K'I'I TR'IHTSAL
(Birch Bark Canoe)

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Kutchin Athapaskan
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Jok et'ee shreenyag.
Joe dizhehk'ag kwaii haa van vee gwigwich'ij.
Joe et'ee Johnny nats'ag k'ii tr'ihtsal tr'ahtsii,
geekhoqghchyaag.
Ch'adaj' Moses tr'ih ee'ji' k'it t'eeheechy'aa.
Joe nats'ghts'ag' k'ii tr'ih tr'ahtsii gaaheendaii,
geekhoqghchyaag.
Johnny ts'å' Joe haa k'ii
tr'igilii aat'oo ts'an.

Shreenyaa gwiizhik gwizhrijh k'ii
gwats'an tr'irilii gwinzji t'oonchy'aa.
Jok jyaa doonchy'aa gwiizhik
aat'oo datthak daaky'aa.

Joe dizhrii jiinin t'åghchyy'aa.
Johnny k'ii ointa'.
Joe k'ii ahkhaa.
Shreets'gii khaah ointq'.
Tł'ohnts'gii izhik k'ii ointq'.
Jok et'ee Joe k'ii van zhit nahtraa.
Jyghts'q' et'ee k'ii datlök ts'q' k'eerahkaii eenjit vagwantrii kwaa.
Aii gwiizhik Joe tr'ih eenjit dachan ts'ik ahtsii.
Aii dachan ts'ik tr'ih dachan anahchaa.

Aii dachan ts'ik ts'iiiviighat haa tr'ih dachan anahchaa.
Aii dachan ts'ik et'ee dinleetthak nakwäjj ahchya."
Aii dachan ts'ik nihlehan shriit'ahthee
tr'ih dachan kat gaht'il.
Aii dachan ts'ik tr'ih tr'oohetai' hah'yaa.
Joe et'ee khaiinjii dachan ts'ik ehdaa tr'iijinjik.
Tr'injaa naj k'i k'eegaahkaii tr'ihtsal dachan kat.
Tr'injaa nihk'iitik naj k'i k'eegaahkaii, tr'ihtsal dachan kat.
Tr'injaa naj k'eech'agaahkaii gwiizhik gogwaandak ts'a' needlokgahahkak.
Aii gwiizhik Johnny kii hachan hilii.
Tr'ih ts'a' niiyit kwaa kii khadanlii.
Kii lat kwaii nidii ts'a' kii lat kwaii chan nidzik.
Yeenii gwindhat dai', Moses ditr'ii eenjit kii khadiinli'.
Jok Johnny kii kwaii tr'ihtsal zhilii.
Tr'ihtsal aii th'h'ai il'traa.
Aii kii kwaii tr'ihtsal agaij gwiizhik gwinziij gwik'it teehaky'uu geenjit t'inchy'aa.
Aii gwiizhik Mary dzihtł'uu tr'ihtsal eenjit oonjii yeenii gwindhat nats'ąą
Sarah deeye'ąą gwik'it.

Martha aii vaa tr'iinin
tr'eeghwaa zhit dhichįį.
Aii vaa tr'iinin tr'eeghwaa
Mary vanah'įį da'aiįį.

Vaa tr'iinin tr'eeghwaa t'ee dachan ts'ąą chan gwach'aa
haa iltsąįį.
Mary dzihtł'uu k'iik'ik tyåh zhilii.

Dzihtł'uu tyåh zhit k'iizhak shrii haa adhoo.
Jok et'ee tr'ihtsal dhagaji.
Johnny tr'ihtsal zhit kii kwaii khanili.
Joe ts'g' Johnny haa tr'ihtsal k'iizhak neegah'ee.
Tr'ihtsal ūyaa nidi kwaq.
Johnny t'ee Moses vitr'ihtsal tr'ookit ee'i' et'ee ūee
k'it t'inchy'aa ti' yuunyaa.
Jok et'ee Mary dzihtł'uu t'ąąhch'y'aa.
Aii dzihtł'uu tr'ihtsal k'eełkaj' gwinjik
yałagwaht'aa.
Mary vahan geeyułtin nats'aa k'ii tr'ih
k'eełkaj' gwinjik łagwarah't'aa.
Mary shrii haa dzihtł'uu tr'ih k'eełkaj' gwinjik Łagwaht'an.
Ty'ah zhit dzihtł'uu iłkajj ointą'.
Jok et'ee khaiunjii trihtsal ʔehdaa triiijjik.
Joe vakatdaraadii triih zhiliii.
Vakatdaraadii neekwajj triih zhit t'inchy'aa.
Et'ee tr'ihtsal iltsaij.
Tr'ihtsal jok t'ee chuuy zhit dhitin.

