

## How the Raven took the Sun

drums

1. Gather round and listen closely *gather close together*  
In your tepees, by the campfire  
You shall hear a tale of wonder  
Of the world once dark and cold.  
How the Raven took the sun and  
Brought forth light to warm the people.  
Listen closely brothers, sisters,  
Listen closely tribes and nations.

2. Raven came so brave and cunning *boas/ feather fans*  
Bird of magic, myths and wonder *raven bird*  
Trickster, hero of the people  
Flew on wings as black as thunder.  
Bird of magic, bird of wonder  
Flew on wings as black as thunder.

3. Saw the world was wrapped in darkness *lights off/*  
Saw the sky was all in darkness *dark material*  
Saw the waters lay in darkness *over everyone*  
Men and woman lived in darkness  
Felt the coldness, felt the darkness  
All around was cold and darkness.

4. Raven's heart felt sad and heavy *icepacks*  
Seeing all the frozen people  
Heard the shivering of the pinetrees  
Heard the freezing of the water *sign 'cold'*  
Sounds of cold and words of darkness  
'Mini-wawa' said the pine-trees  
'Mudway-aushka!' said the water.

5. So it was that Raven helped them, *remove fabric*  
Brave and cunning, clever Raven.  
'I will help them' said the Raven *sign 'help'/'hot'/*  
'I will search for warmth and brightness *'light'*  
I will search for light and help them.  
Help the people, warm the people  
I will search for light and help them'.

6. Raven flew across the valleys  
Over hills and over mountains  
Flew along the winding rivers  
Flew along the lakes and marshes.  
Flying, flying, on and on  
Flew the Raven in the darkness.

gentle flapping of fabric

7. Then at last he saw a gleam, a  
Shaft, a beam of shining light.  
Raven flew; the light grew brighter  
Shining from the edge of water  
Gleaming, lighter, shining, brighter,  
Closer Raven flew and closer  
Til he saw the light was shining  
From the house of Mighty Sky Chief.

torches  
metallic instruments

8. Perched the Raven on a pine-tree  
High above the edge of water,  
Looking at the house of Sky Chief  
Wondered where the light was hidden.  
Saw a box of many colours  
In a corner bright and glowing  
Large and painted, bright and glowing  
Stood a box of many colours

explore large  
wooden box/  
wooden drums

9. Waited till the Chief lay sleeping-  
Soundly, sleeping Chief lay sleeping-  
Raven flew in, took the lid off  
Found a smaller box within it.  
Once again he took the lid off  
Found another box inside it  
Then once more he took the lid off-  
Light came flooding, gleaming, glowing  
Light poured from the ball within in.

continue exploring  
wooden boxes/drums

yellowballs/balloons  
with lights inside/  
pompoms

10. Blazing, blinding, ball of fire it  
Was the sun, this ball of fire, the  
Sun, the sun, the dazzling sun it  
Was the sun this ball of fire!

explore 'suns'!

11. Then the Raven, brave and cunning  
Plucked it from the box and took it  
In his beak and flew on upwards,  
Through the smoke hole in the Chief's house  
Through the smoke hole in the rafters  
Flapped his wings and flew up high, then  
Disappeared into the sky.

12. Raven flew across the valleys  
Over hills and over mountains  
Flew along the winding rivers  
Flew across the lakes and marshes  
Flying, flying , on and on  
In his beak the golden sun.

gently rock black  
fabric with 'sun'  
on top

13. Came at last back to the people-  
In the darkness were the people-  
Raven threw the sun up high  
From his beak into the sky.  
There it burned and blazed and shone, gave  
Light and warmth to everyone.

lights on!  
hot water bottles/  
fan heater

14. So it was that Raven came and  
Took the sun for all the people.  
Took the sun and threw it high to  
Warm the world and light the sky.  
Gather round from all your teepees  
Gather round the campfire burning  
Thank the Raven, brave and cunning  
For his gift, the sun up high.  
Thank him well my brothers, sisters,  
Thank him well all tribes and nations  
Thank the Raven for the sun which  
Lights the world for all the people.

drums

& gather close  
together

THE END

*A trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest by Gerald McDermot  
Rewritten by Jill Reeves  
(In Trochaic tetrameter, in the style of Longfellow's 'Hiawatha')*