

Dar and the Spear Thrower Play

Sign-Up for Parts

Master of Ceremony _____

Narrators:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Dar _____

Mora _____

Kenock _____

Bowan (Dar's friend) _____

Young woman _____

Girl 1 _____

Girl 2 _____

Hunter 1 _____

Hunter 2 _____

Toreg (stranger) _____

Jenu (shaman) _____

Seelan (Dar's lost relative) _____

Clans people (four or five) _____

Prop Crew (2) _____

Monologues for Early Humans

Sign-up for Parts

Australopithecus afarensis _____

Australopithecus africanus _____

Australopithecus robustus _____

Australopithecus boisei _____

Homo habilis _____

Homo erectus _____

Homo neanderthalensis _____

Homo sapiens sapiens _____

Dar and the Spear Thrower Prop List

Part 1

Scene 1

Dar-Spear

Part 3

Scene 1

Jenu's platform: Short ladder with rock-like cover

Bowan-Spear
Hunter #1-Spear
Hunter #2-Spear
Girl #1-Basket
Girl #2-Basket
Young woman-Basket
Mora-Basket
Mushrooms
Berries
Healing flower
Bird
Marrow bone
Bowl
Hammerstone

Part 2

Scene 1

Sleep robe
Futon (pad for Kenok)
Shelter
Dar's pouch
Horn cup
Deermeat

Part 2

Scene 2

Toreg's pouch with atlatl and spear
Snares
Little fox
Dead fox
Dar's pouch with sunstones
Skunk
*Stage scenery
-backdrop of a mountain scene
-Backdrop of a large rock

These can either be painted on plywood with a stand or painted on fabric and hung.

Costumes: Have the children purchase two yards of 45" fake fur. Cut a belt from the bottom of the fabric. Fold the fabric lengthwise in half. Fold again and cut out the neck. Cut small and enlarge until it is just right. Stitch up the sides leaving a comfortable space for armholes. Tie with the belt. Children can wear shorts and a tank top underneath.

Jenu's pouch with knife
Drum and flute music

Part 4

Scene 1

Shelter
Fire
Food
Dar's pouch, spear and sunstone
Stump to sit on

Part 4

Scene 2

Lake
Big rock
Dar's pouch and spear
Mountain scene backdrop

Part 4

Scene 3

Toreg's clanspeople: toolkit, berries and basket, nuts, skin scraping, working on a wooden spear rock
Seelan's tool kit
spearthrower
futon (elevated bed for Seelan)
sleep robe

Early Human Props

afarensis and africanus: digging sticks

robustus:saber-toothed cat chases him

boisei:leaf basket

habilis:hammerstone and marrow bone

erectus:fire sticks

neandertalensis:spear

Homo sapiens sapiens-atlatl (spear thrower)

Parent Introduction for Dar and the Spear Thrower

I'd like to welcome everyone tonight. The children have a special evening prepared for you. Tonight is an opportunity for parents to see how the Elementary 2 class integrates the cultural area with other curriculum. Science, the arts, history, language, and geography are woven together into big themes. The theme of this performance is early humans. We've been studying the life of our early ancestors for the past few months. First we'll have some special guests from the ancient past to educate us about our very early ancestors. Following that we will see a play about the Cro-Magnons, a geographical group of Homo sapiens sapiens. The energy and discipline required to put on a performance like this is enormous, but it has many learning opportunities. First of all the children learn about cooperation, not just for the evening of the performance but also during their many rehearsals. Second they get to practice public speaking including voice projection and enunciation. Third, they get to use their memories, and fourth they learn so much about the content of the play from hearing the other performers practice. The excitement of the performance and the investment of time make these kinds of experiences memorable ones for the children. It is a privilege to provide these special learning experiences for children. Now I would like to present our Master of Ceremony_____.

Master of Ceremony Script for Dar and the Spear Thrower

We'd like to welcome everyone tonight. We hope you will enjoy our presentation. First we'll hear from some special guests from our ancient past. Some of our earliest ancestors are here to help educate you about their lives.

First I'd like to introduce Australopithecus afarensis.

Our next guest is *Australopithecus africanus*.

Next, we'll be hearing from *Australopithecus robustus*.

The last of the Australopithecines is *Australopithecus boisei*.

Now I would like to introduce *Homo habilis* known as “handy man.”

Our next guest is *Homo erectus*, known as “upright man.”

Yet another form of *Homo Erectus* is *Homo ergaster*.

Next comes *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, an early human found in the Neander Valley in Germany.

Our final early human guest will be *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

Now that our early human guests have set the mood we would like to present an exciting play called *Dar and the Spear Thrower*. This play was adapted from a children's book by Marjorie Cowley. It's about a young Cro-Magnon boy, and how new tools and skills might have been shared among early humans. Our play has several complicated scene changes. We'd appreciate your patience and silence during these transitions.

Closing:

Thank you for coming. We hope that you've learned something new about our early ancestors. There will be a brief photo op for parents on the stage. Afterwards refreshments will be served in the lobby. We'd like to ask that students not be on the stage after their photographs.

Monologues for Early Humans

Australopithecus afarensis

My name is Lucy and I am one of your oldest ancestors. Scientists call me *Australopithecus afarensis*. That means “southern ape of Afar.” I lived about four

million years ago. My world is very different from the one you know. I walked upright, like you, but I am much smaller. As a full grown woman I weigh only about 65 pounds. I live together with my husband, children, and parents in the savannahs of Africa. We wander in the tall grasslands foraging for plants, grubs, and the remains of animals. It's hard to get the tough meat off with my hands, so sometimes I use a sharp stick. We help each other to find food and always share what we find.

Australopithecus africanus

Scientists call me *Australopithecus africanus* which means "southern ape from Africa." I lived from about three million till one million years ago. I am a little bigger than *afarensis*, but not much. I spend much of my time wandering around looking for food. My arms are quite long and this helps me get pick tender leaves from bushes. I'm glad if I find plants, grubs, and berries that I can eat. At night my family and I return to a cave that gives us shelter and protection for the night.

Australopithecus robustus

I am much bigger and more strongly built than *afarensis* or *africanus*. I am called *Australopithecus robustus* and lived about two and a half million years ago. My face and head are bigger and I have a stronger jaw. My teeth are bigger too, so I can eat tougher, harder foods like seeds and nuts. We have to be careful that we do not fall prey to saber-toothed cats or other predators. They are faster than we are and stronger, but we can often outsmart them.

Australopithecus boisei

I am the biggest of all the *Australopithecines*, *Australopithecus boisei*. I got my name from a businessman, Charles Boise, who helped fund the fossil expedition that found my fossils. I have really big teeth and because of this I earned the name "nutcracker man." Although I do love to eat nuts, I am especially fond of certain

types of leaves. Sometime I use sticks to dig for grubs, or I make leaf baskets to gather berries.

Homo habilis

I am Homo habilis, commonly known as “handy man.” I lived about two million years ago. I am the first known member of your genus “homo.” I am a little bigger than Australopithecus with shorter arms and a flatter face. I am especially remembered for being the first early human to make stone tools. Not only did I make tools, but I also made simple shelters, and gathered plant foods. I used my tools to cut meat, smash bones to get the marrow, and to hunt small animals.

Homo erectus

I made my first appearance about 1.6 million years ago. The name given to me is Homo erectus, “upright man.” I am taller than habilis and have a bigger brain and a bigger body. I am very skilled at making tools. As I learn to make different kinds of tools with my hands, I get more and more ideas for making other things. One important discovery I made was fire! One day I noticed that when quickly rubbing two sticks together I could make them smoke. With more effort I eventually made a small coal that I used to start a fire. What a discovery! My clan uses fire to keep warm, to cook meat, and to harden wooden tools. Many of the members of my clan became so independent that they moved far away toward the north.

Homo sapiens neanderthalensis

I was a human ancestor that lived 70,000 to 40,000 years ago. My name is Homo sapiens neanderthalensis. My name means “wise man from the Neander Valley in Germany”. I am short, very muscular, and strong. The climate in which I live is very cold, so the people in my clan need to eat lots of meat to stay warm. The hunt

for big game is very important to the survival of my people. We also stitch the skins of animals to make clothing to protect us from the cold. We live in caves or tents made from animal skins, and keep a hearth fire going all the time to stay warm. I use a special set of stone tools called a Mousterian tool kit. It is composed of spear points, scrapers, knives, saws, and notched tools for smoothing spear handles. We are an independent, proud people that take care of the old and give respect to the dead.

Homo sapiens sapiens

We are the most recent of all the hominid species. WE have the same gens as modern humans. We are known as Cro-Magnons, after a rock shelter in France where many of our skeletons were found. The most important difference between modern humans and Cro-Magnons is the world and culture we live in. We live by hunting and gathering food, so we value the natural world and recognize our connection to it. We work together in small groups to protect the young and guarantee the success of the hunt. In special rituals we paint pictures of the hunt in the darkest most secret caves. We hope this will make us successful hunters. One of our biggest tool making discoveries is called indirect percussion. With this method we can make long, flat, rock flakes that make excellent spear s and arrowheads. Another hunting tool that has increased safety and success in the hunt is the atlatl or spear thrower. This increases a spear's range almost 30 yards! We also learned how to make harpoons to get food from the sea. With all of these new food sources our population began to grow, and we spread all over the world.

My name is Homo Naledi. My body is much like an apes however I have many human like features. My fossil bones were found by two women in the Rising Star Cave system near Johannesburg South Africa. I am named Naledi after the Sesotho word for Star. It is possible that I shared the earth with modern humans - Homo Sapien sapien. We liked to dig roots for food and used our teeth to cut down branches. We buried our dead and we cooperated with other Naledi in teams.

My name is Ardipithecus ramidus but you can call me Ardi for short. I lived about 4.4 million years ago. I am about 4 feet tall and weigh more than 100 pounds. Tim White found my fossil bones in Ethiopia in 1994. I liked living near the edge of the forest near

grasslands and I was an herbivore. I am very good at climbing trees and walking on four legs. I can also stand upright and walk a little like a modern human.

My name is Homo ergaster. I am the African form of Homo erectus. My fossils were found in southern Africa. John T. Robinson was the paleontologist that found my first fossils in 1949. I lived in Africa about 1.9 million years ago. My name ergaster comes from an ancient greek word meaning “workman”. I was relatively hairless, tall and slender.

Dar and the Spear Thrower:

A Play Adaptation from the Novel by Marjorie Cowley

Part 1: The Healers

Characters:

Dar, a 12 year old boy	Girl #1
Mora, Dar’s grandmother, a wise woman and healer	Girl #2
Kenok, Dar’s uncle	Hunter #1
Bowan, Dar’s young friend	Hunter #2
Young woman	

Props:

Dar- spear
Bowen-spear
Hunter #1-spear
Hunter #2-spear
Girl #1-basket
Girl #2-basket
Young woman-basket
Mora-basket

Scattered on stage to collect: mushrooms, berries, onions etc.

Bird

Healing flower

Marrow bone

Wooden bowl

Hammerstone

Setting: Along a riverbank. There is a cliff nearby. The women carry baskets or skin bags to gather roots and tubers. The boys hold spears. A large animal bone, bowl and grinding stone are used to treat Kenok's wound.

Scene 1: Along the Riverbank

Narrator A group of women and children are walking along the river bank, foraging for food. The older woman is Mora, grandmother of the boy Dar, and a respected elder of the clan. She has knowledge of plants and healing arts. Dar and Bowan, the two oldest boys of the clan, carry spears and stand ready to protect the women and children. The young woman collects roots, while the girls look for berries and wild plants.

