

# How the Ravens Became Black

Plural  
Words



**Level 2**  
images  
+  
text



Co-funded by  
the European Union

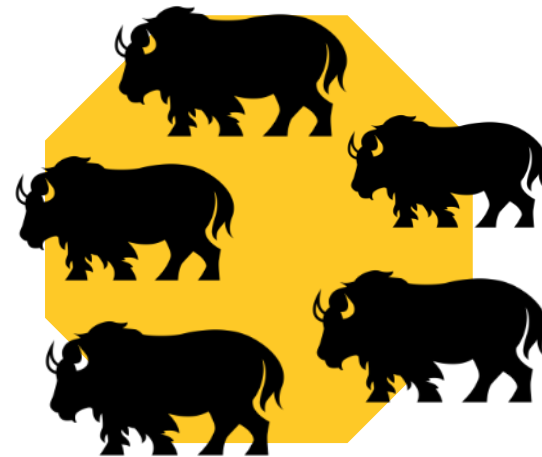
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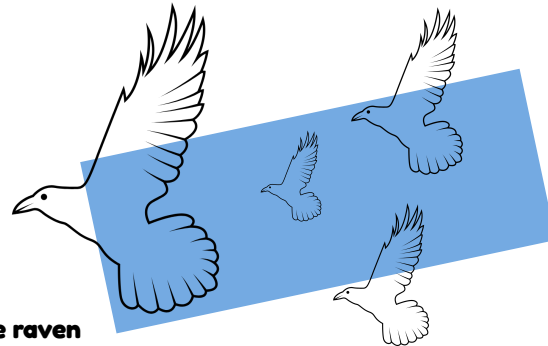
## The characters



**The Sioux**  
Valiant hunters  
leaving in Dakota  
North America.



**Bison**  
Wild animals that graze  
quietly on the American  
plains



**The white raven**  
Bison guardian angel

**Spy**  
Indian with a bison skin.



## Reading instructions



### HOW TO READ THIS BOOK?

#### **Read aloud**

Each pupil is assigned one character and reads when their colour appears.

You can find the colour code on the next pages.

#### **Individual reading**

You can choose to display the story on a digital device, or to print the PDF version of the story.

### DISPLAY THE BOOK

We recommend displaying the book **page by page**.

To ensure everyone can read the text, we suggest showing the book on a large screen.

### LEVEL 2, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Level 2 includes the text and the images.

The level is designed to encourage active participation of the readers.

## Table of content

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### **Part 1**

In North America,  
where bison and  
ravens live quietly

**2**

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When the Sioux attack  
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Where the Sioux  
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How the white raven  
is caught by the  
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How the raven succeed  
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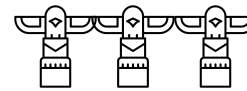
## Reading instructions

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### **WHISPER**

Read the sentence as if you were whispering.



This symbol represents the **narrator**.



### **LOUD**

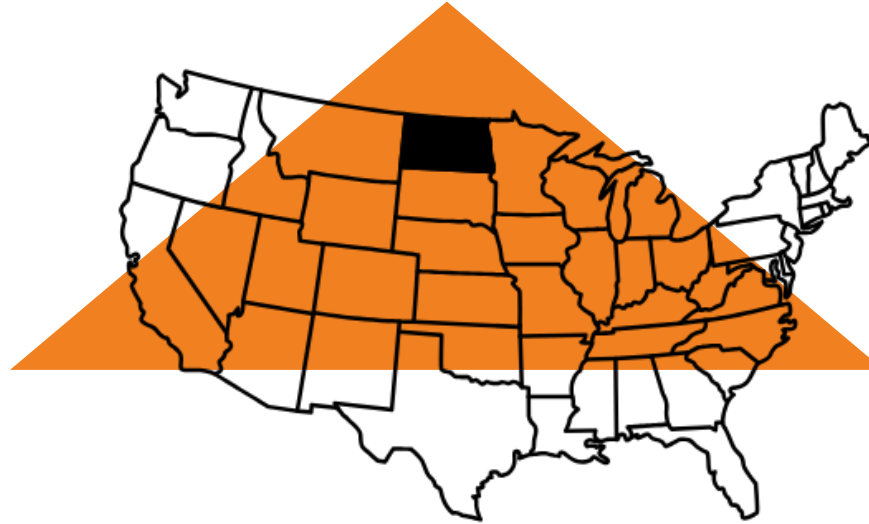
Read the sentence as loud as you can.



