

Gunalchéesh, Raven!

Flesch-Kincaid level 3.0

DRA 20



Goldbelt Heritage Foundation
3200 Hospital Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801

White Raven and Water

A Play Based on Tlingit Raven Stories told by Willie Marks

By Nora Marks Dauenhauer



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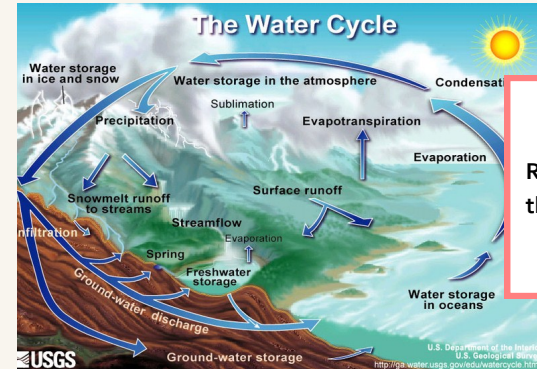
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This water flows in a circle. That's why it never runs out. This is how we got water in the world, and this is how Raven invented the **hydrogen cycle**.



Raven created the water cycle.

Raven was so hungry after getting all the water in place that he started walking along the beach, looking for something to eat, thinking, "Who shall I go see next?"

He flew away.

Gaa! Gaa!

[Exit, with Raven Song, "Du yaa kanagoodi"]

While he was spinning it like a wheel, he spit water on it as it turned. He spit out the water that he still had left in his mouth.

After he spit the water onto the wheel, he rolled the wheel holding the water over the side of the mountain.



Raven
created
waterfalls

The wheel released the water as it fell. This is how Raven made the waterfalls on the mountainsides.

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Vocabulary

- dehydration
- preoccupied
- gingerly
- sheepish
- billowing
- sapwood
- transcribe
- hydrogen cycle

An idea! “I’ll spit some out!” he thought.

Maybe the water he spit out made the first rivers, the huge rivers coming down from the north: the Yukon, Copper, Alsek, Chilkat, Taku, Sitkine, and the Nass.



The Stikine River.
Photo by Sam Beebe

But when he was naming them, who wrote it all down? Was there someone there with a pencil and pad to **transcribe** his story?

Anyway, this is how Raven spit out the rivers by mouthfuls throughout the world. Then he designed the waterfalls pouring from the mountains.

Raven thought, “How shall I design the falls?” An idea! He gathered the mountain ferns called Shaa Luka Leet’i in Tlingit. Then he wove them into a wheel.

Ganook continued to smoke him. He piled his wood on high. Only after Raven was so black, like a hunk of coal, Ganook said, “Spirit Over My Fire, Let Raven go, let him go.”

With the last of his strength he flew away, looking like a hunk of coal in the air. By this time he could hardly hold the water in his mouth.

He thought, “I’ll try to hold the water even if some of it dribbles.” He dribbled from his beak. These dribbles from the corners of his beak made the streams in Southeast Alaska. This is what became the streams.



Raven
created
streams.

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Characters

- Storyteller (the only speaking role)
- Actors/dancers wearing mask & wing costumes
- Raven, first in white, then Black
- Ganook, a petrel

Music

- Raven Song, “Du Yaa Kanagoodi”

Props

- Bottles of soda
- Dog doo-doo in a tube (real or fake) or dog mess (real or fake)
- Water wheel made from roots
- Bentwood box water container
- Black gauze for the smoke

Storyteller:

White Raven, walking along a beach: he was looking for water.

He knew there was no water. There was never any water anywhere for people to drink, but he thought he'd look anyway. Only after it rained, would people get to drink water.

But there was someone who was known to have water. The one person who had water was Ganook. Ganook lived out on Deikee Noow.



Ganook had all the water.

But Deikee Noow was waaaaaay out there on the Great Ocean. He was Raven's brother-in-law and the grandfather of the Alaska Native Birds.

Raven paced back and forth on the beach. Every now and then he looked out at Deikee Noow. Raven: "How can I get out there?" And then- an idea!

