

SEAGULL *steals* THE SUN

By Mabel Mitchell

Illustrated by Edward Seymour

Many years ago, a terrible thing happened to the Beach People. Seagull stole the sun from the sky and left the beach in blackness. Raven saw the Beach People were cold and starving and made a clever plan to get Sun back. He fooled Seagull and put Sun back in the sky where the sun needs to be! The plants lifted themselves up to the sun. The birds flew all around and ate berries. The fish jumped and ate bugs. The sun shone down on the Beach People and they were happy, but Seagull's heart was broken. We can hear his sad cry as he flies over the beach thinking of the days when the sun belonged only to him.

A STZ'UMINUS
ORAL NARRATIVE



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by **MABEL MITCHELL**

ILLUSTRATED BY EDWARD SEYMOUR JR

Acknowledgements

The Stz'uminus Education Project celebrates the oral narratives, Elders, heroes and artists of the Stz'uminus Mustimuxw (The People of the Stz'uminus First Nation).

As project coordinator and editor, I raise my hands in thanks to the traditional knowledge keepers, caring educators and Stz'uminus community members who generously contributed to this body of work.

The project aims to provide literacy opportunities for all ages and all territories. Extensive lesson plans and Hul'q'umi'num Language strategies to support educators or interested community members are available (for free) to download.

Educators are invited to contact dklockars@shaw.ca with any questions or for classroom support.

Elder Pearl Harris, Charlotte Elliott, Rita Harris, Delia Seymour, Alice Louie, (late) Elder Edward Seymour, Len Merriman, Karen Burnham, Elder Florence James, Daniella Harris-David, Doug Harris, Josie Louie, Elder Gwen Point, Buffie Seymour-David, Joe Elliott, John Jim, Joey Caro, Edward Seymour Jr., Jessica Kuhnley, Dan Elliott, Damien Daniels, Cameron Park, Scott Booth and James Klockars have joyfully and generously contributed to this project.

Hay ce:p qa, I raise my hands in thanks to all,
Donna Klockars

Uy yatul ct 'i' cicuwatul ct
Treat each other well as we work together

*All proceeds directly support Hul'q'umi'num
Language Program of Stz'uminus Education Department*

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Dedicated to our Stz'uminus Youth



SEAGULL *steals* THE SUN

NARRATOR

Many years ago, a terrible thing happened.
Seagull stole Sun from the sky and
left the Beach People in blackness.

BEACH PEOPLE

It is hard to live in the dark all of the time.
It is hard to find salmon in the dark!
We can not see salmon when they jump.
We are not able to get salmon to feed our families.

RAVEN

Sun needs to be in the sky. This is not a good day.
It is hard to see when the tide comes in and goes out.
It is hard to dig for clams in the dark.
This is not a good day.

BEACH PEOPLE

Plants in the ocean cannot grow
in the dark. The seaweed is dying.

It is hard to gather berries in
the dark. We trip and fall down.
We get cuts from the thorns. We have tried
and tried, but we cannot get berries.
The Beach People are hungry and sad.

ELDERS

It is hard to get clams in the dark.
It is hard to get salmon in the dark.
It is hard to get berries in the dark.
It is hard to live in darkness all the time.

NARRATOR

The Beach People were hungry and sore.
It was very cold without Sun.
It was so cold that the Beach People
had to keep the fires going all the time.

RAVEN

I do not like the dark. This is not a good day!

BEACH PEOPLE

We need sticks for the fire.
The little people get sticks for the fire.
It is hard to find sticks in the dark.
The little people fall on the rocks.
We try and try but it is hard to keep the fires going.
Every day the fires get smaller and smaller.

ELDERS

It is hard to get sticks in the dark.
The Beach People are cold.
It is hard to live in darkness all the time.

RAVEN

We need Sun to be up in the sky!
This is not a good day!

NARRATOR

Soon the Beach People began to feel sick.
The babies and the old people got very sick.
The Beach People tried to find the healing
plants. They could not find plants to help
the sick people. They were very sad indeed!

ELDERS

It is hard to find the healing plants in the dark.
It is very hard to live in the dark all of the time.
We must make plans to bring back the light.

NARRATOR

The Beach People learned
that Seagull had stolen Sun.
Sun was hidden in a box in his house.
Seagull wanted to keep Sun all to himself!
The Beach People went to Seagull.
They asked him to put Sun back in the sky.

BEACH PEOPLE

Seagull you must return Sun to the sky!
We are cold and starving.

BEACH PEOPLE

The sun needs to be up in the sky.

SEAGULL

No! No! No!
I do NOT want to listen!
I do NOT want to hear you complain.

Sun is in a box.
I want to keep Sun all to myself.
I do not want to share Sun with the
Beach People. Sun is mine now!
Sun will stay inside the box.
Sun will stay in my house.
Now go away!

BEACH PEOPLE

Seagull, you must listen. The plants need sun!
They are dying! When the plants die,
the animals will die too. The salmon will die.
The clams will die. Even you, Seagull will die!

