

Reading for Information: Tlingit Oral Narratives

Strategy Focus: *Predicting, Marking the Text, Rereading, Paraphrasing*



Tlaagu Shkalneek: Old Story

Have you ever heard a Tlingit story? If so, it is likely the story you heard is over six thousand years old. That is really old. Writing wasn't even invented six thousand years ago. These stories survive because they were passed on to the children. When the children grew up they told the same stories to their children.

Learning from Tlingit Stories

Many years ago Tlingit children learned about their world through stories. The stories were like school. Tlingit children listened to their elders tell stories. Through the stories they learned about animals and hunting. They learned how to show respect for the people and nature. They also learned the history of their people. They learned who they are and where they came from. This was how children learned many things.

Even if you are not Tlingit, you can learn a lot from Tlingit stories. You can learn about animal behavior. You can learn how to make tools. You can learn how to cook salmon. You can learn how to treat others. Tlingit stories are full of important information.

Tlingit Stories and Ownership

Tlingit stories belong to the Tlingit people. These stories are the property of clans. Clans own their stories and their songs. You need permission from the clan to share their stories.



The Gift of Tlingit Stories

When you hear a Tlingit story it is a gift. You may be hearing a story that does not belong to you. This story may be over one thousand years old. The story might even tell about the history of the clan who owns it. Be sure to show respect for this gift. Listen with your heart. Show appreciation for the story teller.

Types of Tlingit Stories

- Oral Narratives
- Songs
- Dances
- Totem Poles

Tlingit stories come in many shapes and forms. You might hear a story about raven. This is an oral narrative. Some stories are told through songs and dance. Totem poles are also stories. The carved images tell about the past.

In your own words:

