

Growing in Knowledge

**COURAGE:** *Students discover how their faith is part of learning and of life.*  
Virtue of bravery in facing difficulties, especially in overcoming the fear of consequences in doing good.

**TIMELINE:** January

**READINGS:** Psalm 139: 1-2, 4, 7-10

**VIRTUES:** Detachment, determination, idealism, compassion, modesty, truthfulness, honour

**TEACHER REFLECTIONS:** How is the key message of “Students discover how their faith is part of learning and of life” reflected in your school/workplace, your role, and your personal life?

**SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMMING:**

**FIRST NATIONS/MÉTIS CONNECTIONS:**

**WE CELEBRATE:**

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:**

**STUDENT REFLECTIONS:**

## Prayer Liturgy for Schools

### **Gospel Value: COURAGE**

**Opening Song:** (see table of suggested songs)

**Leader:** Let us begin our celebration with the sign of our faith.  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray.  
Heavenly Father, you give us strength and help whenever we ask for them. Give us the courage to follow you, even if it seems difficult. Give us the courage to stand up for others and to do what is right. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us listen carefully to the Word of God.

*Readings should always be proclaimed clearly and loudly from a Bible or lectionary.*

**Reader 1:** A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
Do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm Response:** (from CBW III #118) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; who shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
Before whom I shall shrink?

**Response:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

There is one thing I asked of the Lord, for this I long  
To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my  
life,  
To savour in the sweetness of the Lord, to behold  
his temple.

**Response:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
In the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord.

**Response:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Choose one that is familiar to your school community.*

**Leader:** A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing is secret that will not become known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Leader:** *You may now share a few prepared reflections on the readings that were just proclaimed and how they relate to the school community.*

*Some points that you may wish to include are these:*

- *Standing up for what is right takes courage, but we are never alone! God's help and strength are available to us whenever we need them and ask for them.*
- *When we have the courage of our convictions, there is nothing to fear.*
- *Facing our fears and doing the thing that we feared is a good exercise to help us grow in our faith, hope and trust in God.*

**Leader:** Knowing how much God loves us and listens to our needs; we now bring those needs before God.

1. For all church leaders, called to speak fearlessly about their faith in God, we pray to the Lord.
2. For people throughout the world, who need people of courage to stand up for them, we pray to the Lord.
3. For our school community of \_\_\_\_\_, as we seek to know and follow Jesus more closely, we pray to the Lord.
4. For our own personal intentions that we hold deep in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

**Leader:**

Making what we hear and believe part of our everyday lives takes courage and faith. As a sign of our willingness to build up our community in this school, let us offer each other a sign of peace.

The community of Jesus' followers asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. He answered by teaching them to pray to their father in heaven and so we too can join in their prayer:

**All:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Leader:**

Let us pray.

O God of love and peace, you offer us encouragement and hope in our daily lives. Strengthen us in our commitment to Jesus, so that we may speak what we hear to others without fear. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:**

Amen

**Leader:**

May we be blessed as we go out to be loving disciples of Jesus. And may God bless us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:**

Amen.

**Closing Song:**

*(see table or choose another song which fits the theme)*

Music Suggestions (could work for either opening or closing)

Catholic Book of Worship III	Spirit and Song
This Day God Gives Me #650	The Lord is My Light #61
Be Not Afraid #481	How Can I Keep from Singing? #117
You are Near #487	Thy Word is a Lamp #211
For You are My God #483	We Gotta Love #144

# LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouses help ships at night by warning them of danger. Have you ever seen a lighthouse? It is most useful during a storm. Sometimes we have storms in our lives when troubles come our way. But God's light is always shining out to us through His Word, guiding us and giving us strength to keep sailing the stormy waters. Draw a boat coming into the harbor with the help of the lighthouse.



*They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Psalm 107:30*

# Daniel in the Lions' Den

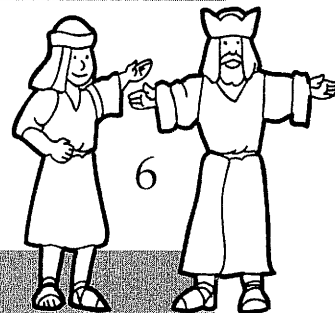
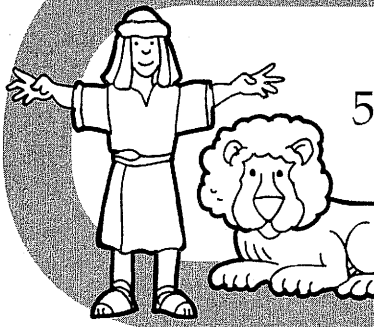
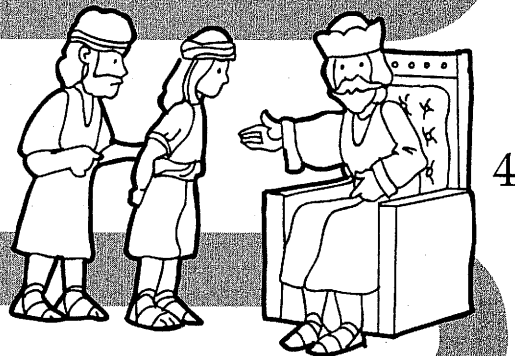
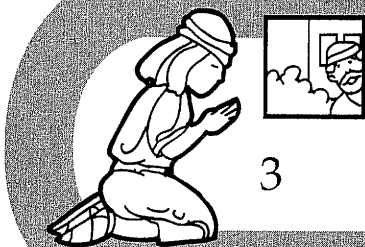
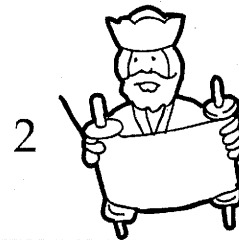
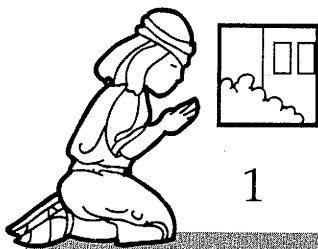
**Daniel 6:4-22**

## Follow the Path

Daniel was a very good man. He prayed to God every day (1). Follow the path to see what happened to Daniel because he prayed.

The king made a rule that whoever prayed to God would be put in a den with hungry lions (2). Daniel was not afraid. He still prayed to God (3). The king was very sad (4), but he had Daniel put in the lions' den.

God kept Daniel safe. God closed the mouths of the lions so they did not hurt Daniel (5). The king was very happy that God had taken care of Daniel (6).



**For the Teacher:** Use this maze to review the story of Daniel in the lions' den. The children may color Daniel in their mazes as well.

# David Serves God

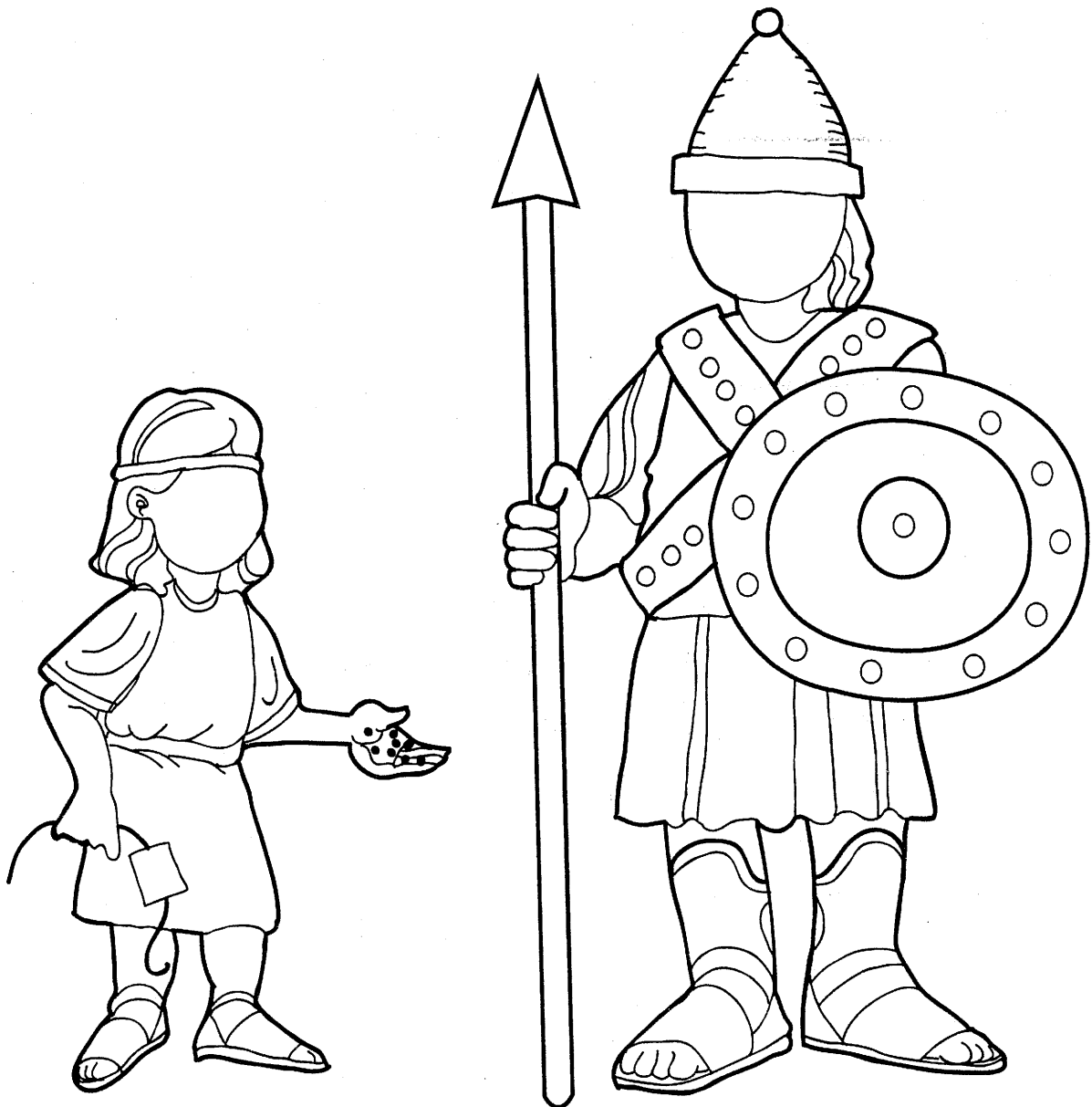
1 Samuel 17:1-51

## David Meets a Giant

A giant named Goliath made fun of God and God's people. The people were afraid to fight Goliath, but David was not afraid. David knew God would help him fight Goliath.

David took a slingshot and some stones and he killed Goliath. The people were very happy God helped David defeat their enemy. This story teaches us we should trust in God and not be afraid.

Draw a happy face on David. Draw an angry face on Goliath. Then color the picture.



**For the Teacher:** Discuss God's care and protection for us as you review the story of David and Goliath. You may wish to teach the children Psalm 56:3 as a memory verse. If the children do not know how to draw happy and sad faces, draw examples on the chalkboard for them to copy.

# Obeying God by What We Say

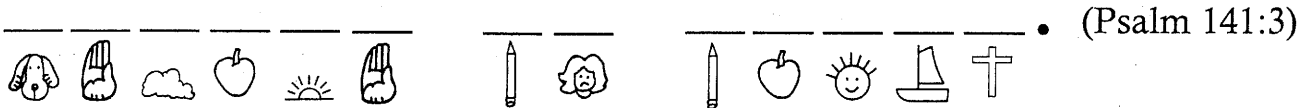
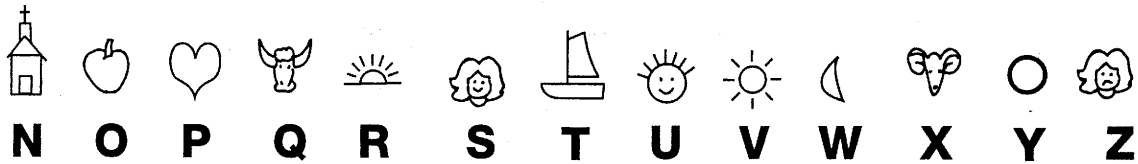
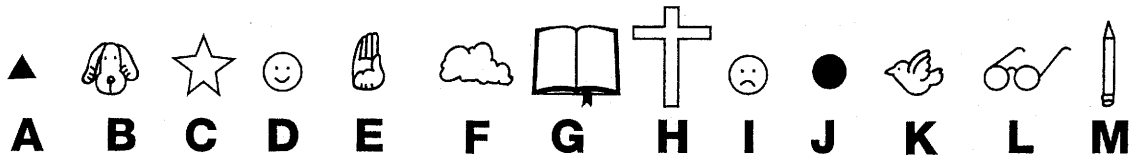
## Codes and Dots

### Psalm 141:3

The Bible says that what we say is very important. We can show people we love God and want to serve Him by what we say, or we can say mean and hateful things that hurt people.