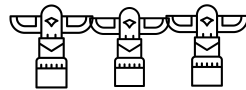
### **CRYING TONE**

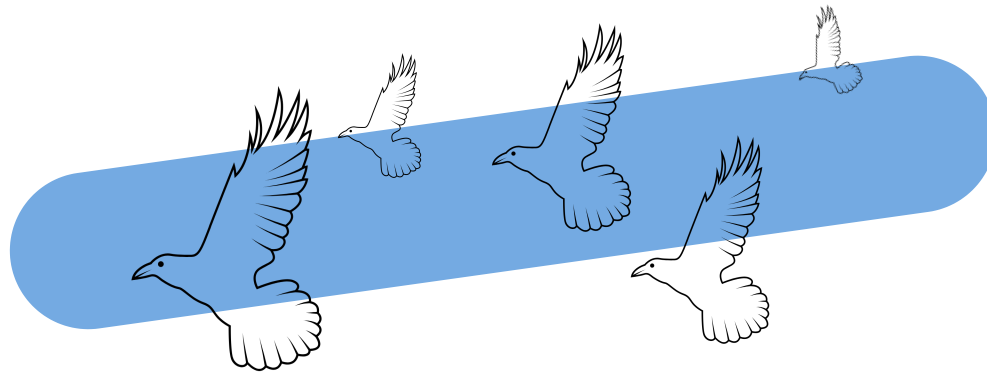


## Part 1



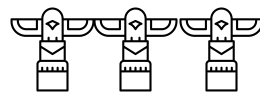
I'm going to tell you a Sioux legend that takes place a long time ago on the plains of South Dakota in North America.





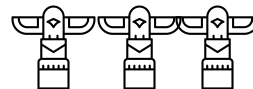
In those days, graceful white ravens fluttered peacefully across the azure blue sky.

From up there they could observe the landscape : plains and hills followed one another as far as the eye could see.





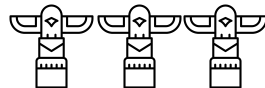
A tribe of Indians also lived there in this grandiose landscape. Children ran in these immense spaces. While the women sew the skins to make tunics.

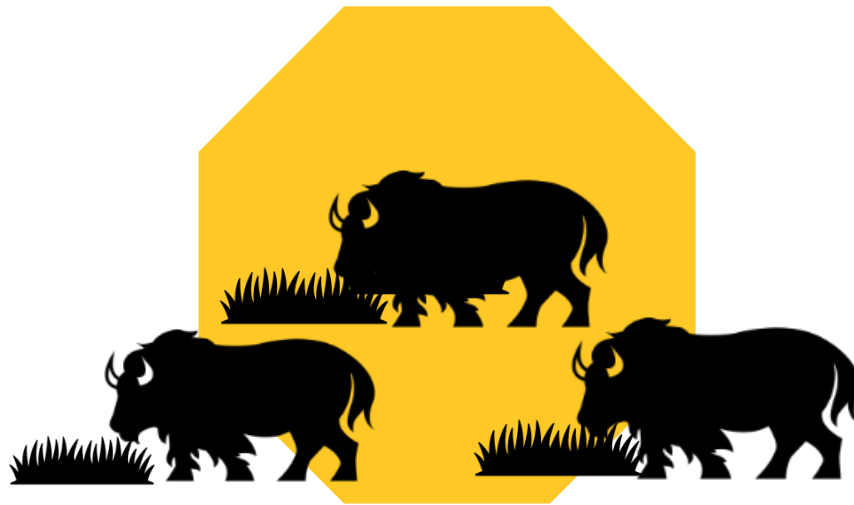




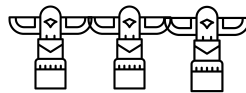


For food, they hunted the bison with hunting tools they had made themselves. They had no horses in those days.



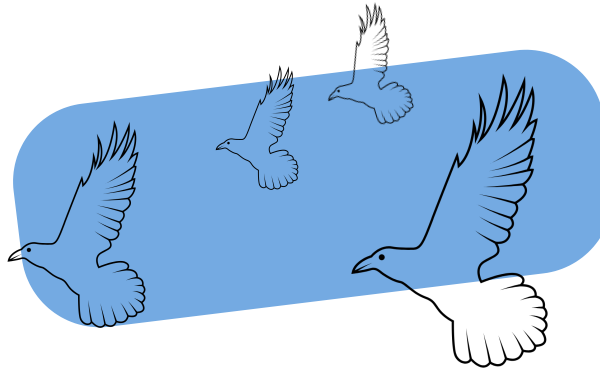


Not far away, the wild bison were grazing quietly on the green grass. They moved from meadow to meadow to sustenance.

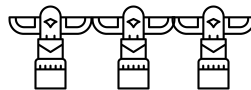




## Part 2



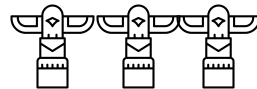
The white ravens were quietly flying in the sky. They watched everything from up there, so they protected their bison friends from possible attacks.