Young woman Look daughters! Here are mushrooms. See how these are light on top and very dark brown underneath? (The girls observe and nod.) They are good to eat!

Girl 1 (Gestures to her sister to come.) Here are green berries. (both girls gather handfuls and run to Mora.) Are these good to eat, Wise Mother?

Girl 2 Please taste them, Wise Mother!

Mora (Looks at berries, but does not taste.) Why don't you taste them, girls? (The girls eagerly taste the berries, but quickly spit them out. Mora and the woman laugh at the girl's shocked reactions.)

Girl 2 Aaaack! They are terrible!

Girl 1 You did not tell us they would be so sour!

Mora (Looks weary and serious.) Let us rest a moment here. (Sits down on a rock. The girls sit beside her.) When our clan first moved to this area, useful plants and animals were plentiful. Now, after living here for many seasons, our women and children have to travel far from camp to find food and healing herbs.

Young woman That is true, Old One.

Mora Our hunters too, must travel great distances to find the animals we eat.

Bowan But, Old One, if you could only...

Mora Yes, yes, Bowan. I know you are eager to hunt with them.

Dar And I too, Grandmother.

Mora Yes, Dar. Your time is coming very soon.

Young woman Look! Over there! A clump of green onions. I'll go get it. (She pulls the onions up, and she puts them in her bag.)

Mora (Rising slowly, painfully) Tonight's meal will be tasty! (Looks around and spies a clump of purple flowers in the distance.) Dar, look there in the top of that cliff. I haven't seen that plant for three summers.

Dar What is it, Grandmother?

Mora When its flowers and leaves are ground up and mixed with bone marrow, the paste makes a fine medicine to put on wounds. Let's get these plants.

Bowan I'll go up.

Mora (Firmly) NO! Dar will go.

Dar But, Grandmother, you know I'm...

Mora (Sharply) DAR!

Dar I will go. (Hands his spear to Bowan, and he begins to climb.)

Narrator Dar climbs the steep cliff. He climbs slowly and cautiously. Suddenly, he hears the angry cry of hawks, and realizes he is close to a nest.

Dar (Calls to the circling adult birds.) I'm not here to hurt your chicks.

Narrator The chicks and the adult hawks have distracted Dar's attention, and he looks down. The faces of the group looking up at him look so small-as small as deerskin dolls. Suddenly, Dar feels sick. Fear paralyzes him, and he begins to tremble.

Mora (Calling) Dar, forget the plants. Come down!

Narrator Relieved to be called down, but ashamed of his fear, Dar makes his way down the cliff. Then something in the distance catches his eye.

Dar (Shouts to the group below.) Uncle's hunting party! They return!...But something is wrong...Someone is hurt!

Bowan We must go to them, Dar!

Narrator Dar and Bowan run to the hunters, and help them back to the place where the gatherers wait.

Dar Kenok! Uncle... What has happened!?

Kenok (Speaks with difficulty because of his pain) Bison, a big male... I came in close for the spear throw. He charged...and hooked me with his horns. (His face contorts in pain.) Aaarg! He was very close...too close.

Dar (Looks intently at the wounds) Will you... be all right? (Kenok does not answer. The other hunters shake their heads in concern.)

Kenok Where...is...Mora?

Mora I am here, my son. Let me see the wound.

Dar Grandmother, I'm going back up to get the healing plants! I'll be right back.

Narrator Dar climbs up steadily, careful not to look down. He returns with the plants.

Dar Grandmother, I've got them! I have the healing plants.

Mora (Smiles at Dar.) Get the marrow bone to mix with it! Bring my bowl and my hammer stone.

Narrator Dar brings the bowl, stone, and bone. Mora brings the hammer stone down on the marrowbone, shattering it to reveal the yellow fatty marrow inside. She spoons the marrow into the bowl. The she takes the plants, grinds them, and adds them to the marrow in the bowl. Now Mora works them together with her fingers until she has a thick paste. She quickly smears the healing salve on Kenok's wounds.

