*When Seagull Stole the Sun* **Tu Qwuni kwus qe’n utu Sumsha’thut**

**By Mabel Mitchell Illustrated by Edward Seymour**

Narrator Many years ago, a terrible thing happened. Seagull ***Qwuni*** stole Sun sumsha’thut from the sky and left the Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** in blackness lhets.

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

It is hard to live in the dark ***lhets*** all of the time.

It is hard to find salmon ***stseelhtun*** in the dark!

We cannot see the salmon ***stseelhtun*** when they jump.

We are not able to get salmon ***stseelhtun*** to feed our families.

Raven Spaal’

I cannot see the clams ***skw’ lhey*** when they spit. It is hard to see when the tide comes in and goes out. It is hard to dig for clams ***skw’ lhey*** in the dark ***lhets***. This is not ***uwah*** a good day ***uy skweyul***.

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

Plants ***Pun’um*** in the ocean cannot grow in the dark ***lhets***.

The seaweed is dying.

Soon there will not be any more seaweed for the salmon ***stseelhtun*** to eat.

It is hard to gather berries in the dark. We trip and fall down. We get cuts from the thorns. We have tried, but we cannot get berries. The Beach People***‘Tul tu*** ***‘luw*** are hungry and sad ***quilus***.

Elders S’ulxe:n

It is hard to get clams ***skw ‘lhey*** in the dark lhets.

It is hard to get salmon ***stseelhtun*** in the dark ***lehts***.

It is hard to get berries in the dark ***lhets***.

It is hard to live in darkness all the time.

Narrator

The Beach People *‘Tul tu ‘luw* were hungry and sore.

It was very cold without sun ***sumsha’thut***.

It was so cold that the Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** had to keep the fires ***huyqw*** going all the time.

Raven ***Spaal’***

I do not like the dark **lhets** . This is not ***uwah*** a good day ***uy skweyal!***

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

We need sticks for the fire ***huyqw***. It is hard to find sticks in the dark ***lhets***.

We keep falling on the rocks.

We try and try but it is hard to keep the fires ***huyqw*** going.

Every day ***skweyel*** the fires ***huyqw*** get smaller and smaller.

Elder ***S’ulxe:n s***

It is hard to get sticks in the dark ***lhets***.

The Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** are cold.

It is hard to live in darkness all the time.

Raven Spaal’ 

We need sun ***sumsha’thut*** to be up in the sky!

This is not ***uwah*** a good day ***uy skweyal!***

Narrator

Soon the Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** began to feel sick.

The babies ***qeq*** and the old people got very sick.

The Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** tried to find plants ***pun’um*** to help the sick people.

They were very sad ***quilus*** indeed!

Elders ***S’ulxe:n***

It is hard to find the healing plants ***pun’um*** in the dark ***lhets***.

It is very hard to live in the dark ***lhets*** all of the time.

Narrator

The Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** learned that Seagull ***Qwuni*** had stolen the sun ***sumsha’thut***.

It was hidden in a box ***xthum*** in his house ***lelum***. Seagull ***Qwuni*** wanted to keep the sun ***sumsha’thut*** all to himself!

The Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** went to Seagull ***Qwuni*** to ask ***ptem’*** him to put the sun ***sumsha’thut***  back where it needed to be.

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

Seagull ***Qwuni*** , you must return sun ***sumsha’thut*** to the sky!

We are cold and starving.

Seagull ***Qwuni*** 

No! No! No!

I do NOT want to listen!

I do NOT want to hear you complain.

Sun is in a box ***xthum’***. I want to keep sun ***sumsha’thut*** all to myself.

I do not want to share sun ***sumsha’thut***.

Sun ***sumsha’thut*** is mine now! Sun ***sumsha‘thut*** will stay inside the box ***xthum’***.

Sun ***sumsha’thut*** will stay in my house ***lelum***.

Now go away!

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

Seagull ***Qwuni***, you must listen.

The plants ***pun’um*** need sun ***sumsha’thut***!

They are dying!

When the plants ***pun’ums*** die, the animals will die too.

The salmon ***stseelhtun*** will die. The clams ***skw’lhey*** will die.

Even you, Seagull ***Qwuni,*** will die!

