NEAR THE PIKAN (PEIGAN) NATION

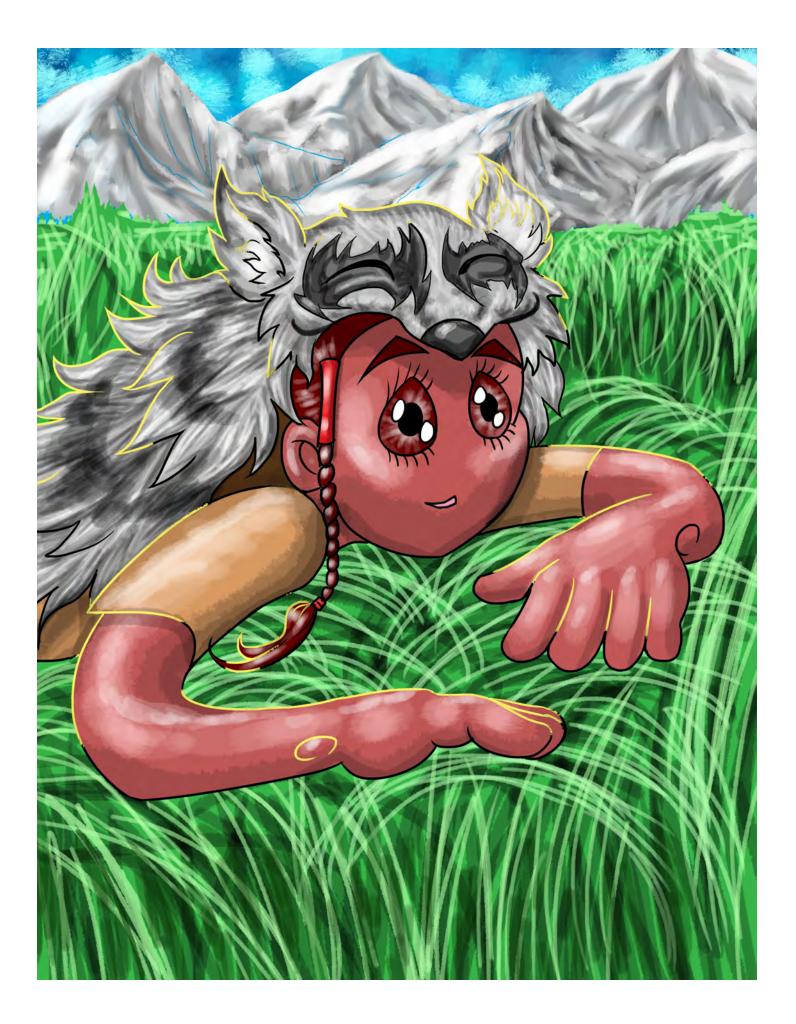
ISKOOH'TSIK (A LONG TIME AGO) BEFORE PONOOKOAMITA (THE HORSE)

