

## STORIES FOR THE YUP'IK CLASSROOM

### **A Story About a Mouse on the Tundra**

*Told by the late Lena Ilutsik of Aleknagik and translated by the late Virginia Ilutsik of Aleknagik. 1997*

Once it was said that this poor little mouse went on a walk, when it had first begun to snow, in a fast pace. While he was going along someone towards the direction above him said, "You poor little mouse, you down there, because your tail is so long it is irritating ii-yi-yaa!" The mouse answered promptly, "To the good, to the good, when it has freshly snowed and I run in a fancy pace, my tracks will be beautiful!" The mouse then left, and just as he proceeded, he heard, "You poor mouse, you down there, because your face is so pointed, it is irritating ya-i-yaa!" The mouse answered promptly "To the good, to the good, when I help my grandmother, I can easily reach for her possessions." Then the one that spoke out so quickly quit. The mouse proceeded to go on his way when he came upon a bird with outstretched claws. When the bird reached hi it scratched viciously at the mouse. The mouse lost conscientiousness.

The End

### **Adaptation for Storytelling**

*Adapted by Michele Whaley*

The mouse is walking. Suddenly he hears:  
What a long tail you have!

Mouse: Yes, what a long tail I have!  
Mouse, suddenly: I see a nose!

And the nose disappeared!

The mouse walks on. Suddenly he hears:  
What a big mouth you have!

Mouse: Yes, what a big mouth I have!  
Mouse, suddenly: I see fur!

And the fur disappeared!

The mouse walks on. Suddenly he hears:  
What big ears you have!

Mouse: Yes, what big ears I have!

Mouse, suddenly: I see a mouth!

And the mouth disappeared.

And the mouse disappeared.

### **Russian Translation**

*Adapted by Michele Whaley*

Myishka idyot. Fdrug slishit: Kakoi u tibya dlinnii khvost!

Myishka: – Da, kakoi u minya dlinnii khvost!  
Fdrug Myishka: – Ya veeju nos!

Ee nos ischez.

Myishka idyot dal'she. Fdrug slishit: Kakoi u tibya bol'shoi rot!

Myishka: – Da, kakoi u minya bol'shoi rot!  
Fdrug Myishka: – Ya veeju myekh!

Ee myekh ischez.

Myishka idyot dal'she. Fdrug slishit: Kakiye u tibya bol'shiye ushi!

Myishka: – Da, kakiye u minya bol'shiye ushi!  
Fdrug Myishka: – Ya veeju rot.

Ee rot ischez!

Myishka ischezla!

# STORIES FOR THE YUP'IK CLASSROOM

## Red Fox and Bullhead

*Told by Sassa Andrews who is an Aleknagik elder: "Our Dad used to tell us bedtime stories. This is one that I remember." From Andrews et al. "Red Fox and Bullhead" The Aleknagik Way: Alaskan Style. 2004*

There once was a red fox walking on top of a cliff. He was wearing a cap and he wore it so it partly covered his face. It was quiet, but he heard a voice singing a song.

"Fox, Fox your tail is so long. Fox, Fox your tail is so long."

Fox stopped and looked around him. He saw a creek, so he kept walking. He heard the voice again, singing a song.

"Fox, Fox your ears are so long. Fox, Fox your ears are so long."

The voice was making fun of his ears. Fox said to himself, I'm going to watch and listen better. so he adjusted his cap higher. He began walking again and then he heard the voice singing again, making fun of how red his fur was.

"Fox, Fox your fur is so red. Fox, Fox your fur is so red."

"Then Fox saw a big bullhead. Fox said, "I see you! Don't go anywhere, you're the one who keeps making fun of me. You keep an eye on me while I'm going." As Fox was walking away he was saying, "Bullhead! Bullhead!"

This hurt the bullhead's feelings and he began to shrink and then he hid under a rock. Fox left and he came upon a pile of ashes where a fire had been. Because the bullhead made fun of fox's red fur, he took some white ash and rubbed them on his belly. He took more ashes and put some on the end of his puffy tail. Fox picked up black soot and put some on his ears, on his tail and on his paws. With a little of white ash left, he put some on the tip of his tail.

## Adaptation for Storytelling

*Adapted by Michele Whaley*

The fox is walking quietly, quietly. The fox has a cap on her head. Suddenly the fox hears,

"Fox, fox, what a long tail you have!. Fox, fox, what a long tail you have!"

The fox looks. "I see a river. Is the river laughing? No." The fox walks, quietly, quietly. Suddenly the fox hears,

"Fox, fox, what long ears you have! Fox, fox, what long ears you have!"

The fox looks. "I see snow. Is the snow laughing? No."

The fox puts the cap over her ears. The fox walks, quietly, quietly. Suddenly the fox hears,

Fox, fox, what red fur you have!  
Fox, fox, what red fur you have!

A bullhead fish is laughing. The bullhead fish is not laughing quietly.

The fox looks. "I see a bullhead fish. I see you, bullhead fish!!"

The fox walks, laughing. "Bullhead fish, bullhead fish!  
The bullhead fish is not laughing.

Suddenly, the bullhead fish disappeared.

The fox goes on. "I see ashes!"

The fox puts some ashes on his tail, because the bullhead said, "Fox, fox, what a long tail you have."

The fox puts some ashes on his ears, because the bullhead said, "Fox, fox, what long ears you have."

The fox puts some ashes on his stomach, because the bullhead said, "Fox, fox, what red fur you have!"

## Russian Translation

*Translated by Michele Whaley*

Idyot Lisa, tikha, tikha. Oo Lisi yest' kyeepka na galave. Fdrug lisa slishit:

Lisa, Lisa, kakoi oo tibya khvost dlinni! Lisa, Lisa, kakoi oo tibya khvost dlinni!

Lisa smotrit. "Ya viju reku. Reka smeyotsa? Nyet."

Idyot lisa, tikha, tikha. Fdrug lisa slishit:

Lisa, Lisa, kakiye oo tibya ooshi dlinniye! Lisa, Lisa, kakiye oo tibya ooshi dlinniye!

Lisa smotrit. "Ya viju snyek. Snyek smeyotsa? Nyet."

Lisa kladyot kepku na ooshi. Idyot lisa, tikha, tikha. Fdrug lisa slishit:

Lisa, Lisa, kakoi oo tibya myekh krasni! Lisa, Lisa, kakoi oo tibya myekh krasni!

Riba bullhead smeyotsa. Riba bullhead smeyotsa nye tikha.

Lisa smotrit. "Ya viju ribu bullhead. Ya viju tibya, riba bullhead!"

Lisa idyot smeyotsa. "Riba bullhead, riba bullhead!"  
Riba bullhead nye smeyotsa. Lisa smeyotsa.

Fdruk riba bullhead ischezla. Lisa idyot dal'she. "Ya viju pepla!"

Lisa kladyot pepla na khvost patamu shta riba bullhead skazala "Lisa, Lisa, kakoi oo tibya khvost dlinni!"

Lisa kladyot pepla na ooshi, patamu shta riba bullhead skazala "Lisa, Lisa, kakiye oo tibya ooshi dlinniye!"

Lisa kladyot pepla na jivot, patamu shta riba bullhead skazala "Lisa, Lisa, kakoi oo tibya myekh krasni!"