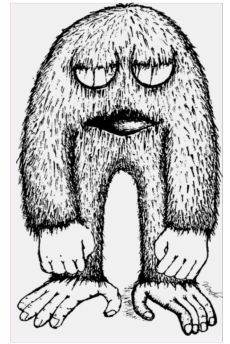


story time

with Jill Haywood

hunt - caçar
footprint - petjada
perhaps - potser
warm - càlid
gather - recullir
moose - alce
sweat lodge - tenda de cerimònia
de purificació
cough - tossir



Avui a l'Story Time escoltem una versió d'una vella història popular canadenca. Va de quatre germans que passen l'hivern al bosc caçant i el monstre que troben.

The Chenoo Monster

ONE AUTUMN, in a place that is now called Canada but in those days was the land of an old tribe, a girl and her three older brothers went to the forest to hunt for animals over the winter.

They found a place to make camp and built a wigwam. While her three older brothers went hunting, the girl collected firewood and prepared dinner. Each night the brothers returned with the animals they had caught.

One night at dinner the brothers were silent. "Why are you all so quiet?" said their sister.

"Today I saw strange footprints to the north," said her eldest brother, "like those of a man, but much larger."

"Me too," said the brother who went to the south. The third brother agreed. They knew the footprints were from a Chenoo monster. The Chenoo was a cruel, giant cannibal from the north.

"Well perhaps it was just a bear." The boys all laughed. But the girl did not laugh. She had seen the footprints and knew it was not a bear.

They were from the Chenoo monster.

The girl did different things the next day. She made a big warm bed in the middle of the wigwam and she put baskets of fruit next to the bed. She gathered fresh firewood, then sat by the fire and waited.

At twilight there was a noise in the woods, she looked up and there was the Chenoo monster.

He looked very angry. The sister smiled at the beast and said, "Grandfather, I am happy you have come to see us. I prepared a fire for you to be warm or do you want to lie down inside first and rest? Your bed is made and there are baskets of fruit by it. You look tired from your travels."

The Chenoo monster was very surprised at her greeting where he expected screaming. He let the young girl lead him into the wigwam.

The girl brought clothes she made to fit him. She told him to wash and dress. The monster sat inside the wigwam, sad and confused.

The young girl collected more wood and the Chenoo monster followed her. She was very frightened. "Now, he will kill and eat me."

The Chenoo monster said, "Give me the axe." Soon the monster had cut an enormous pile of firewood.

The young girl called, "Grandfather, there is enough! You must be tired from all your cutting, please rest." So the Chenoo monster walked into the wigwam, and slept.

When her three brothers returned from their day's hunt, she told them, "Brothers, you will be pleased to know our Grandfather is in the tent. We must be silent and give him time to rest."

The brothers did not understand.

At that moment the huge, hairy head of the Chenoo monster looked out of the wigwam. Before her brothers could be frightened, the girl said with a smile, "Grandfather, you are awake! I am glad, because now your grandsons have come back and we can all have dinner." Turning to her brothers, she asked, "How was the hunt today?"

"Not so good," answered one of the brothers, staring at the Chenoo monster, "all I have is this hare."

"And I a goose," said her second brother, also staring at the Chenoo monster.

"I got a deer," replied her third brother.

The Chenoo monster spoke. "Granddaughter," he said, "have your brothers brought no other game?"

"Whatever your grandsons have hunted today I will cook for your dinner, Grandfather," said the girl.

The Chenoo monster disappeared into the woods. When he returned he carried three moose. That night they enjoyed a feast.

As the days passed, they began to realize the Chenoo monster was useful, as he could hunt better than twenty men. Soon, he built his own wigwam, and the brothers and their sister moved back into their own.

They stopped worrying that Chenoo would eat them and the three brothers and their sister were very respectful to the monster.

Winter became spring. One day the girl said, "Grandfather, soon it will be time for us to return to our village."

"I would like to come with you," said the Chenoo monster. "But your people would scream if they saw me. I need your help."

"Of course, Grandfather, anything at all," said the girl.

"Build me a sweat lodge and bring hot coals to it."

The girl was surprised but they built the sweat lodge and made it very hot. The Chenoo monster went inside. "Bring more hot coals." Five times the children took more hot coals.

The girl heard the Chenoo monster moan and cough, then she heard no more sounds. "Grandfather, are you all right?" she said. "Yes," said the Chenoo in a strange voice, "Bring more coals."

After 6 hours the door opened. The Chenoo monster looked like a normal, very old human man with a long white beard. He coughed, and out came a piece of ice in the shape of a man. It was the ice heart of the Chenoo.

"Throw it in the fire, Granddaughter," he said. She threw the ice heart into the flames and it disappeared.

The man who used to be the Chenoo monster then smiled. "Let's go," he said.

So they took all the bear and deerskins, and baskets full of dried meat, back to their village. And they all lived happily together for many many years.