CANTER



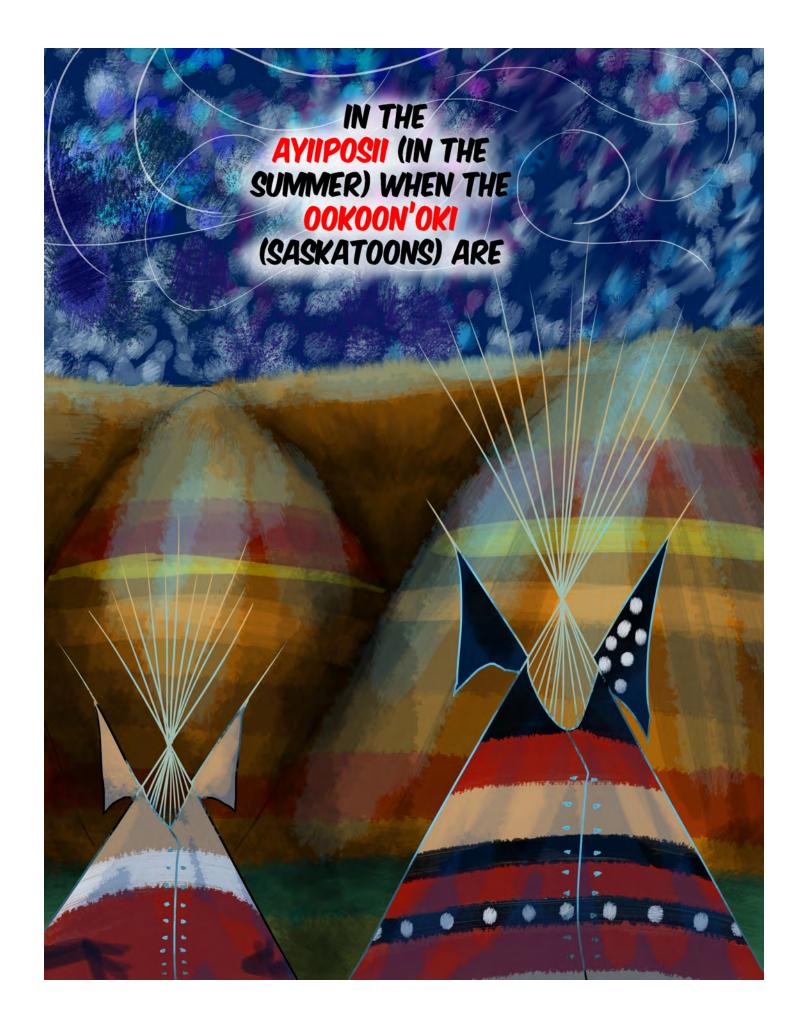






UNH'K (NOW) WE WILL BE GOING TO MOOKOWAANSI (THE BELLY BUTTES) A VERY IMPORTANT GATHERING PLACE FOR KAINAI (BLOOD TRIBE)





AKAAT'H'TSITOAP (WE WILL ALSO GO TO) NINAASTAKO (CHIEF MOUNTAIN)

NIIT'AAP (VERY) AATOOWAAPI (SACRED) FOR CEREMONY

UNH'K (NOW) AAKITA'POAP (WE WILL TRAVEL TO) AISIN'AIPI (WRITING ON STONE PROVINCIAL PARK)

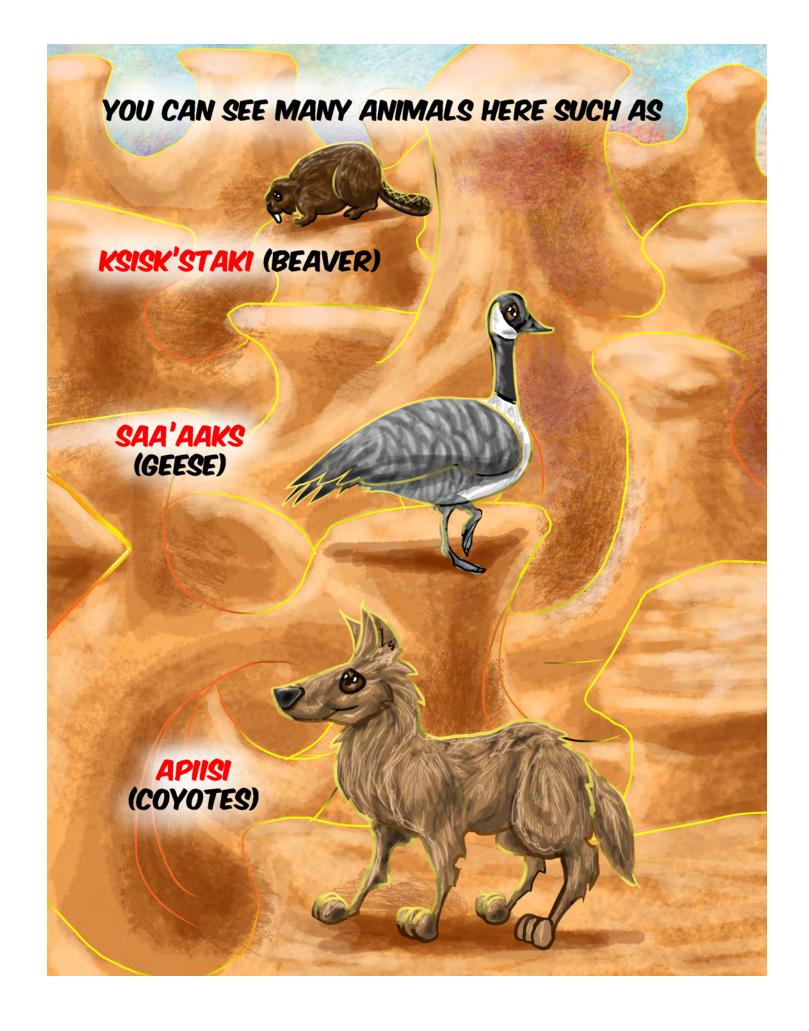
AISIN'NAPI (W.O.S.P.P.) IS ANOTHER SACRED SITE OF GAAH'SINOONIIKS (OUR ANCESTORS)