Dar Will my uncle be all right now, Grandmother?

Mora (She nods and smiles at Dar) You have done a good thing, Dar. You have helped to save your uncle's life.

Part 2: The Stranger

Characters:

Dar- a young boy

Toreg-a stranger

Kenok-Dar's Uncle

Mora-Dar's grandmother

Narrator

Setting: In the camp and in the forest nearby, the next day

Scene 1: The camp

Props:

The shelter

Futon (pad for elevating Kenok)

Sleep robe

Dar's pouch

Dar's spear

Horn cup

Deer meat wrapped in skin

Narrator Dar looks at his uncle who is lying on his sleeping robe. His face is tight with pain. Mora is putting the last of the healing salve on his wounds.

Dar (Slips on his shoulder pouch, and speaks softly to Mora) I'm going to look for more healing plants today.

Mora (Gestures her approval and replies quietly.) My mother was told by her grandmother that the medicine works best if it is made from fresh leaves and flowers.

Kenok (Shakes his head) No. Dar, you're needed for another job. It would be fine if you found more healing plants, but their work is done. I am no longer bleeding. (Kenok takes a bowl of broth from Mora and drinks.) I had planned to check and reset my snares in the pine forest today. I want you to do it for me. There are four snares. Head into the forest just beyond the second rapid.

Dar (Honored to have such an important job) Thank you Uncle! I'll leave right away.

Kenok It's a half a day's walk in the forest. Be back by sundown. I don't want you walking alone in the dark.

Mora (Wraps some meat in some animal skin.) Take this deer meat for your midday meal.

Scene 2: In the Forest

Props:

Toreg's pouch with atlatl and spear

Snares (wooden sticks)

Little fox

Dead fox skin

Dar's pouch with sunstones

Skunk

Stumps or rocks to sit on

Setting: A forest with the trees and rocks. Snares are set up across the stage.

Narrator Dar enters the pine forest. This is the first time Dar has come here alone. Dar checks the snares. The first holds a fox which Dar kills and then he re-sets the snare. The second snare is empty. The third holds a partially eaten skunk, which Dar discards. He re-sets the snare. From the fourth snare comes the voice of a young fox whining.

Dar Run away, little fox. You are too young to be away from your mother. (Suddenly Dar hears the sound of crackling leaves. He runs behind a tree, leaving his pouch out in the open. He sees a stranger carrying a spear.)

Toreg (The stranger sees Dar's bag on the ground. Immediately he raises his spear, and scans the area with a fearsome look.)

Dar (Dar shrinks back, but as he moves, he scrapes off a piece of bark. Knowing he has been heard, Dar steps out from behind the tree, his spear point down to show the man he means no harm.)

Toreg (Glares at Dar and speaks in a harsh-sounding language.)
Ara bat she ga.

Dar (Takes a step forward, with right arm raised.) I do not understand you.

Narrator Dar gestures to his shoulder pack, walks over and picks it up, removes the deer meat, and shows it to the stranger.

Toreg (Nods, takes out a piece of wood with a groove down the middle, and a sharp wooden stick. He places a piece of dried fungus on the groove. He twirls the stick rapidly between his palms.) Ra bador kan a ru.

Dar This will take a long time, stranger.

Narrator Dar watches the man struggle to get his fire lit in the damp afternoon fog. He had seen his own clan members use fire sticks such as these years ago...before his clan discovered sunstones. Now that was all they used as fire starters. He wondered if he should use his fire rocks.

Dar Let me show another way...an easier way.

Toreg Ka na loro? (Watches Dar as he strikes the fire rocks together over a piece of fungus. A spark falls, and immediately ignites the fungus.) Ayeea! Ayeea! Ka na ra koro.

Dar (Allows the stranger to examine the fire rocks.)

Toreg (smiling in admiration.) Ahbano kar. Ahbano karna.