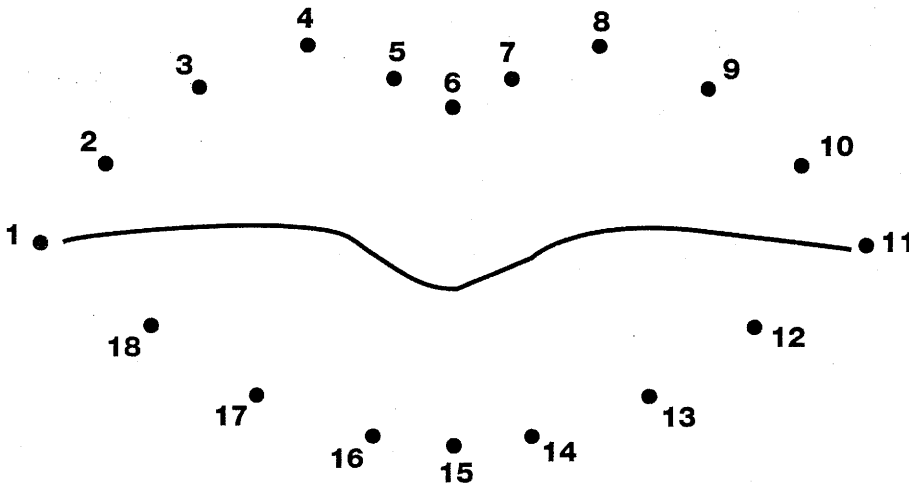
King David knew how important it was not to say the wrong things. He asked God to help Him say the right things.

Use the code to learn this special prayer David offered to God in Psalm 141. We should offer the same prayer to God.



Now connect the dots to find out what word finishes David's prayer:

Keep the door of my \_\_\_\_\_.



**For the Teacher:** Help the children understand what it means to set a watch on their mouths. Talk about some of the things the children probably would not say if God's "watch" was on their mouths. Close with a prayer in which the children ask the Lord to set a watch on their mouths. (Answers to the puzzles are on page 96.)

**First Nations and Metis Education Resources  
for the Gospel Value of Courage**

1. Goble, Paul, *Star Boy*, (ISBN # 0-689-714993-8)

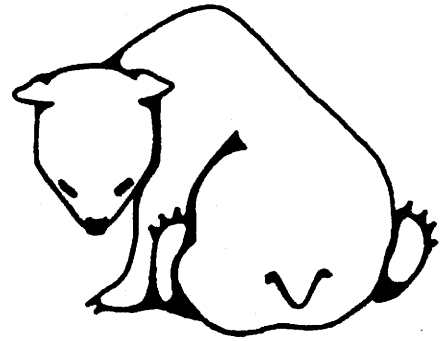
This book is available in the school libraries at:

- Bishop Klein
- Bishop Pocock
- Bishop Roborecki
- Georges Vanier
- Pope John Paul II
- St. Angela
- St. Bernard
- St. Dominic
- St. George
- St. John
- St. Marguerite
- St. Maria Goretti
- St. Mark
- St. Mary
- St. Matthew
- St. Peter

2. *The Learning Circle: Classroom Activities on First Nations in Canada* available from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

## ACTIVITIES

### 1. COAST SALISH STORY — CROW AND LITTLE BEAR



## CROW AND LITTLE BEAR

A long time ago, there was a crow who lived by a big river. It was a very big river, with a strong rushing current and fierce rapids. The river was full of fish, but the current was too fast for Crow to attempt fishing. If she got caught in the river, she would be swept downstream.

One morning, Crow awoke to find a little bear on the beach by the river. Little Bear was a stranger, and looked quite bedraggled. Crow watched Little Bear curiously. Little Bear spent several days lying on the beach, watching Crow. Crow spent her time sitting in a big tree, dreaming about the fish she could catch and watching Little Bear.