NAH'S (MY GRANDFATHER) LIKED THE AISIN'AIPI (DRAWINGS) AND ARTWORK OF OUR ANCESTORS

20









AIS'SIKO'TOYI (DEER)

NOO'WAAK (WATCH OUT FOR) AN'AAY (THERE IS A) PIITSI'KSI'NA (SNAKE)

MAIS'TOONAYI (CROW CHIEF) TOLD ME OF HOW HE CAME THROUGH THIS AREA ON A OUNAANIS'TSI'STA (TRAVOIS)

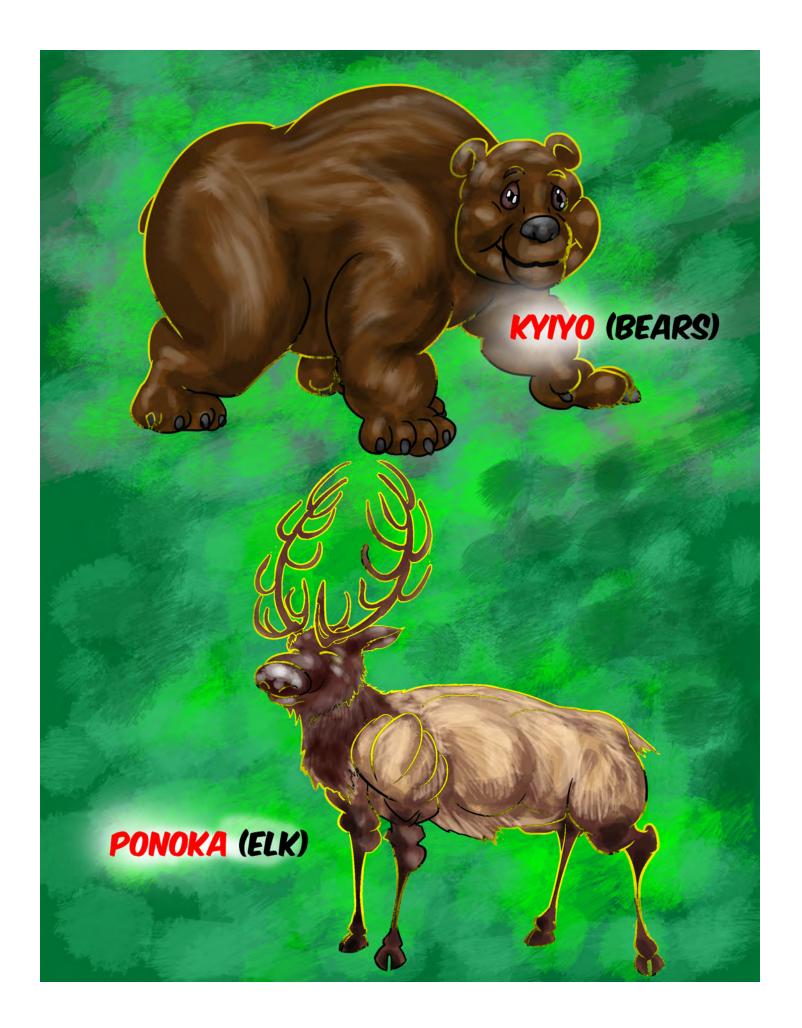
THE TOLD ME ABOUT THE API (THE HOODOOS WERE ONCE PEOPLE) OF WRITING ON STONE

THE LAST SACRED SITE WE WILL BE JOURNEYING TO IS KAATOOYISSIIKS (SWEET GRASS HILLS)

THE HILLS ARE AS HIGH AS MIISTAKI (MOUNTAINS)

