

Wil Sit'aa'mahl Was Milit (Creation of Steelhead)

Hetxwt 'Wiigyat lax ts'eehl 'Xsan ii 'wihl si'ix gya'lat ahl dim ligi 'wihl an dulpxwit an aat .
Wiigyat stood on the banks of the 'Xsan wondering if there was a fish camp nearby.

Needii 'wihl gya'as 'Wiigyat ga amgoogithl haniijok' ahl sint.
Wiigyat was unaware of the beauty around him. It was a beautiful summer day.

Gwisgwoosxw lax ha ii ho 'wihl sga'nist. ii gipaygwihl k'uba 'yans saabagwit lax k'uba gangan 'wihl limixsts lax t'ilaasxw.
The sky was as blue as the distant mountains. A gentle breeze played on the leaves of the hardy bushes that managed to survive on the cliffs of the canyon.

iit baligit gya'as 'Wiigyat andoosdagi wil yukwhl gyuksxwhl 'wii ama hon.
As 'Wiigyat looked across the water he saw a magnificent salmon jumping.

Needii 'wihl similoo'os 'Wiigyat, neediit 'wihl wilaaxhl ixw.
Wiigyat did not have many skills so he did not know how to catch a salmon.

ii ap ho sagootxwt, wil gal gagetxw ant japhl sgans ixw gan dimt lihiy hedinhl aat.
But, as usual, he had an idea, which was much easier than setting a net or making a fishing rod.

Dahl gehlxws 'Wiigyat ahl hongl.
Wiigyat hollered loudly at the salmon.

Neehl hasagan dim nabaḱ dima wak, ahl Guxw goodi'y milit?
"Do you want to have a contest, brother? It is called, Charge at my heart, Steelhead."

Wadins 'Wiigyat hongl as milit. ii 'nit wil sit'aa'maahl was Milit.
'Wiigyat called the salmon 'steelhead' and started the name.

ii hlaa ap yukwhl alaysis hongl ahl 'wihl gost. Neediit ga bidin wil yukwhl algalhl ligi naa loot.
The salmon was getting bored with his magnificent jumps and he did not know if anyone was watching.

Luu maḱdis 'Wiigyat lo'op hlaxw gwilat ii yeet ts'im aks.
'Wiigyat placed a rock under his raven robe and walked into the river.

ii gehlxws 'Wiigyat, Guxwhl goodi'y milit.
Wiigyat yelled, "Charge at my heart."

ii 'nit 'wihl milit gi ii gukws deekas 'Wiigyat.
The salmon did and 'Wiigyat fell backwards.

Ts'ahlxt 'Wiigyat ii hots'im ho hetxwt ii hots'im ho gehlxwt.

Laughing, 'Wiigyat got up and called out again.

Hla tk'alpxhl wil diit, iit haps 'Wiigyathl goott ahl lo'opgi.

The fourth time, 'Wiigyat placed the rock over his heart.

ii hots'im ho k'esa'ahl hongl ahl goots 'Wiigyat, ii hlagook dim 'nu'wuhl hon gi ii am ts'in het, Wilaa'y 'niin 'Wiigyat.

The salmon charged at 'Wiigyat's heart and just before the salmon died he whispered, "I knew it was you 'Wiigyat.'"

Guxwhl goodi'y, diyat 'wihl amts'in ts'ahlxs 'Wiigyat, ii daa'wihlt yukw dim si'angxwhl militxwt.

Charge at my heart," 'Wiigyat chuckled to himself as he went off to cook his Steelhead.

Arrogance and Flattery of Steelhead

Adixs goots Hon ahl ama algyax ginams 'Wiigyat loot.

'Wihl xsi yalis 'Wiigyat Hon ii simhetxws Hon ii 'wihl hisgyatxws Hon gi gan 'wihl 'nu'wt.

Nee dii hasaks 'Wiigyat dim 'wihl sit'ilgetxws dim wila yookxw.

The salmon was swayed by the flattering words of the Gitxsan trickster. The salmon's arrogance caused his death. Wiigyat was looking for an easy meal.

Nee dii 'wihl yukw jit hlmoos 'Wiigyat Gitxsan gan 'wihl swadins milit.

It was not his intention to create the steelhead for the Gitxsan.

li k'ay gigyuu'ni'y ii gan wila yukwt hlgu ga'iwit, wii oo'diid dim luudaltxw diid milit.

Fishermen still enjoy the challenge of fighting with a steelhead today.

ii hinda wil wo xwdaxs Noxo'y ahl hon ahl gwooyim, ii ho het, Guxwhl goodi'y milit. ii nee dii 'nakwt ii wo baligi 'witxwhl ligi naa ant gint ahl hon gay sii 'mukwdiit.

Today, if my mother is hungry for fresh salmon in the early spring, she says, "Guxw good'y mi'lit" (charge at my heart, steelhead). Then within a day or two someone brings her fresh salmon.

