

Small Number and the Old Canoe

Story Transcript: English and Squamish



Na na7 kwetsi s7íxwalh, Etsím Skw'eshím kwi snas. Nekw tsíyachisawánexw. Lhik' na wa kw'eshétsut. haw k'as ya k'esíwnitas Ta selsí7ls ta skw'eshétsuts.

Na wa ch'exwtím ta si7ls ta xepiyéwelh. Stl'i7s kwis húynexwas ti stsi7s. Na melh tsuntem ta ímats nam as kw'eshéts ta síiyays, nilh kwis ans ha7lh ta skwayl. Ta Etsím Skw'eshím iy ta síiyays na nam kw'eshétsut ch'it ta sta7w. An kex ta ha7lh skw'eshétsutswit.

Small Number is a five year-old boy who gets into a lot of mischief. He lives with his Grandma and Grandpa, who patiently put up with his antics most of the time. Today, Grandpa needs to finish carving a feast dish and decides that Small Number should go out and play with his friends. It is a beautiful, sunny, spring day, and the boys run down to play near the water. Everything they see sparks a new game, and Small Number's friend Big Circle suggests they see who can make a stone skip the farthest on the surface of the water. The boys quickly learn that for a stone to go far it needs to be smooth, flat, and oval shaped.



Na na7 kwetsi siyáʼys, Hiyí Shishi7ch kwi snas. Na heʼkwtas naʼm aswit tsexwíʼm ta smant kwis xwíxwitims na7 ta staḵw smen télnexwaswit wa swa7s smant naʼm as an xéta. Na melh yélxtas i7xw ta s7íxwalh kwi smant, stl'i7s ta smants kwis ans ts'els, an tsewás, timá tkwi kelúʼm.

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Ta Etsím Skw'eshíʼm na wa í7imesh ch'it ta staḵw ses men wa yélxtas ta yewáʼn ha7lh smant. Na xwiyaḵw'ántsut ta an tl'aḵt sáxwi7 ses men lhíkw'shen kwi stam as ses men txwneʼw ta eskwekwíʼn snexwíʼh. Ta snexwíʼh ta kwáyantem na7 ta sáxwi7. Na melh lhíxlsh ta Etsím Skw'eshíʼm ses wa xwíkwíntas ta st'uḵw'chus. Ses men kw'acháʼys ta snexwíʼh. Yamen kwis ans aaḵw, na7xw wa xwi7elwas. Iy kwis ans ha7lh ta na yélnexwas, na melh k'áytentas ta síyáʼys. Na melh mí tskw'átsutwit.

Small Number wanders far along the shore looking for a winning stone. He scrambles through tall grass and trips over something, falling headfirst into an old canoe hidden in the grass. Small Number stands up, rubbing his forehead as he looks around at the canoe. Even though his head hurts, he is very excited at his discovery and he calls out to his friends, who come running.



Na wa lhilhí7lsh wa shich'ántsutwit ta snexwílh, ses men tatsántaswit kwis ans tsewás. timá k'as an eskwekwín iy an hiyí. Na melh welkw'áls ta Etsím Skw'eshím, "Na7 way kw'in stélmexw wa emút wa iyáyulh?"

Ses men welkw'áls ta Hiyí Shichi7ch, "Na7 way txwnch7am kwi ses hiñ kwi ses chá7twilh?"

Na melh máynexwas iytsi swi7ka7úl-lh ta skw'shétsut. Na melh xwi txwtéta7nitaswit ta snexwílh, wa kwelkwálwenwit swat as kwi na ta7s.

The boys stand around the canoe, running their hands along its smooth shape. It looks very old and very big to them. Small Number asks, "How many people do you think it could hold?" Big Circle asks, "How many generations ago was it built?" The boys forget their previous game and spend a long time talking about the canoe and who might have used it.

Yalh ses mi t'eykw' ta kw'els ta Etsím Skw'eshím. "An chen kw'ákw'ay. Wi7ski nam chet t'ukw' kwis ilhen," na tsuntas ta síiyays. Ses men telnúmut iytsi nach' swi7ka7úl-lh kwis ans kw'ákw'ay imen.

As they are talking, Big Circle's tummy starts to growl. "I'm hungry. Let's go eat," he says to his friends. The other boys realize they are hungry too, and they all run back to the village.



Na melh tskw'átsut t'ukw' ta Etsím Skw'eshím. Ta si7ls, na wa ch'etxwántas ta lha7lhchs ta xepiyéwelh. Ses men k'ayt ta Etsím Skw'eshím ses men ta7úsem ta si7ls ses men kw'áchnexwas kwi ses xwuts'us, ses men welkw'áls, "Chexw eshán?" Na máynexwas ta Etsím Skw'eshím kwi ses xwuts'us. Na tsuntas ta si7ls kwi ses mekw'em ta snexwílh na7 ta áyalhkw, na tsut, "Chen mékw'em ta eskwekwín snexwílh na7 ta áyalhkw. Na7 lhkwun nách'awích syelánem!"

Small Number races home, where Grandpa is carving the surface of a huge wooden dish. Small Number is shouting excitedly and Grandpa looks up. He sees the bruise on Small Number's forehead. "What happened?!" Grandpa asks. Small Number has forgotten that he bumped his head and starts to tell Grandpa about finding the canoe: "I found an old canoe down on the beach! It must be at least a hundred years old!"



Na ns̄iyá7ms ta si7ls. “Chen télnexw kwetsi snexwílh. Na yexwt yewáń awíts txwnám ta i7x̄w ta snexwílh-chet. Na tá7stem kwen man iy ta ańus ekw’í7tels.” Hiyí sk̄walwens ta si7ls, na men wá7ew, “An nexwschá7twilh i7x̄w ta em7ímats kwen si7l. Kw’éna ta chánat snexwílh na7 ta s7átsus ta tl’aq̄taxan lam! I7x̄w ta na ta7stem kwi tiná7 tkwen sísi7.”

Grandpa smiles. “I know that canoe. It was once the fastest canoe in our village. It was built by my father and two of his brothers.” Grandpa proudly continues, “All the sons of my grandfather were known as great wood carvers. You know those three old totem poles in front of the longhouse? Each of them was built by one of my uncles. “



Iy kwi ses wa nam'ítut, skwálwen ta Etsím Skw'eshím, "En-stl'i7 kwins ch'etxwím ta snexwílh iy ta sch'etxw timá ten swa7ám. Kwayl as iy wilkw't chen kwen si7l kw'in as ta kwúpits iy ta ska7ks. Wayti ánus, chánat, xa7útsen, wayti kex."

That evening, just before falling asleep, Small Number thought, "I'd like to build canoes and totem poles just like my ancestors. I have to ask Grandpa tomorrow how many brothers his father had. Two, three, four, five or more..."

Swelkw'áls:

Eshán melh es kwelkwálwen ta Etsím Skw'eshím wayti ánus s7ekw'i7tels, wayti chánat ta s7ekw'i7tels iy k'as wayti kex ta s7ekw'i7tels kwa si7ls?

Question:

Why did Small Number think that his great-grandpa might have two, three, four, five or more brothers?