Johnny tr'ihtsal zhìt dhidii.
Johnny łyaa "K'II TR'IHTSAL NIZJI", jyaanyaa.
Juu datthak tr'ihtsal nizij eenjit shoo nilij.
Johnny nijok gwagh'in kwaa chy'g, datthak ditr'i' haa k'eeheekok.
Now it is Springtime.
Joe and his family are camping by the edge of the lake.
Joe will show Johnny how to make a birch bark canoe.
It will be a canoe like Moses used to have.
Joe remembers how to make a birch bark canoe.
He will teach Johnny how to make a birch bark canoe.

Page 2
Johnny and Joe are peeling the bark from the birch trees.
The Spring is the best time to peel the bark.
At this time there is more sap in the trees.
Joe is using his sharp knife.
Johnny is holding the birch bark.

Page 3
Joe is hitting the birch bark to loosen it.
He is holding the beater in his right hand.
He is holding the bark in his left hand.

Page 4
Now Joe is wetting the bark in the lake.
This makes the bark soft and easy to sew.

Page 5
The women are sewing the bark together.
They are using spruce roots and bone needles.

Page 6
Meanwhile Joe is making the ribs for the canoe.
He is tying the ribs to the canoe frame.
He is tying the ribs with spruce roots.

Page 7
The canoe ribs are two fingers wide.

Page 8
The canoe ribs are one foot apart in the canoe frame.
The ribs will make the canoe strong.
Joe is almost finished making the ribs.

Page 9
The women are sewing the bark to the canoe frame.
There are six women sewing the bark to the frame.
The women are talking and laughing as they sew.
Meanwhile Johnny is collecting rocks. He is piling the rocks near the canoe. Some rocks are heavy and some are light. Many years before, Moses piled rocks for his canoe.

Now Johnny is putting the rocks in the canoe. The canoe is still wet. The rocks will keep the canoe in shape while it dries.

Meanwhile Mary is collecting spruce pitch for the canoe just as Sarah did so many years before. Martha is sleeping in a cradle board. The cradle board is on Mary's back. The cradle board is made of wood and cloth.

Mary is putting the spruce pitch into the old birch bark pot. She is using a knife to scrape the pitch into the pot.

Now the canoe is dry. Johnny is taking the rocks out of the canoe.

Joe and Johnny are turning the canoe over. The canoe is not heavy. Johnny is wondering if the canoe looks like Moses' first canoe.

Now Mary is using the spruce pitch. She is using the spruce pitch to seal the seams of the canoe. Mary's mother showed her how to seal the seams of a birch bark canoe.

Mary is using a knife to seal the seams of the canoe with the spruce pitch. She is holding the spruce pitch in an old pot.

Now the canoe is almost finished. Joe is putting the seats in the canoe. There are two seats in the canoe.

The canoe is finished. The canoe is in the water. Johnny is in the canoe. Johnny is saying, "K'II TR'IH NIZJJ". Everyone is happy because the canoe is good.

Johnny will use the canoe to explore many new places.
Meanwhile Johnny is collecting rocks.
He is piling the rocks near the canoe.
Some rocks are heavy and some are light.
Many years before, Moses piled rocks for his canoe.

Jane

Now Johnny is putting the rocks in the canoe.
The canoe is still wet.
The rocks will keep the canoe in shape while it dries.

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Meanwhile Mary is collecting spruce bough for the canoe just as Susan did so many years before.
Mary is sleeping in a cradle board.
The cradle board is on Mary's back.
The cradle board is made of wood and cloth.

Page 15

Mary is putting the spruce bough into the birch bark pot.
She is using a knife to scrape the bough into the pot.

Page 16

Now the canoe is dry.
Mary is taking the rocks out of the canoe.

Page 17

Joe and Johnny are turning the canoe over.
The canoe is not heavy.
Johnny is wondering if the canoe looks like Moses' first canoe.

Page 18

Now Mary is using the spruce pitch.
She is using the spruce pitch to fill the seams of the canoe.
Mary's mother showed her how to fill the seams of an iron bark canoe.

Page 19

Mary is using a knife to seal the seams of the canoe with the spruce pitch.
She is holding the spruce pitch in an old pot.

Page 20

Now the canoe is almost finished.
Joe is putting the seats in the canoe.
There are two seats in the canoe.

Page 21

The canoe is finished.
The canoe is in the water.
Johnny is in the canoe.
Johnny is saying, "I'll use the canoe to explore new places."