One day, Little Bear was crying. Crow saw this, so she flew down to the beach to see what the problem was.

"Hello," said Crow.

"Hello," said Little Bear.

"I'm sorry I didn't introduce myself sooner. I am quite shy," said Crow.

"That's okay," said Little Bear. "I am shy, too."

"Why are you crying?" asked Crow.

"I miss my home," said Little Bear. "I'm not from this part of the woods."

Little Bear explained how he had arrived at this beach. One fine sunny day, his parents had gone fishing. Little Bear had wandered off to find an adventure. What he found was a big river. Little Bear thought he would catch a big fish and bring it home to impress his parents. But as soon as he took one step into the swirling rapids, he was swept away downstream. He would have drowned if he had not grabbed onto a log. The log carried him far down the river, for days and nights, until he came to rest on the beach.

"So, that is how I ended up here," said Little Bear. "And I miss my home because there is such good fishing there."

Ahh haa, thought Crow to herself. Good fishing! Crow was always eager to find easier ways of fishing.

"Why don't you go home?" asked Crow. It seemed like a pretty obvious question.

Little Bear shook his head vigorously. "Oh no! I will never set foot in that river again!" Little Bear sat down and began to cry again when he thought of all the good fishing at his home.

Crow sat quietly until Little Bear finished crying. "I think I can get you home," said Crow.

"How?" asked Little Bear eagerly. Little Bear was running around in circles, he was so excited.

"It would involve climbing some trees and rocks."

Little Bear fell onto his rump and started to cry again.

"What's the matter now?" asked Crow.

"My parents tried to teach me, but I was never very good at climbing trees or rocks," said Little Bear. "I don't know how."

Crow shook her head. "That's not the right attitude, friend. Let's go give it a try."

Crow and Little Bear walked toward the mountain. When they came to the first set of big rocks, Crow flew to the top and called down, "Come on up, Little Bear."

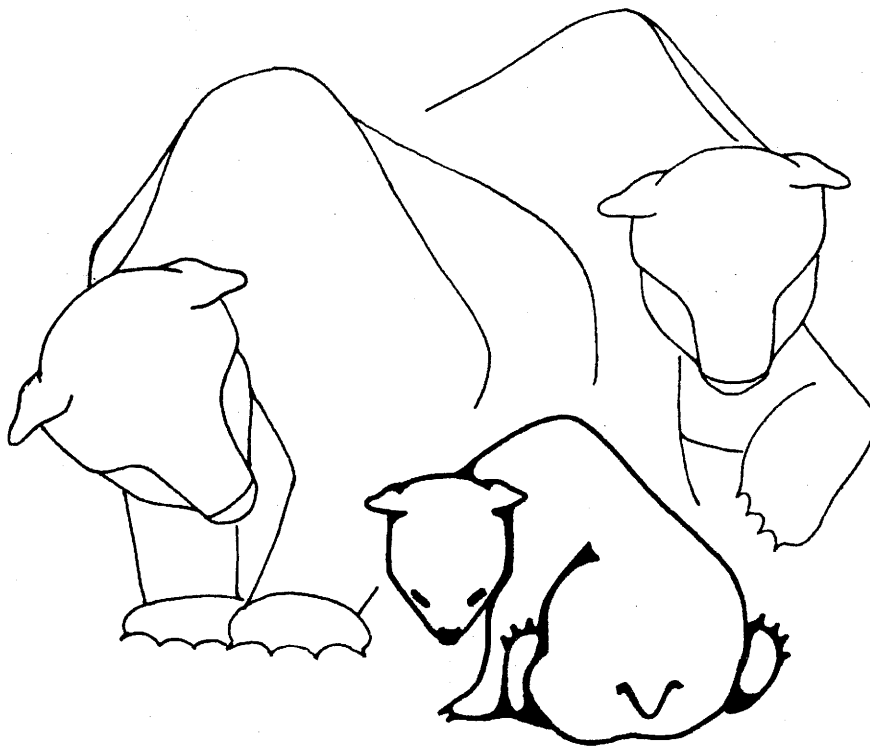
Little Bear jumped on the rock, and slid straight to the bottom. He jumped up and tried again, with the same result. Little Bear looked like he was about to cry again.