SEAGULL

No! No! No! Beach People, I do not want to
share Sun. Sun is mine now! Go away!

BEACH PEOPLE

Seagull, the babies are getting sick.
They are hungry. They cry all the time.
They need Sun to be put back in the sky....

NARRATOR

Every time the Beach People talked to
Seagull he cried, "Qwuni, Qwuni. Go away."
The Beach People needed a plan to
put Sun back where it needs to be.
One day Raven went walking.
He saw that the Beach People
were cold and hungry.
He did not like what he saw.

ELDERS

Sun needed to be back up in the sky.
Raven must help the Beach People.

RAVEN

The Beach People need my help.



RAVEN

I will think and think. I will think of
a plan to get Sun out of the box.
Sun needs to be back up in the sky.
I will help the Beach People.



NARRATOR

Raven was a good planner.
He made a big torch for himself.
Then he went down to the beach to
hunt for sea urchins. He gathered many
sea urchins and he ate them greedily.

(Raven was always a greedy eater.)

Sea urchin shells are sharp and prickly
all over. They are sharp as needles.
After his feast, Raven put all of the
prickly needles in front of Seagull's door.
When Seagull wakes the next morning,
he will discover sharp sea urchin needles!

SEAGULL

What at a nice sleep I had.
The complaining Beach
People did not wake me.
I am hungry after my long rest.
It is time to go outside
and get my breakfast.

NARRATOR

Seagull went out his door and into
the darkness. He did not see the sharp
needles from Raven's sea urchin feast.
Suddenly, Seagull felt sharp pain as
the needles pierced his big webbed feet!
The beach was filled with
the cries of seagull's pain.

SEAGULL

I have stepped on something as sharp as
needles. The needles have pierced my feet!
I am stuck full of needles!
My feet are very sore indeed!

NARRATOR

Raven heard loud cries coming from
Seagull's house. His plan was working!
He followed the loud cries to Seagull's house.

RAVEN

Seagull, I heard your cries of pain.
Let me help you.

SEAGULL

Help me, Help me, Raven.
I have stepped on the sharp
needles from sea urchin.
Qwuni, qwuni, my feet
are very sore indeed!

RAVEN

I will take the sharp needles
out of your big webbed feet.
Please, lend me your knife.
I will use your knife to take
the needles out of your feet.

NARRATOR

Raven pretended to take the needles out of
Seagull's big webbed feet. Raven was hurting
Seagull. He was cutting Seagull's big webbed
feet with the sharp knife. Seagull was crying.





SEAGULL

Qwuni, qwuni.

Be careful Raven! Do not cut my feet!

RAVEN

Oh Seagull, I am very sorry if I am hurting you!

I am trying very hard, but I cannot see.

It is too dark. That is why I cut your feet.

I need Sun to help me see. It is too difficult
to get the needles out in the darkness!

The Beach People told me you have Sun
in a box. If you open the box, I can help you.

NARRATOR

Seagull went to the big box where he
had hidden Sun. He lifted the lid slowly.

He was very careful to open the box only a tiny crack.

Sun shone out from the little opening of the box.

Raven went back to work on Seagull's big webbed feet.

But he still cut Seagull's feet with the sharp knife.

Seagull cried out in pain, even louder this time.

Once more, Raven pretended to be sorry.

RAVEN

Seagull, I want to help you.

It is still too dark to see the sharp needles.

If only I had more sunlight to help me.

Open the box wider. This will help me see.



NARRATOR

Seagull did not want to open the box. He wanted to keep Sun for himself. But Seagull was in pain, and now his big webbed feet were bleeding. They were very sore indeed. Seagull's pain was so bad he forgot to be careful.

SEAGULL

Raven, you can open the lid a little more. Be careful! Do not open the lid too wide.

NARRATOR

This is just what Raven wanted to hear. He grabbed the lid of the big box and opened it as wide as it would go. Then he grabbed the sun and flew up and out the smoke hole of Seagull's house. Raven lifted Sun up to the sky. This is where Sun needed to be!

RAVEN

I tricked Seagull and now I can put Sun back in the sky. This is where Sun needs to be!

ELDERS

Now Sun shone down on the Beach People once more. The plants lifted themselves up to look at the sun. They began to grow. They were happy. The birds began to fly. They ate berries. They were happy. The salmon began to jump and play. They ate and bugs and were happy. Sun is where it needs to be. Now, this is a good day.

BEACH PEOPLE

We can see when the tides come in and out. We can see the bubbles that come from the clams. Now we can gather clams. We are happy. We feel good and healthy. We are warm. Let us sing and have a feast! We are very happy indeed!

ELDERS

But Seagull's heart was broken.
Even today, he is so sad that he cries
"Qwuni Qwuni Qwuni" all day. When he
soars over the beaches of the Salish Sea he
remembers when Sun belonged only to Seagull.

BEACH PEOPLE

This is how Raven tricked Seagull and put Sun
back up in the sky. This is where Sun needs to
be. Now Sun shines down on the Beach People.
It is a good day. Thank you Raven



MABEL MITCHELL | AUTHOR