Seagull Qwuni

No! No! No! Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw,*** I do not want to share sun ***sumsha’ thut.***

The sun ***sumshal’thut*** is mine now!

Go away!

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

Seagull, ***Qwuni*** the babies ***qeq*** are getting sick.

The old ones are getting sick.

They need sun ***sumsha ’thut*** to be back up in the sky.

Narrator

Every time the Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** talked to Seagull ***Qwuni*** he cried, “Go away.”

The Beach People ‘***Tul tu ‘luw*** needed a plan to put t sun ***sumsha’thut*** back where it needed to be**.** They asked ***ptem’*** Raven ***Spaal’*** to help them. Raven ***Spaal’*** was a good planner.

Elders ***S’ulxe:n***

Sun ***sumsha’thut*** needed to be back up in the sky.

Raven ***Spaal’*** must help the Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***.

Raven ***Spaal’***

The Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** need my help ***ce wut***. I will think and think.

I will think of a plan to get sun ***sumsha’thut*** out of the box ***xthum’*** . The sun ***sumsha’thut*** needs to be back up in the sky.

Narrator

Raven ***Spaal’*** was a good planner. He made a big torch for himself. Then he went down to the beach to hunt for sea urchins ***xi xwe***. He gathered many sea urchins ***xi xwe*** and he ate them greedily. (Raven was always a greedy eater.) The sea urchin ***xi xwe*** shells were sharp and prickly all over. They were as sharp as needles. After his feast ***stle’shum*** , Raven ***Spaal’*** put all of the prickly needles in front of Seagull’s ***Qwuni’*** door. When Seagull ***Qwuni*** wakes the next morning, he will step on sharp sea urchin ***xi xwe*** needles!

Seagull ***Qwuni***

What at a nice sleep I had.

The complaining Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** did not wake me.

I am hungry after my long rest.

It is time to go outside and get some salmon ***stseelhtun*** for breakfast.

Narrator

Seagull ***Qwuni*** went out his door and into the darkness.

He did not see the sharp needles from Raven’s sea urchin ***xi xwe*** feast ***stle’shum.***

Suddenly, Seagull ***Qwuni*** felt sharp pain as the needles pierced his big webbed feet!

The beach was filled with Seagull’s ***Qwuni’***s pain.

Seagull ***Qwuni***

I have stepped on something as sharp as needles.

The needles have pierced my feet!

My feet are very sore indeed!

Narrator

Raven ***Spaal’*** heard loud cries coming from Seagull’s ***Qwuni*** house. His plan was working! He followed the loud cries to to Seagull’s ***Qwuni ‘s*** house.

Raven ***Spaal’***

Seagull, ***Qwuni***  I heard your cries of pain.

Let me help ***ce wut*** you.

Seagull ***Qwuni***

Help me, ***ce wut*** ! Help me ***ce wut***, Raven Spaal’.

I have stepped on the sharp needles from sea urchin ***xi xwe.***

My feet are very sore indeed!

Raven ***Spaal’***

I will take the sharp needles out of your big webbed feet.

Please, lend me your knife ***shupten***. I will use your knife ***shupten*** to take the needles out of your feet.

Narrator Raven ***Spaal’*** pretended to take the needles out of Seagull’s ***Qwuni*** ‘s big webbed feet. Raven ***Spaal’*** was not helping ***ce wut*** , he was hurting Seagull **Qwuni** . He was cutting Seagull’s big webbed feet with the sharp knife ***shupten***. Seagull ***Qwuni*** was crying.

Seagull ***Qwuni***

“Qwuni, qwuni”

Be careful Raven ***Spaal***! Do not cut my feet!

Raven ***Spaal’***

Oh Seagull ***Qwuni****,* I am very sorry if I am hurting you!

I am trying hard to help ***ce wut***, but I cannot see.

It is too dark ***lhets***.

That is why I cut your feet.

I need sun ***sumsha’thut*** to help ***ce wut*** me see.

It is too difficult to get the needles out in the darkness!

The Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw*** told me you have sun ***sumshal’thut*** in a box ***xthum’***. If you open the box ***xthum***, I can help ***ce wut*** you.

Narrator

Seagull ***Qwuni*** went to the big box ***xthum’*** where he had hidden sun ***sumshal’thut.***

He lifted the lid slowly.