This could be harder than I thought, said Crow to herself.

Crow flew back to the beach, and filled her claws with sand. She spread the sand all over the rocks. "Try it now, Little Bear."

Little Bear shook his head. "No way," he said.

"It will be easier this time, Little Bear," said Crow. "I promise."



Little Bear hopped onto the rock, and to his surprise, he did not slide off. Slowly, he inched his way up the rock until he had reached the top. He and Crow celebrated. They began to make their way up the mountain, with Crow spreading sand on the rocks and Little Bear climbing inch by inch. By the time they reached the top, Crow was not using any sand at all.

"Congratulations," said Crow. "You did that quite well."

"My stomach is kind of sore," said Little Bear. "But I learned how to climb rocks!"

"You should never stop learning."

"I guess that is true."

They took a rest and gazed out at the scene. "I still can't see my home," said Little Bear.

Crow hopped onto the branch of a nearby tree. "If we climb up here, you will be able to see your home."

"I can't climb trees!" said Little Bear. Crow shook her head at him.

"Oh, okay. I'll try," sighed Little Bear.

Little Bear grabbed Crow's wing and hopped onto the first branch. He started to climb, but lost his hold and nearly fell out of the tree.

This could be harder than I thought, said Crow to herself.

"Little Bear, do you see this bark on the tree? Dig your claws into the bark. That is what you have claws for."

Little Bear was very scared. He tried digging one paw into the bark. To his surprise, he got a very good grip. Slowly, he became more confident in his claws, and he began to make his way up the tree. Crow hopped from branch to branch, encouraging him along the way. Finally, after a great deal of climbing, they reached the top of the tallest tree on the mountain. Little Bear was very excited.

"Thank you, Crow. Thank you for teaching me how to climb trees! And look, over there. There is my home!"

Crow looked to the lakes in the west where Little Bear was pointing. She could almost taste the fish.

"But how are we ever going to get from this tall tree to my home?" asked Little Bear.

"Little Bear, we are going to fly," said Crow.

"Crow, my friend, you have taught me quite a lot today. But I think you're getting a little carried away."

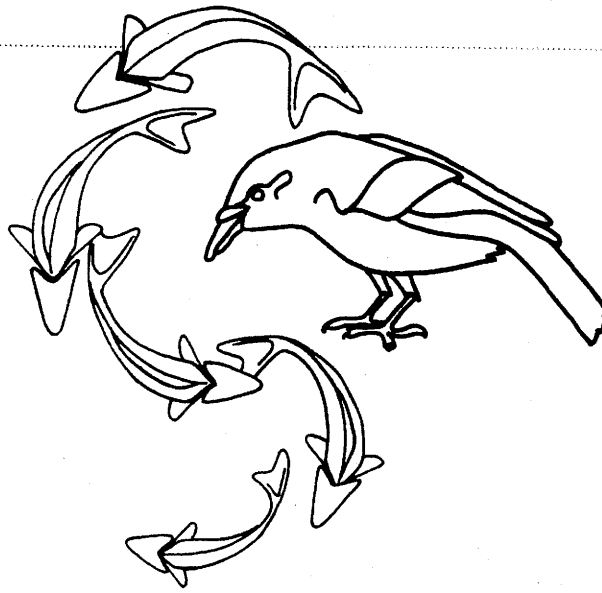
"Little Bear, trust me!" cried Crow. "Think of your home and all those tasty fish."

Bear closed his eyes and began daydreaming about all the fish in the lakes. As soon as he closed his eyes, Crow flapped her wing in the air and pushed Little Bear from the tree.

"Yooouuu puuushed meeeeee!" yelled Little Bear as he fell through the sky, legs flailing in the air.

Suddenly, Crow swooped below him and caught him on her back. "Wrap your arms around my neck or you'll fall off," she said.

Little Bear did as he was told. The shock wore off and he realized that he was flying. "Hey, we're flying!"



Little Bear was enjoying the flight. He looked around at the trees and lakes and the big river far below.

Crow kept her wings outspread as Little Bear clutched onto her neck. They flew along the wind currents, rising and falling as they drifted to Little Bear's home.

"Flying is pretty neat," said Little Bear.

