



Kashudoha



Goldbelt Heritage Institute

"Drink from the Vessel of Traditional Knowledge."



Tongass: The Last American Rainforest

By Shelly Gill and Shannon Cartwright

Book Summary The Tongass, North America's rainforest, is the setting for this story about Lily, a Tlingit girl. While searching with her aunt for a special spruce tree, Lily discovers her own family history. Along with Lily's story, natural history and cultural information are included. The first two pages provide information about the Tongass and more facts are included throughout the book at the bottom of many pages, in sidebars and in labeled illustrations.

Before Reading Read the title to your child and look at the cover illustration. Talk about the picture with your child. Ask about the central drawing of Raven as well as the bentwood boxes and sun, moon and stars illustrations. Ask your child why he/she thinks these items are shown. Look at the back cover as well. It shows a spruce root hat and basket. Ask your child why these might be included in the book. For both illustrations accept and talk about any responsible response. Let your child know that he/she can change his/her mind after hearing the story, and that is something good readers do when they learn new information.

During Reading The main story of Lily is probably best read aloud first, without reading the information at the beginning or end or at the bottoms and sides of pages. Save this for a future reading of the book. Be sure to talk about the pictures and how they relate to the story. Lily's aunt Frances talks about peoples' relationships with the land. She says, "People are clever. But sometimes we're not too smart.". Talk about what she means with your child.

After Reading Talk about what Lily may have learned from her Aunty and from Fog Woman. Discuss how her learning does or does not apply to the area where you live. Discuss how your family uses, yet respects, the forest. At another time, remind your child about this story and as you reread it, also read the informational text included on many pages. Depending on your child's age and interest, you may want to read only part of the information, saving some for later.

Parent guide for *Tongass: The Last American Rainforest*, a suggested parent read-aloud intended to accompany "Spruce" cultural curriculum unit.