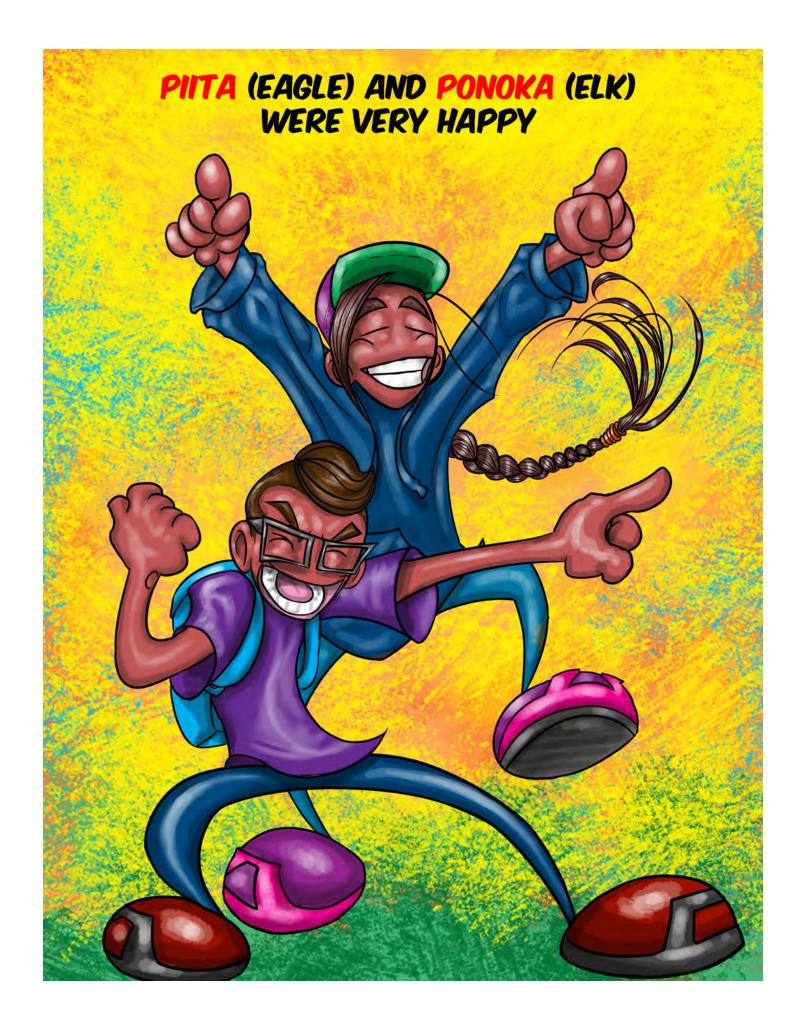
ANIMALS YOU SEE THERE ARE







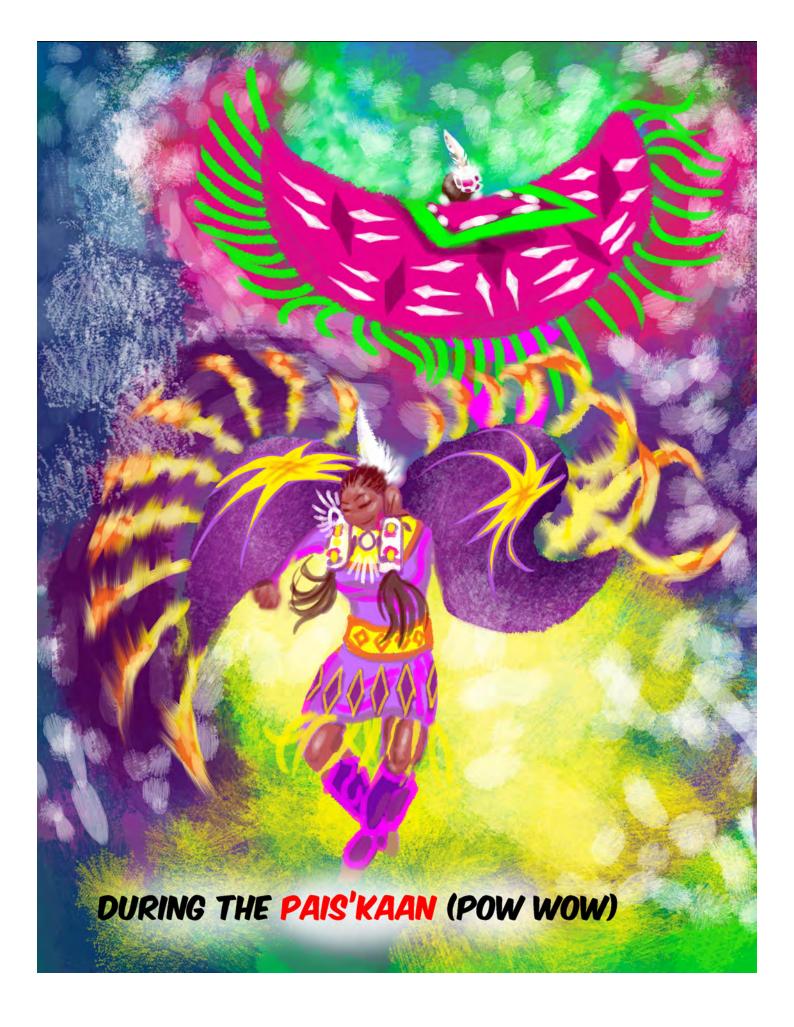
WE WILL GO BACK TO MOAH'KINS'TSIS (CALGARY) AND WE WILL BE STOPPING AT A PAIS'KAAN (POW WOW) WE WILL PITCH UP OUR MOYISS (TIPI) AND SLEEP THERE TONIGHT