He was very careful to open the box ***xthum’*** only a tiny crack.

The sun ***sumshal’thut*** shone out from the little opening of the box ***xthum’.***

Raven ***Spaal*** went back to work on Seagull’s ***Qwuni’***s big webbed feet.

But he still cut Seagull’s ***Qwuni’***s feet with the sharp knife ***shupten.***

Seagull Qwuni cried out in pain even louder this time,

Once more, Raven Spaal’ pretended to be sorry.

Raven Spaal’

Seagull, I want to help ***ce wut*** .

It is still too dark ***lhets*** to see the sharp needles.

If only I had more sun ***sumshal’thut***  to help ***ce wut*** me.

Open the box ***xthum’*** wider, it will help ***ce wut*** me see

Narrator Seagull ***Qwuni*** did not want to open the box ***xthum’***. He wanted to keep sun ***sumsha ’thut*** for himself. But Seagull ***Qwuni*** was in pain, and now his big webbed feet were bleeding. They were very sore indeed. Seagull’s ***Qwuni’*** s pain was so bad he forgot to be careful.

Seagull ***Qwuni***

Raven ***Spaal,*** you can open the lid a little more.

Be careful! Do not open the lid too wide.

Narrator

This is just what Raven ***Spaal’*** wanted to hear.

He grabbed the lid of the big box ***xthum’***  and opened it as wide as it would go.

Then he grabbed sun ***sumshal’thut*** and flew up and out the smoke hole of Seagull’s ***Qwuni***’s house lelum.

Raven Spaal’ lifted sun ***sumsha’thut*** up to the sky. This is where sun ***sumshal’thut*** needed to be!

Elders ***S’ulxe:n***

Sun **sumshal’thut** shone down on the Beach People ‘***Tul tu ‘luw*** once more.

The plants ***pun’um*** lifted themselves up to look at sun ***sumshal’thut.***

They began to grow. They were happy.

The healing plants ***pun’um*** helped the sick and the weak babies ***qeq*** and now they were happy.

The birds ***skw’ulesh*** began to fly. They ate berries. They were happy.

The salmon ***stseelhtun*** began to swim. They ate plants ***pun’um*** and bugs.

They were happy.

Sun ***sumshal’thut*** is where it needed to be.

Now, this is a good day ***uy skweyal***.

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

We can see when the tides come in and out.

We can see the bubbles that come from the clams ***skw’lhey***.

Now we can gather clams ***skw’lhey***.

We are happy.

We feel good and healthy. We are warm.

Let us sing and have a feast ***stle’shum***!

We are very happy indeed!

Elder ***S’ulxe:n*** But Seagull’s ***Qwuni’***s heart was broken.

Even today, he is so sad that he cries all day and sometimes into the night.

When he soars over the beaches of the Salish Sea he remembers

when sun ***sum shathut***  belonged only to Seagull ***Qwuni***

Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw***

This is how Raven ***Spaal’*** tricked Seagull ***Qwuni***  and put sun ***sum sha’thut***  back up in the sky.

Now sun ***sum sha’thut*** shines down on the beach and the Beach People ***‘Tul tu ‘luw.*** This is where sun ***sum sha’thut*** needs to be. It is a good day ***uy skweyal.*** We are all fine ***I’ts’o’eli ul’*** . Thank you ***hy’chqa*** Raven***Spaal***’

Hul’quimi’num Vocabulary Word Bank



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| sumsha’ thut | sun |
| qwuni | seagull |
| stseelhtun | salmon |
| lhets | dark |
| quilus | sad |
| huyqw | fire |
| Stle’shum | feast |
| lelem | house |
| shupten | knife |
| xthum | box |
| spaal’ | raven |
| S’ulxwe:n | Elders |
| Ce wut | help |
| qeq | baby |
| Imush | You walk |
| Hy’chqa | Thank you |
| umnuha | Step on |
| Xi xwe | Sea urchin |
| Skw’ lhey | clam |
| Kwey lupin’  Sqw’ulesh  I ts’o’eli’ ul’  Uy skweyul  Hy’chqa  Ptem’  ‘tul tu ‘luw  uwah  pun’um  lelum | Hiding something  small birds  We are all fine  Good day  Thank you  ask  Beach People  no  plant  house |



