
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

UNDER SUPERVISION OF MISS M. V. GAITHER, *Principal*

INDIAN LEGEND—THE CROW AND HIS SERVANTS



ONCE upon a time the crow set out on a long journey to go up to the source of the Nass river, traveling up one side of the channel and down on the other side, and a number of things occurred on his journey. Just as he was going along he saw a king salmon close to the shore and said to the salmon, "You can't jump into that hole in the rock which is full of water." He laughed and teased the salmon, until finally it made the jump and went into the hole; the crow danced with joy, for he knew the salmon could not get out again. So he killed the salmon.

He took the fish a little further up on a sandy beach and began to gather wood and called together his servants—the squirrel, the robin and the bluejay—to get some skunk cabbage leaves to bake the salmon in. He directed the servants to a wrong place; meanwhile he was busy gathering wood and digging a place in which to bake the fish. The servants returned saying they could not find any skunk cabbage leaves. He sent them still farther, but during their absence he got the leaves himself and baked the fish. He began to eat the fish near a big stump on the beach; he said to the stump, "Say, partner, how would you like to have some of this delicious fish?" He kept on teasing the stump until the stump commenced to move toward the fish and at last rolled on top of the salmon and the crow did not know what to do.

The servants now returned from their second trip and he told them that the stump had rolled upon the salmon; all the servants went under the stump and ate a hearty meal; this made the crow very angry and when the squirrel came out he struck him on the head and ever since then the squirrel bears a tear mark; when the bluejay appeared he pulled his hair and since then he has had a bunch of feathers sticking up on the top of his head; and when the robin came out he put the robin close to the fire and scorched his breast; since then the robin has had a red breast.—Paul Kininnook, Senior; Thlinget Tribe, Alaska.