Small Number and the Basketball Tournament

Story Transcript: English and Sliammon

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The Basketball Tournament – Menathey

łaxłaxtən Mɛnaθey.

Menathey is a young boy who gets into a lot of mischief.

nɛ ƛamɛs kʷ qʷoxʷomiš hɛga šɛ tans ʔi ta qɛxs, Sosan.

He lives in Squamish with his mother and his older sister, Sosan.

hoy kʷ tɛwšɛms ʔi θo qaqsɛm kʷ toṫgatas čičuy ʔatə qaqsɛmawtxʷ.

After school, he goes with his friends to play at the Friendship Centre's gymnasium.

ʔɛłtən kʷ hɛhɛw ʔi čɛt ga tɛwšɛm kʷ namał.

There the boys first have a snack and then they do mathematics for half an hour.

tɛwšɛm kʷ tə̇tmɛʔɛm. hɛł ʔa ʔɛʔaǰusxʷəs.

Sometimes they do algebra in their workbooks, but usually they play mathematical games.

hɛł xatk̇ʷaʔəm ʔa ʔɛʔaǰusxʷas.

Menathey's favorite game is "Set".

hɛł kʷ xʷots ƛaʔay ʔi xʷot čɪgət.

He enjoys finding patterns faster than anyone else!

hɛł saystom tutəmtamiš, ƛɛʔɛƛkʷaʔəm ʔi ƛiqɛtas ta ṗaʔəč nɛ ta qaqsɛmawtxʷ.

What the boys like the most is playing basketball in the Centre's gym.

mos kʷa ta p̓aʔəčs ta qaqsɛmawt̓xʷ. piyɛnxʷɛgastəm ta čičuy.

There are four basketball hoops in the gym, which allows each group of players to use just a fraction of the court.

hɛɫ kʷa Mɛnaθey xʷot ƛɛƛay ʔi xʷot titol.

Menathey is the shortest boy in his group, but he is very fast.

xʷɛt kʷo xaƛs kʷ čɪgəts nam kespal. xʷɛt kʷo ti tutamiš.

He tries to hard to be as good a player as his best friend kespaul, who is the biggest boy on the team.

ti kʷasəm ƛɛƛxʷɛstawɫ ʔakʷ kʷalsəm qatᶿ qax qaymɪxʷ ʔi xaƛɛt kʷas qəmθotɛt.

A big half court basketball tournament will happen on Aboriginal Day and the boys want to enter it.

t̓axəmayɛ kʷakʷ čišɛtawɫ ʔi hoy kʷot čɛɫayɛ ʔa ʔanotəm skʷo qamɛts.

Each team must have six players, but only three players are allowed on the court at one time.

θiyɛtsayɛ kʷot qəmqəms Mɛnaθey.

There are only five boys in Menathey's group of friends.

ta:q kʷa gətasəm gayɛtas kʷ qəmθot. ʔi qʷalsəm t̓axmayɛ.

The boys start talking about who they might ask to be their sixth player.

qʷay Kɛspal, "šoʔotstəm kʷ xaxaɫ, ʔi ƛaʔay, ʔi čɪgət kʷ t̓oʈᶿɛʔəm.

Kespaul says, " We need somebody who is tall, fast, and a good shooter."

ʔi:mot hot kʷa tutəmtamiš. gət sa ga?

All the boys agree, but they cannot think of anyone to join their team.

θo kʷa hɛwt Mɛnaθey. hɛw kʷa ťo...səm.

When Menathey comes home, his mom notices that he is quieter than usual.

"čɪmčxʷ?" natəm kʷa tans.

"What happened?", she asks.

toxtoxost kʷ ga ta tans kʷənas čɪm ʔa xʷots nonpeganəm. qasəm kʷ ga tans. "čɪgət? xaxał? λaʔay? ʔi čɪgət kʷ ťottʰɛʔəm?"

After listening to Menathey's explanation, mom smiles: "Good? Tall? Fast? And a good shooter?

toxʷnɛxʷšot kʷʊnas gət.

I think we both know a person like that!

kʷʊtas ga ta qɛxs Mɛnaθey, Sosan. čɛʔət kʷa hohoǰuxʷas kʷ tɛwšems.

She looks at Menathey's sister Sosan, who is just finishing her math homework.

xʷot kʷot čɛq̇ť Mɛnaθey. ʔi ṗɛtʰostas tans. "xaλnomɛč nat kʷa."

"I love you, mom!" yells Menathey and hugs his mom tightly.

čɪmčɛ łɛw jɛʔɛhɛw, hotegən kʷa Sosan.

Sosan looks at them very puzzled.

qʷal kʷa ga qatʰ qɛy, "čɪm ga tatʰ qɛx, Sosan?" natəm Mɛnaθey.

The following day Menathey says to his friends, "why not ask my sister, Sosan?"

sałťxʷʔit!! natəm kɛspal. xʷotot nukʷǰɛm kʷ λukʷɛnas.

"But she's a girl!" says Kespaul, feeling his heart beating a bit faster.

"sałłtxʷʔit, ʔi xʷɛt xaxał, ʔi ƛaʔay, ʔi čɪgət kʷ i̇otθqɛnəm." hotɛw kʷa ta tutəmtamiš.

"Yes, she is a girl but she is also tall, fast, and a good shooter!" respond the rest of the boys in one voice.

hɛw ʔi motsəm Sosan kʷ qamɛts. xʷɛtsəm xʷa čɛmas ʔi qayɛwšt. θəmšɛsəm kʷums čɪčšitawł ʔi xʷa čɛmasəm ʔi qayɛwsšt.

"With Sosan playing with us," continues Menathey, "We can have twenty different teams on the court and nobody is ever going to get tired!"

xɛqʷosəm kʷa Kɛspal. "čɪmgaθ hoθot ʔa kʷɛn? čɪnɛłʔit ʔakʷ xʷɛt čɪgət. xaƛ kʷatθ hanəm ʔot qamɛt payɛ."

Kespaul scratches his head and says: "How can you calculate things like that? And, since I'm the best player, I have to play all the time!"

"opənayɛštʔit čɪčšɛtawł..... nigi ʔit xaƛnomɛs!" hot kʷa Mɛnaθey. čɛt kʷa ga ǰɪƛ łagaθot. xʷɛt kʷo xałɛt kɛspal. qasmɛtəm kʷo ʔakʷ qəmqəms.

"In that case, we can have ten different teams on the court....And she likes you too!" says Menathey as he runs away from a very angry Kespaul while their friends start laughing.

gayɛłtanč: čɪm ga toxnigit Mɛnaθey ga qəmtɛgas Sosən qʷalsa ga θəmšɛ kʷ čɪčšitawł?

Question: How does Menathey know that if Sosan were to play with him and his friends, they would be able to have twenty different teams on the court dduring the tournament?