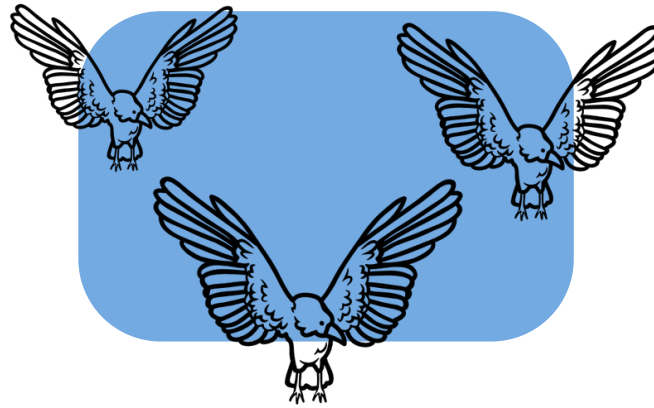




One day some Sioux armed with arrows and bows appeared in the valley.

The attentive ravens spotted them immediately. They suspended their flight to approach the bison.



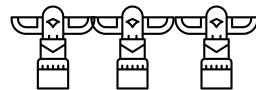


They caw "caw" "caw" loudly to alert them to the arrival of the hunters :

"Be careful, dear friends, the Sioux are coming, they are crawling there behind the hill. Save yourself quickly ! Don't waste time!"



The Sioux were furious. They did not capture any animals. They returned to their camp empty-handed. How will they and their families survive without meat? They decided to meet in council to develop a plan and decide on the way forward.

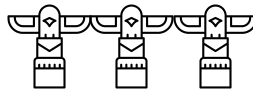




## Part 3

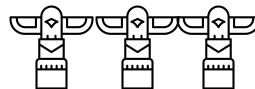


Together, they decided to capture the biggest white raven, the chief, to teach him a lesson. Yes, but how do you attract a bird to the ground? They discussed and developed a trick.





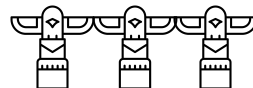
One day of hunting, a young hunter put a buffalo hide on his back and cleverly sneaked through the herd.

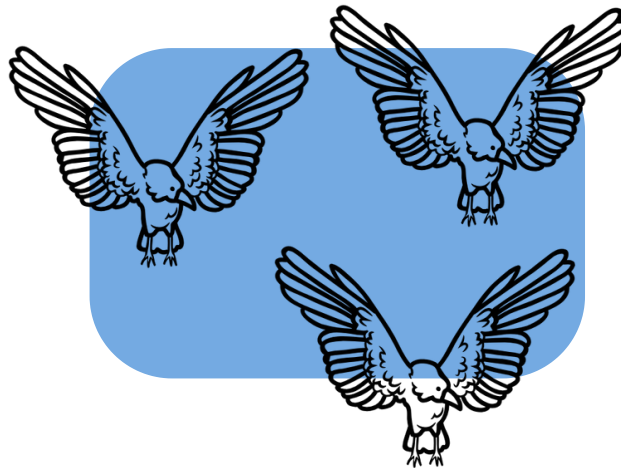




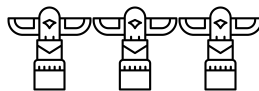


Suddenly a hord of hunters surged in !



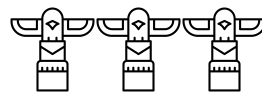


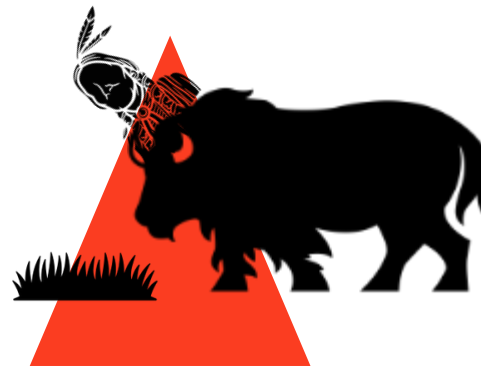
The ravens croak, "croak, croak, beware, dear friends, the Indians are attacking. Save yourself quickly!"



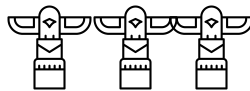


All the bison fled precipitately. Except for one who continues to graze the grass peacefully.





Intrigued, the great white raven approached him, "caw, crow, my friend, you didn't hear me, the Sioux are attacking. Run away as quickly as possible if you don't want to die!"

