Norman Goes Trapping

By Fred Steinwand

Norman’s father gives him six muskrat traps so he can go out trapping.

It’s cold outside so Norman dresses warmly in his parka, mitts and mukluks.

His father starts the skidoo for him and he’s off.

As he drives along the trails he keeps looking out for muskrat pushups.

He knows there are places where muskrats come to feed. At last he sees some on a pond. He opens the pushups and puts a trap inside each one. He covers them over carefully. Soon he has set all his traps.

It was hard work so now Norman is hungry and eats up all the dried caribou meat he had brought with him.

Two days later he goes back to check his traps. He has caught two muskrats! He takes them home, skins them and stretches the fur. He gives them to his mother. She is going to make a warm parka for Norman’s little sister, if he can trap enough muskrats.

He’s going to keep working until he has.

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Norman Ehdzò Nilè

Norman wetà ehdzò ek’eta yailà yèsta dzọ haniwai ha.

Mòt’a edza ts’ovon, balaxe unhch’a yik’la eyigots’o, dzichò he t’ati where hòteda libà he yèta.

Wetà yigha ski doo delชาว yìla kì’axò dekk’e. Ski doo tilie k’e nak’o t’a dzọ k’in xak’et’i. Tià k’e ñedì dzò segèze yek’ezò xe ts’o ñadža. Dzọ k’in enlaii, ehdzò tiliì, Ehdzò xahzò tiliì k’lavon nezi gots’o dah eniwah.

Norman lah nátso k’ìdàn, bò ghwàdzhà, eyît’a bogôh k’ëléhhe xazò yeñah. Nàk’e dzé k’exòwo tl’hàhò. Edèh dzò k’ënto ho, dzò nak’e k’ëchìlìa nò.


— Dogrib