



# Gunalchéesh, Yéil!

Flesch-Kincaid level 4.3



Goldbelt Heritage Foundation  
3200 Hospital Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

# Yéil khaa Ganook's Heeni Raven and Petrel's Water



**Told by Frank Dick Sr. in Tlingit in 1983**  
Transcribed and Translated by Fred White, November 2012  
Adapted for the classroom

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Yéil let the héen go and it became the  
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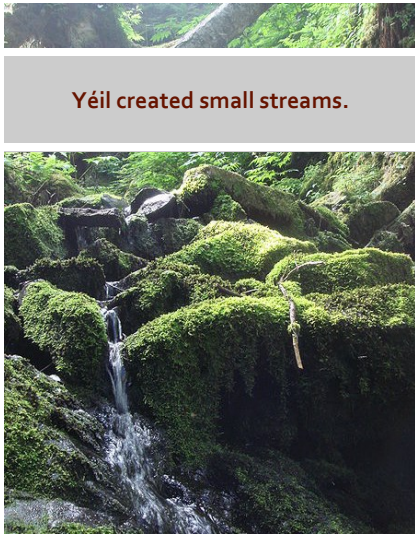


Then Yéil flew off on another adventure.

From up north and to the south Yéil flew.

To the north the Copper River was created. On the other side, the Alsek and Taku Rivers came to be. Yéil created all of the rivers.

The héen that dripped from Yéil's mouth became the small streams.



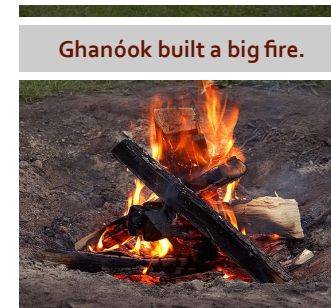
Yéil created small streams.

## Yéil khaa Ganook's Heeni Raven and Petrel's Water

# Tlingit Vocabulary

<b>Yéil</b>	Raven
<b>Ghanóok</b>	Petrel
<b>Goon</b>	Spring Water
<b>Héen</b>	Water
<b>Natá</b>	Sleep
<b>Tláakw</b>	Hurry
<b>Gán ká Yeigí</b>	Smoke hole Spirit
<b>Xháan</b>	Fire
<b>S'éikh</b>	Smoke
<b>T'óoch'</b>	Black
<b>Éil ká</b>	Ocean

Ghanóok built a big fire. He made Yéil beg for mercy. After Yéil begged every which way, Ghanóok let him go and he escaped through the smoke-hole.



Yéil was white before Ghanóok built that fire under him. The sap wood smoldered and smoked. The soot from the fire made Yéil turn black as he was being held in the smoke-hole by the spirits.

“Hurry, hurry, hurry!” thought Yéil. Right when Yéil was flying up towards the smoke-hole, Ghanóok woke up.

“No!” Ghanóok screamed out, “Grab him, my smoke-hole spirit!”

That is why the smoke-hole sprit grabbed White Yéil. It grabbed him and he was stuck.

Yéil was hanging in midair. He was stuck in the smoke-hole.

Ghanóok had no mercy for his brother-in-law. He decided to build a fire under him.

Long ago no one had any héen.

No one had any héen because Ghanóok kept all of the héen for himself.

Ghanóok guarded the héen day and night.



*Ghanóok kept all of the water for himself.*

Yéil heard Ghanóok's héen was a spring.

This irritated Yéil and so he travelled there in his canoe.

He travelled to visit Ghanóok, his brother-in-law.

Yéil walked up to Ghanóok and said, "I'm just lonely, my brother-in-law, just lonely. I have come to see you. It's just lonely being alone."



*Yéil walked up to Petrel and said, "I'm lonely, my brother-in-law, just lonely. I have come to see you..."*

Yéil began to fuss over his brother-in-law.

When Yéil finished feeding his brother-in-law he said, "Let's lay down, my brother-in-law and tell stories to each other. Just any little thing."

So now, Yéil has his mind set on putting his brother-in-law to sleep.

Ghanóok is finally so tired he can't keep his eyes open.

Yéil said, "Don't go to sleep my brother-in-law. I am lonesome for you. This is why I have come to visit you. I am going to be leaving pretty soon."

After some time Ghanóok fell asleep. Then Yéil rushed over to the héen. He pulled the cover off and started to drink as much as he could.