

# Wapos Bay TRICKS 'N' TREATS episode 12

## Episode Description

Halloween isn't as exciting as it used to be for Raven. Kohkum responds by planning a special storytelling event. T-Bear, Raven, Talon and Devon begin their trick or treating and story night with Auntie Ann, who tells them about the Woman of the Woods, a spirit who continues to wait for her beloved near Wapos Bay. After the first part of the story they must take a sage offering to the cave where she sometimes appears. Kohkum and Kohkum Mary tell the other parts to the story, separated by a trip to make a tobacco offering to a large tree where the spirit is also known to appear. At the cave and the tree the children see the Woman of the Woods but think that it is Mushom. Later they are all surprised to learn that Mushom was unable to fulfill his role as the spirit and they wonder who played the part of the mysterious Woman.

## Background Information

Storytelling is an important part of oral tradition. Stories often contain important historical information about cultural traditions, life lessons and expected behaviour. Most stories are entertaining as well. Aboriginal stories can be owned by individuals, families, clans or a nation. Some stories are shared by the whole community.

Some traditions involve offerings such as tobacco and sage to spirits to show thanks for their guidance and protection and to encourage their rest.



## Key themes

- Everyone who knows a story tells it in his/her own way.

## PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What are your experiences with storytelling? Have you ever heard a story from a family member or an elder? What did you learn from the story? Was the story funny? Entertaining? Scary? Did it contain a moral?
- 2 ► Have you ever taken part in a spiritual tradition that called for offerings such as tobacco and sage?
- 3 ► Look for examples of humour in this episode.

- 4 ➤ Introduce the Cree words used in episode 12, and remind students to listen for them.

### CREE GLOSSARY

**kohkum** – grandmother

**mushom** – grandfather

**tansi** – hello

**Ah ho** – Expression of affirmation at the end of a prayer

- 5 ➤ Have you ever heard the same story told by different people? What were some of the differences in their storytelling technique?

## VIEW THE EPISODE

Introduce and view *Wapos Bay: Tricks 'n' Treats*.

## POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 1 ➤ Have you ever experienced a story told in three parts by three different people in three different places? Have you ever heard a story from a family member or an elder told in a unique way?
- 2 ➤ What did you find funny in this episode?
- 3 ➤ Review the Cree glossary.
- 4 ➤ What feelings were evoked by the story of the Woman in the Woods?

## PROJECT IDEAS



- Invite an Aboriginal storyteller to class to tell mysterious or scary stories.
- In small groups, have students contribute a beginning, middle and an end to a scary story. Provide such story prompts as:
  - The man on the horse*
  - The girl with the broken doll*
  - The boy with the bicycle*
  - The woman and the baby stroller*
- Have students circulate to three different storytellers to reproduce the same conditions as in episode 12. Create multiple beginnings, middles and ends for the same theme. Publish the stories creatively so that the reader can choose different versions.