THEY SET UP CAMP AND PUT UP THEIR MOYISS (TIPI).

THEY TOOK OUT THEIR AOH'SIN (FOOD) AND RESTED IN FRONT OF THEIR OOTOOTAAN (CAMPFIRE)

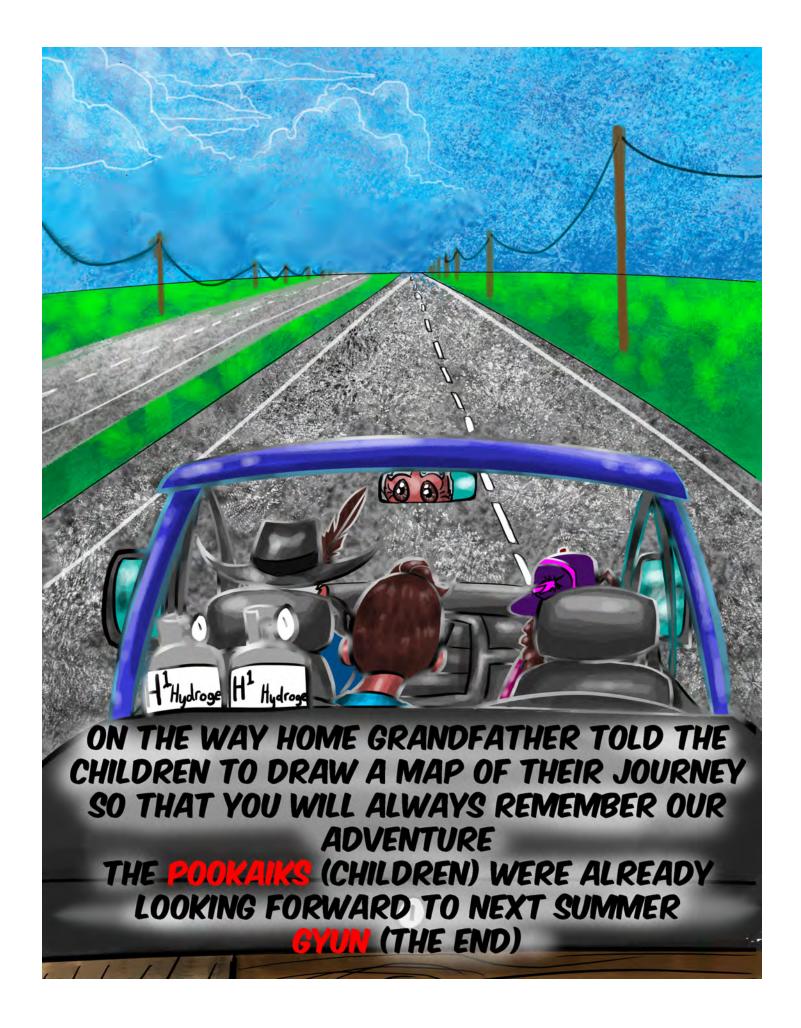




GRANDFATHER ASKED THEM TO IDENTIFY COLORS IN AA'PAIS'KAIKS (DANCERS) REGALIA







AKAAPOAP	WE'RE GOING ON A TRIP
PIITA	EAGLE
PONOKA	ELK
IIT'ANII	SAID
AKAA'POAP	WE'RE GOING ON A JOURNEY
APINA'KOOS	TOMORROW
NIITAKIIK	HURRY UP BOTH OF YOU
AYAK	WE WILL
AAK'STOAP	PACK
OAH'SIN	FOOD
STOOTOAH'SIN	CLOTHES
SIIK'AAN	BLANKETS
MOYISS	TIPI
AOH'KI	WATER
KAIYII	DRIED MEAT

MII'NI	BERRIES	
OWAA	EGGS	
OOKAAK	GO TO SLEEP	
IIKITAAMSIYA	VERY HAPPY AND E	XCITED
MOAHKSI'SIIT'OON	OY NOSE HILL	
MOOHKINS'TSIS	CALGARY	
MOOH'KINSTSIS	ELBOW RIVER	
IIT'AANAMOHKOAI	WHERE WE GATHER	R WOOD FOR OUR BOWS
NAM'AY	BOW	
SOYOH'РОАНКО	BLACKFOOT CROSS	ING HISTORICAL PARK
онкотоок	OKOTOKS	
ITSIPAAL'KSIKSKIN	ISKOOTSI PISKAAN	HEAD SMASHED IN BUFFALO JUMP
KAATOYISIIKS	SWEET GRASS HIL	LS
ASINAAPI	WRITING ON STON	E PROVINCIAL PARK
NINASTAKO	CHIEF MOUNTAIN	

MOOKOOWAAN'SOY	BELLY BUTES
SIIKSIKAY'TSITAPI	BLACKFOOT
AAK'AMAATOOS'IMOAP	WE WILL SMUDGE WITH SWEET GRASS