It was tough for Raven, especially when the smoke was **billowing** up. His eyes started to water. His eyes were running, and he wanted to sneeze from the smoke.

He was inhaling smoke, and he wanted to cough so badly. But he thought, "I've got to keep the water, for my grandchildren."

Over the smoke hole he flapped. He kept on flapping. He thought: "Oh! That smoke! Won't he ever stop putting on the **sapwood**?" He just flapped there.

The White Raven was flapping. You know, Raven was white before Ganook's fire. He was originally white.

He had the water in his mouth and inside of him. He held it in his mouth with all his might while he was flying at the smoke hole.

It was very difficult to hold the water. His eyes were bulging from the pressure. It was tough for him. But it was for all the people and for the world so that everyone and all the animals could drink fresh water.

He stuck his head in and with all his might, glug, glug, glug, glug, he gulped as much water as he could. He swallowed the first of it.

Just picture skinny Raven drinking all this water. He was very skinny, you know.

While he was still gulping the water, Ganook threw open the door, yelling at Raven, "Are you at it again? Are you at it again? Are you? My precious water! You never stop, do you? You doo-doo butt Raven!"

At that, Raven flew out the smoke hole. Gaa! Ganook at the same instant yelled, "Grab him, my Smoke Hole Spirit! Grab him!"

The Spirit at the Smoke Hole grabbed Raven. Although he flapped his wings, he couldn't move. He flapped his wings in one place. He kept on flapping there at the smoke hole.

Then Ganook built a fire under him. He used pitch soaked wood because it makes good smoke.

Raven: "I think I'll go out there on a trip to see my brother-in-law Ganook." Raven flew waaaaay out there.

Nearly dead from **dehydration**, Raven landed on Deikee Noow. He was so weak he almost collided with his brother-in-law.

He said to Ganook, "Hey, Pardner! How are you? I'm just out here on a small vacation. I asked for administrative leave. I have a paid vacation, but I didn't get any per diem. Can I stay with you?"

Ganook hardly said a word.

He would do a "harrumph" once in a while. In fact, he wouldn't talk to Raven at all.

Raven thought, "He has an attitude problem." No matter what Raven said to him, he didn't answer.

He stayed by his water. He was **preoccupied** with his water. All he did was sit on the lid of this marble container for his water.

At times he would sit by the container, but her never left it.

Once in a while he would stand by it to stretch a little, hanging on to the lid just to make sure the lid of the water was on straight and that no one bothered it.

Still thirsty, Raven thought, "How can I get that water?" He was soooooo thirsty. His mouth felt like it had a coat of glue inside.

He imagined Perrier in green bottles, spritzers in all flavors, Italian sodas, Birch beer, root beer, and Tummy-water.

He wanted Ganook to get up from his water and leave the marble container so he could open the lid and have some. He thought, "I must get the water."

An idea!! While Ganook was asleep, Raven brought in some dog doo-doo. Holding the dog mess **gingerly**, he smeared the bottom of Ganook with it.

Raven thought: "I hate to do this, but I've just got to have some of that water."

The doo-doo smelled. In fact, it was the smelliest smell ever.

Then he started to shake Ganook by his shoulder to wake him from his sleep. Raven turned his head away from the smell of the doo-doo.

Raven kept telling him, "Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Pardner! Pardner! Wake up! Hey! Wake up!" Ganook slowly opened his eyes, looking up at Raven.

Raven continued, "You did something there! It's all over your bottom and it smells bad! Yuck! Yuck! Yuck! Yuck! Hey, Pardner, You have to go out and clean yourself up! You got a problem there! It's gross! I think you should go outside and wipe it off!"

Ganook was **sheepish** and embarrassed.

Raven: "Pew! Yuck!" Raven gagged at the smell. This was when Ganook went outside to wipe the doo-doo off. Even he could hardly stand it. He was gagging, too.

As soon as Ganook went out, Raven, avoiding the smear on the lid, grabbed the lid off the water and threw it aside.