"Yes, I guess I take it for granted," said Crow.

As they got closer to Little Bear's home, Crow was getting quite tired. "Little Bear, you are getting very heavy. I think we should land."

"Good idea, Crow. Take us by that lake. It is good fishing there."

Crow and Little Bear landed by the lake. As they stretched from their great journey, fish began jumping from the water in great numbers.

"Look at all those fish!" exclaimed Crow. She grew so excited that she dove into the lake, and began flapping around, trying to snap up fish in her beak. She splashed and spluttered, and did not catch one fish.

Little Bear began to laugh at his friend. "No wonder you are hungry all the time. Come here and dry off."

As Crow shook all her feathers, Little Bear crept to the shore of the lake. He knelt down and slipped his paw into the water. Little Bear began quietly to sing a song.

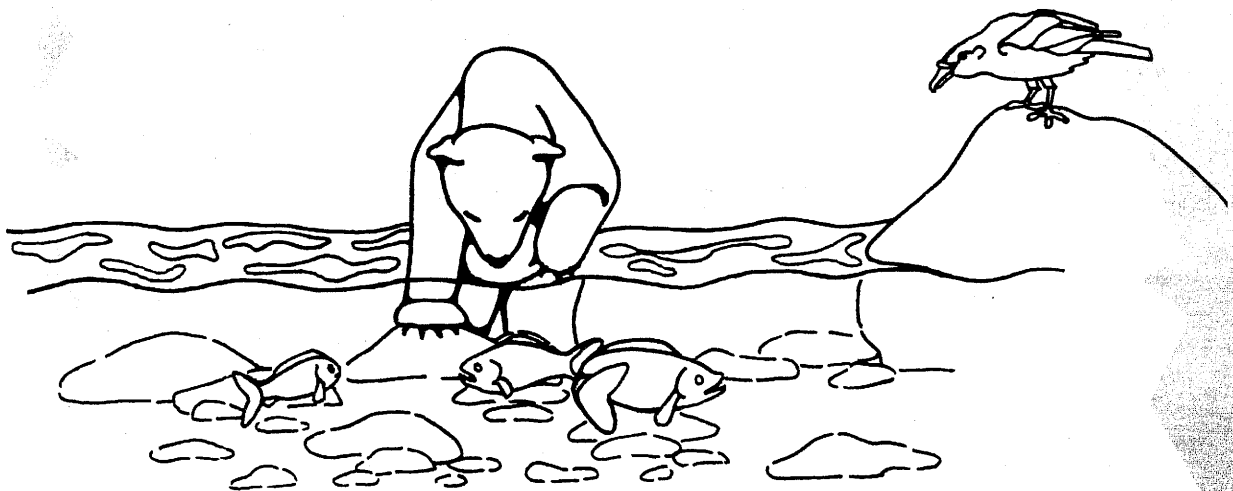
Crow watched Little Bear. He is taking an awfully long time, thought Crow to herself. Why is he just sitting there? I am getting hungry.

Suddenly, Little Bear scooped his paw and a large fish came flying out of the lake. Minutes later he repeated the action, and another fish landed on the shore. Little Bear turned to Crow and smiled. "That should be enough for dinner. We don't need any more."

The two friends had a meal of fish. "My father taught me that it is important to sing that song when I go fishing. It makes the fish sleepy," said Little Bear.

"Well, it is a much better way of fishing than my method," laughed Crow.

They ate most of the fish, and wrapped the rest as a gift for Little Bear's people. The pair travelled to Little Bear's home. Little Bear's people were overjoyed to see him again and they threw a huge feast for Crow. Crow was happy with Little Bear's people and the good fishing in the lake, so she decided to stay. She never went back to the big river again.



## 2. DISCUSSION — CROW AND LITTLE BEAR

After telling the students the story of “Crow and Little Bear,” ask them to talk about some of the themes of the story. Questions you may want to ask the students are:

- Would Little Bear have been able to make it home on his own? Why did he need Crow’s help?
- What did Little Bear and Crow learn from each other?
- How did Little Bear and Crow benefit from each other’s teachings?
- How did Little Bear feel when he first slipped off the rocks? How did Crow respond? Do you think this was a good way to respond?
- What did you learn from this story?



sharing