

Traditional Story/Legend Assignment

First Nations, Inuit, and Metis cultures have long passed on knowledge from generation to generation through oral traditions, including storytelling. Traditionally, stories and legends were told orally during the winter months by elders to children. Storytelling is a traditional method used to teach about cultural beliefs, values, customs, rituals, history, practices, relationships, and ways of life.

The goal of this assignment is many fold:

- To connect youth with elders
- To learn cultural stories that have been passed down from generation to generation, and
- To create a compilation of stories for publication

For this assignment, you will ask an elder to tell you a traditional story. You will record the story on paper.

When you return to school, the computer teacher will have you type out your story. You will receive a grade in your Native Studies class and you will also receive a grade in your Computer class for the same assignment.

It is my intention to publish your stories in a book. This book will be made available to the students involved in the project. Copies will also be kept in the school libraries for future reference.

You will need to:

1. Ask an Elder to tell you a traditional story. The protocol for asking for anything from an elder is to offer tobacco. Offer what you can afford. You can offer one cigarette, a pouch of tobacco, or you can make your own traditional tobacco and offer some to the Elder. The first Elder you approach may not know any stories, or may not feel comfortable telling stories. Respect this. You can, however, ask them if they know of an Elder who could help you with this assignment.
2. The easiest way to do this assignment will be to record the story on a cell phone. Then write out the story. You will need to ask the Elder for permission to record the story on your phone. Do not get upset if they will not let you record. Respect their decision.

The other method is to write the story from memory, which you may have to do if the Elder does not let you record.

3. Bring your written copy with you when you return to school and hand in to me.
4. Your assignment will need to have:
 - a. A title
 - b. "As told by (the name of the Elder)"
 - c. Date
 - d. You will also need to spend time with this story. Think about what is happening in the story. Identify why the story was told and passed down from generation to generation (what is its message). You will need to write the story's message or moral in a separate paragraph at the end of the story.
 - e. Type your name at the end of the story.