PIISTAH'KAAN	TOBACCO
NA'A	MOTHER EARTH
O'GYIH	LET'S GO THERE
AAMSKA'POOHTSI	SOUTHSIDE
PIH'KOHTSI	EAST SIDE
NATOOSI	FATHER SUN
NIIM'ISTSI	WEST SIDE
MII'STAAKIIST	THE MOUNTAINS
AAK'STAAKSIN	MEDICINE WHEEL OR LANDMARK
PIIK'SI	BIRDS
KAANAIS'KINA	MICE
OOMHKOKATA	GOPHERS

AAP'A WEASELS SINOPA FOXES AWAKA'SI DEER MAMYA'TSIKIMI MAGPIES KAANAAIS'KINA MICE MAI'STOO CROWS DOGS IIMITA THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF **GYAAN'AYI** KITAY'NIIP YOU CAN SEE SIKSIKA **BLACKFOOT NATION** INAIS'TSI TREATY IINA'WAKI QUEEN NAPI CREATOR IIKSI'KSISSTOYI IT WAS A VERY HOT DAY

OSOOKA'SIIM	HIS ROBE
NITOOKSKA	ONE
NAATOOKA	TWO
NYOOK'SKA	THREE
NII'SOOWOO	FOUR
NIISITOY	FIVE
NOY	SIX
IIHKITSI'KA	SEVEN
NAANIISOY	EIGHT
PIIHK'SOY	NINE
KIIPOY	TEN
MAATSKI'NIIP	I DON'T KNOW
OKY	OKAY NOW
PIIKANI	PEIGAN

ISKOOH'TSIK A LONG TIME AGO PONOOKOAMITA THE HORSE IINII BISON PIISKAAN **BUFFALO JUMP** UNH'K NOW **BLOOD TRIBE** KAINAI THIS IS WHERE AANOOM AKOOK'AATSIN ANNUAL SACRED GATHERING AYIIPOSII IN THE SUMMER OOKOON'OKI SASKATOONS AKAAT'H'TSITOAP WE WILL ALSO GO TO NIIT'AAP VERY AATOOWAAPI SACRED GAAH'SINOONIIKS OUR ANCESTORS

