

How the Raven Stole the Sun a Haida myth

A long time ago, Raven was very hungry. But as hard as he tried, he could not find any food because the world was so dark. Up above in the heavens, a powerful chief kept the sun in a box all to himself and refused to share it with anyone. So one day Raven set out on a journey to bring sunlight to the earth.

Raven decided to trick the chief by sneaking into his house and stealing the sun. When Raven discovered that the chief's daughter went to the spring every day for water, he changed himself into a leaf and floated into her cup. But as she began to drink, the chief's daughter eyed the leaf with suspicion and threw the water back.

The next day, Raven changed himself into a pine needle, and tried to fool the chief's daughter once again. But as soon as she picked up her cup, she saw the pine needle and tossed it out. Finally, Raven turned into a grain of sand so tiny, that when the chief's daughter dipped her cup into the spring and drank her fill, she never knew that she had swallowed Raven!

Later the chief's daughter was surprised to learn that she was going to have a baby. Soon the baby (who was really Raven) was born. The chief and his daughter grew to love the child and did everything they could to make him happy. But no matter what they did, the baby cried and cried. The chief gave him every toy imaginable to play with, but still he cried.

Each day the baby grew more and more unhappy. Finally the baby screamed and wept for the carved wooden box in which the sun was kept hidden. Reluctantly, the chief opened the box and gave the baby the ball of light to play with. But the moment the chief opened up the box, the baby turned back into Raven. He flew up through the chimney, carrying the sun away in his beak.

The chief was furious for being tricked. He chased after Raven, far into the heavens. The sun was very heavy, and in order to fly faster, Raven broke off some pieces and threw them into the sky. These became the moon, the stars, and the planets.

The chief was getting closer and closer to Raven, who began to tire from his heavy load. Finally right before Raven got to earth, he threw the rest of the light ball into the sky. With a flash of light that filled the universe, it became the sun. All the creatures of the earth rejoiced because for the first time, there was enough light to find food.

From carrying the sun on this long journey, Raven's body was completely scorched and that is why his feathers are black today.

The **exposition** introduces the characters and the conflict: Raven sets out to get the sun.

Rising action develops the conflict: Raven tries to enter the chief's home and find the sun.

Climax: Raven grabs the sun and flies off.

Falling action: Raven creates the moon, stars, planets, and places the sun in the sky over earth.

Resolution: Earth's creatures are delighted to have light.