Deeltsa-aa
Dil-aa
K'idonheelttaan

[Image: Drawing of a rat drinking from a bowl]
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Allakaket, Alaska

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Deeltsa-aa Dil-aa K'idogheeltaan
Deeltea-aa Dil-aa K'idogheitaan is a make-believe story. It is especially written for use in the schools and so the story moves slowly. Of course, it is also written for everyone's enjoyment.

Since the author was born and raised in Allakaket, the story will sound like the upper-Koyukuk dialect of Central Koyukon Athapaskan. The letter "y" is pronounced as a soft "gh" and "y" as a soft "h" for the upper-Koyukuk area, but remain as a "y" and "y" for the Yukon River area.

Hope you enjoy it.

Kusga - David Henry
The Mouse Saves His Uncle

There was a mouse who lived in a house with his wife. They lived together with their children underground. Light only came in from the doorway. Their doorway is where the light comes in.
There's a path going across to where an old lady lived. There was a lot of good food there and the father mouse knew it.

Everyday he goes out and hunts. The next morning he got up and went out. He went across. And as usual he goes to that house.
He came up in the corner of the floor. He stops and looks both ways, and he listens but ... There was no noise. Now is my chance to look around, he was thinking. He kept running around back and forth while listening.

A stool was setting there so he looks and looks at it. This is the way I'll go up, he was thinking.
After he tried he suddenly jumped up. He jumped up on the table. He sees good Indian ice cream right there in a bowl. He ran to it, Oh Boy! I'll eat some real good Indian ice cream, he was thinking.

He starts to eat it. He eats and he eats. He got filled up. His belly is full, I guess.
How scary! How will I jump down, he was thinking. He started to worry. How am I going to jump way down there, he was thinking. He saw a stool setting there and ran to it. So he jumped down. Then he jumped from the stool to the floor. I'll go home, he was thinking. He ran to the hole in the corner.

Huyił dogo zo bil-aa baanga k'aatł'ohuyee atłtaan. "Sil-aa, eełò do-eendiyou?" yiłnee.

Haa! I was starting to get food for my kids, he was thinking. So he started to turn around. He went back. He went to the place where there was food. Right there was a stick. He started to jump on it. Then he ran to the end of the stick.

Right there was his uncle down in the bottom of the can. "My Uncle, what are you doing there?" he said to him.

Ts'uh gheel nidaats'a haahaa.lu-an yooyaga huts'in' no-ooghtlkoot yoodnee. Ts'uh yineel-aan. Huyił, Haa! Haa, Tłaa, sildon' kaa oko notaghasdol, yeenaaldleen'.

He started to holler to him. "This is the place I went for food, I fell into this can. I don't know who set this trap," his uncle was saying. "Save me. You should try someway to save me," he was saying.

I wonder how I can get him out of the bottom of the can, he was thinking. So he was looking at him. Haa! Haa, Wait, I'll go for my family, he was thinking.
So he hurried after them. He told his family. Then he went back over with them.

They all came to where the stick was. They put another one along side the first stick. One by one, they carefully went to the end of the stick. Their father was also standing at the end of the stick.
Ts'uh k'eełak'ee tłaaho eeyit neeneeyo. Ts'uh eeyidee lo' ootun' dahoon k'idin koon eeyit neeno-eediyo. Ts'uh neélo' heelkik, neélo' heelkik. Ts'uhuyít k'udaa yooyah baanga k'aatluh huk'a neehanaaneek'it ts'i dahaadiyoh.

Ts'uh go yooyaga baanga k'aatluh nee-eeltl'idee gheel k'udaa dil-aa oolneek. Ts'uh k'udaa t'leegho hoozoon ts'in' yinolneek. Dahoon k'udaa, "Siyił notuhteey," nee.

First, one went in there. Father was holding his hand as another came up. They were holding each other's hands. They hung like a human chain down into the can.

The one near the bottom of the can took hold of his uncle. He took a good hold of him. The uncle said, "Pull me out."
Ts'uh k'udaa haats'ahooneek ts'a hayiyił notaalneek. Neel yił hatidneey. Ts'uh gheel k'udaa honaahayagheetts'ok.

Ts'uh gheel k'udaa go dikin tłeega doyaga' haats'ahooneek ts'ìn' hanoheedidaatl. K'udaa yooyah neenoheedidaatl.

Ts'uh sots'eey kuh aahaa gheel k'udaa yineel heeditooy. Ts'uh k'udaa gideetiya sots'eey kuh hoolaan ts'uh habinogh too hoolaan koon go k'udaa hadil-aa k'idohagheettaan ts'ìn'.

Then they carefully pulled him. They were pulling each other. Then they finally pulled him up.

They carefully started down the stick. They all got down.

They hugged each other for joy. They were so happy that they had tears in their eyes because they had saved their uncle.
Ts'uh gheel k'udaa hanahadeedidaatł. Dahoon k'udaa habil-aa hoghoditaalnee'. "Yagalaa, ee k'udaa k'inuh-eey da', yoogh nidaan da' yohghon ghatoltsuł," hułnee gheelhee.

Go-is k'udaa.

Then they started back. Their uncle started to give them advice from his own experiences. "See there, if you steal, someday you will get punished," he was saying.

That's all.