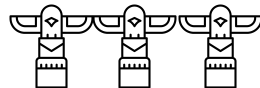


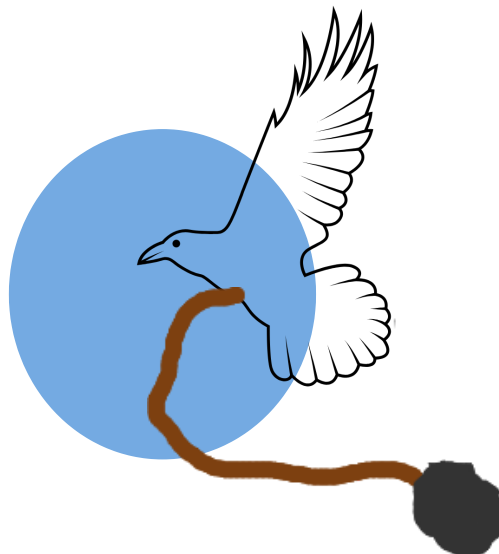


## Part 4

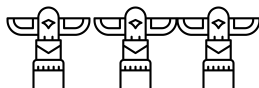


At that moment, the false bison jumped up. He grabbed the great white raven and tied its legs with a leather tie and a large stone.





The great white raven captured and tied up is brought back to the village.

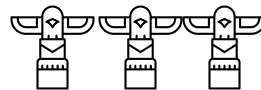




## Part 5

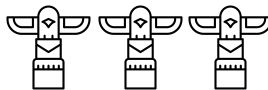


The young hunter was acclaimed by his peers.  
"What are we going to do with that dirty bird that has starved us  
so many times?"  
The Sioux met again in council and sought the best punishment  
to inflict on him.





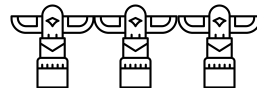
Suddenly, one of the furious Sioux grabbed the white raven and plunged him into the fire in the middle of the council. Of course, the link burnt immediately, releasing the large stone and the raven's feet. The bird managed to fly away.





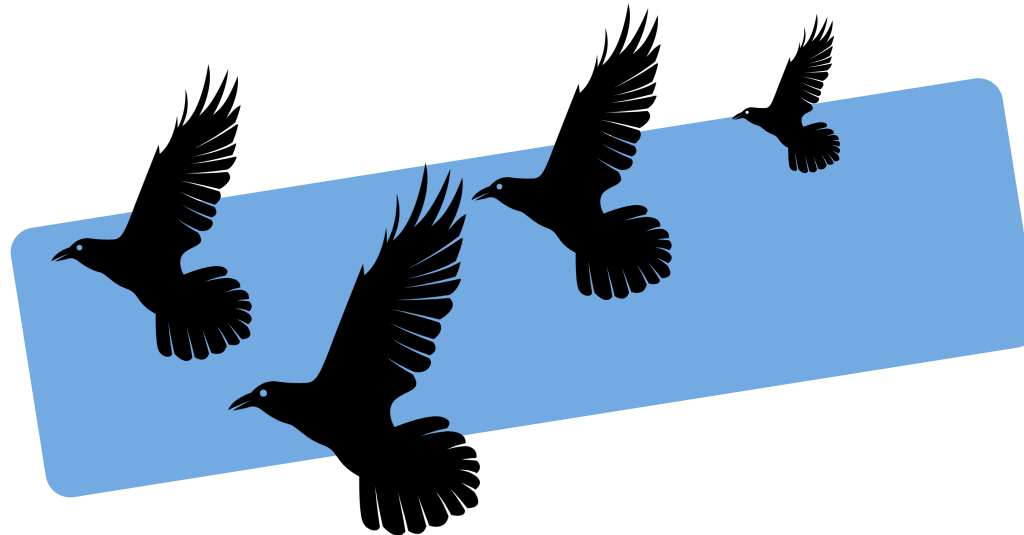


But it was scorched and some of its feathers were charred.  
It was still as big as ever, but it was no longer white.

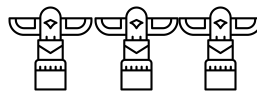




"Croa, croa" he said as he flew away, "I'll never do it again, I'll never warn crows again and all the other members of the crow nation will do as I did. I promise you that! Croa croa".



So he managed to escape, but since then all the crows have been black.




## Credits



The illustrations have been created by the partnership from [The Noun Project](#) pictograms.

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- Tepee created by Amethyst studio
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Plural Words is a European project that started in October 2023. It is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission to support school education.

The project aims to make learning and using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) easier for young children in early childhood and primary schools. With creative tools and visual aids, Plural Words helps all students communicate, learn, and be included, ensuring equal opportunities for everyone.

**[WWW.PLURAL-WORDS.EU](http://WWW.PLURAL-WORDS.EU)**

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