



Kashudoha

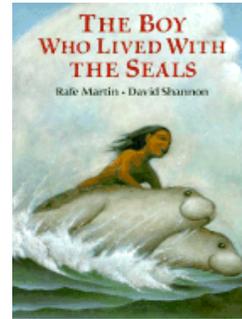


Goldbelt Heritage Institute

"Drink from the Vessel of Traditional Knowledge."

The Boy Who Lived With the Seals

By Rafe Martin Illustrations by David Shannon



Book Summary When a young boy disappears while playing by the river, his parents search for him for weeks. When spring brings a sighting of a boy among the seals at the river's mouth, he is captured and returned home. His parents patiently re-teach him human ways; he acquires near-magical skill in woodcarving. However, the boy cannot escape the water's pull and he returns to live with the seals, coming to shore only once a year to leave a beautiful canoe for his parents.

Before Reading Read the title and look at the book cover with your child. Talk about what might be happening in the picture and the emotions of the boy and the seals. With your child, discuss reasons why we, as humans, could or could not live with seals. You might remind your child of other stories with settings under the water- *Naatsilanéj*, *Salmon Boy*, *Frog Girl* and even *The Little Mermaid*.

During Reading In this story, the mood is set not only with the words but also by pictures. Scenes of calm are portrayed with lighter colors while sadness, fear, and despair are drawn with darker colors. Before reading a light colored page, ask your child how the people are probably feeling in this part of the story; repeat this for a dark colored page. Help your child notice how words and illustrations work together to create the mood for different parts of the story. Point out that this is what good authors/illustrators do and that your child can do this when writing and illustrating his/her own stories.

After Reading Read the author's note at the end of the book, either to yourself or to your child if he/she is interested. Talk with your child about story ownership in general, but specifically help him/her understand that originally this story is from the Confederated Warm Springs Tribe living along the Deschutes River on the Warm Springs Reservation in north central Oregon. You might look at a map with your child to show where this is in relation to Southeast Alaska.

Parent guide for *The Boy Who Lived With the Seals*, a suggested parent read-aloud intended to accompany "Sea Mammals" cultural curriculum unit.

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