NAH'S AISIN' AIPI IIKSIPISS'ATAPU KSISK'STAKI SAA'AAKS APIISI AWAAKAASI AIS'SIKO'TOYI NOO'WAAK AN'AAY PIITSI'KSI'NO MAIS'TOONAYI OOMAANIS'TSI'STA TRAVOIS MAATAPI

MY GRANDFATHER DRAWINGS THIS LAND IS MAGICAL BEAVER GEESE COYOTES ANTELOPE DEER WATCH OUT FOR THERE IS A SNAKE **CROW CHIEF** THE HOODOOS, THEY WERE ONCE PEOPLE

KYIYO	BEARS
TAYOO	MOUNTAIN LIONS
PAIS'KAAN	POWWOW
OOTOOTAAN	CAMPFIRE
AA'PAIS'KAIKS	DANCERS
MOAHKSINAATSI	RED
SIKSINAATSI	BLACK
KSIKSINAATSI	WHITE
OOTSKOONAATSI	BLUE
SAISKIMOO'KOONAATSI	THE COLOUR OF GRASS OR GREEN
OOT'T'KOONAATSI	YELLOW
POOKAIKS	CHILDREN
GYUN	THE END

RANDY BOTTLE BIOGRAPHY

RANDY BOTTLE IS A RECOGNIZED AND HONOURED AS AN ELDER AMONG LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND AGENCIES. HE ORIGINATES FROM THE BLOOD TRIBE FIRST NATION AND IS FROM THE TALL PEOPLE CLAN.

AFTER SERVING THE BLOOD TRIBE BAND COUNCIL FOR 24 CONSECUTIVE YEARS HE HAS BECOME A STAPLE IN THE CALGARY COMMUNITY.

RANDY'S PRIMARY GOAL IS TO PROMOTE TRADITIONAL SPIRITUALITY THROUGH CEREMONY, STORYTELLING AND SHARING PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

HIS PRIMARY WORK NOW FOCUSES ON URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH AND HELPING THEM TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR IDENTITY AND DEVELOP A BETTER SENSE OF BELONGING.

AS A FLUENT

BLACKFOOT SPEAKER HE PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN PRESERVING AND PASSING ON THE LANGUAGE TO URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH AND THE LARGER BLACKFOOT SPEAKING COMMUNITY.

USAY FEELS HONOURED TO HAVE HIS LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND EXPERTISE AS PART OF THIS PROJECT AND OTHER WORK WE DO IN OUR AGENCY.

MITCHELL POUNDMAKER

IS A BLACKFOOT/CREE ARTIST FROM SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA. MITCHELL HAS LIVED AS AN ARTIST AND THESPIAN SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.

SINCE HIS ACQUISITION OF PAINT SOFTWARE AND ADEQUATE GEAR, DIGITAL ART HAS BEEN THIS ARTIST'S PRIMARY DOMAIN.

THE FOLLOWING IS A QUOTE FROM THE ARTIST:

"I REALLY HOPE YOU ENJOY GOING ON A TRIP ACROSS SOME OF THE GREAT BLACKFOOT NATION'S LANDMARKS AND SACRED SITES, AS MUCH AS I HAVE.

THE PLACES IN THIS BOOK ARE REAL, ALTHOUGH THE MOST FANTASTIC PAINTING CAN MAKE YOU FEEL EXCITED ABOUT A POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL, SACRED PLACE, YOU MUST GO TO THESE SITES FOR YOURSELF! EXPERIENCING THEM FIRSTHAND AND EMBRACING THE MAJESTY AND STRENGTH OF BLACKFOOT TERRITORY WILL INSPIRE YOU TO LEARN THIS BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE."

"I WANT TO DEDICATED THIS BOOK TO THE MEMORY COULTEN BOUSHIE AND TINA FONTAIN." A GRANDFATHER TAKES HIS GRANDCHILDREN ON A JOURNEY FROM CALGARY TO WRITING ON STONE PROVINCIAL PARK. THE CHILDREN LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT BLACKFOOT HERITAGE SITES AND CULTURAL PRACTICES.

CHILDREN, EDUCATORS AND BLACKFOOT SPEAKERS CAN USE THIS BOOK AND THE ACTIVITIES INSTEAD TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BLACKFOOT LANGUAGE, SOUTHERN ALBERTA, AND MUCH MORE.

THIS BOOK IS APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.







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