Narrator They roast the deer meat and eat it. While eating, Dar quietly slips the precious sunstone back into this pouch. After they eat the man points to Dar's pouch, where he keeps his sunstone. Then the stranger takes something out of his pouch...a slim rod made out of reindeer antler. Dar had never seen anything like this!

Toreg (Thrusting it into Dar's hands.) Tena mana. Tu kero tena mana.

Dar (Holding the carved reindeer antler admiringly.) This is finely carved what is it?

Toreg (Taking back the carved rod, and pointing to a faraway tree.) Ya bura. Ku ya bura. (He holds the carved reindeer antler over and behind his shoulder. He mounts his spear along the groove and into a hook at the end of the groove. The stranger leans back and throws.

Dar (Watches open-mouthed as it neatly hits its target.) Yaaaah! This is farther than I have ever seen a spear thrown!

Narrator The stranger smiles and runs off to retrieve his spear. Dar could not believe his eyes. This piece of reindeer antler, this “spear thrower”, had just sent the stranger’s spear twice as far as the strongest hunter in the clan had ever thrown. If the hunters in his own clan had had such a thing, the accident with Kenok could have been avoided.

Narrator The stranger points to Dar’s pouch and offers the “spear thrower” indicating that he wants to trade the sunstone for the spear thrower. Dar hesitates. He too could become a great hunter if he had such a spear thrower. But he could not part with his precious sunstone. His grandfather had given it to him before he died. He shook his head in refusal.

Toreg (Frowns, takes his rod back. He taps his chest.)
Toreg. TOREG.

Narrator Toreg points to the two tall mountains behind the pine forest. He draws them in the dirt with this finger, and points out the valley between them. He adds a rough circle that seems to be a lake. Dar recognizes that this must be Toreg’s home.

Dar (Pointing to his own chest.) Dar DAR.

Narrator The stranger, Toreg, raises his hand in farewell, and walks away toward the mountains. Dar wonders if he made a mistake by not accepting the trade. If he had the magical rod, he would be as good a hunter as anyone in his clan. Dar walked home thinking of nothing but the spear thrower.

Part 3: The Cave

Characters

Narrator

Dar

Bowan

Mora

Jenu (the shaman)

Clans people (4)

Scene 1

Props

Fire

Shelter

Setting: Dar and Mora are seated around the fire.

Dar As soon as the moon disappears from the sky I will begin the ceremony that will make me a man. Grandmother, I have something to tell you. Please do not tease me. I am frightened. What if I fail and I am not allowed to be a man.

Mora Every boy is frightened. The important test is that you can do what is expected of you even though you have doubts and fears.

Dar (Speaking to himself while looking at the sky.) The moon is gone! (He goes to sleep. Lights out. Pause. Lights on. It is the next morning. Dar awakens and goes to the fire. Jenu and Bowan approach.)

Jenu (Sternly) Come Bowan and Dar I need to speak with you. (The two boys respectfully gather around Jenu.) You two are to eat nothing until the new moon returns to the sky and you are reborn as men. (Points to an oak tree and speaks sternly.) When the sun hits the top of that tree, your walk to the sacred cave must begin. When you reach the cave, enter it, and move toward the light at its heart. Now go to the river and immerse yourselves. The water will cleanse you of your childhood. (Bowan and Dar walk to the river. Jenu leaves them.)

Bowan Hurry up! This is the first step of our initiation.

Dar Bowan, look at those chunks of ice in the river. We're going to freeze!

Bowan Come on, Dar! It's what we have to do! (Both boys take off their outer cloaks and jump into the river. They jump out, quickly cover themselves and return to the fire at the camp. Finally, Bowan looks at the oak tree.) Look! The sun is in the top of the tree. It's time! (Lights out.)

Scene 2

Props

Jenu's platform: short ladder with rock-like cover

Jenu's pouch with knife

Drum and flute music

Backdrop behind which Bowan and Dar enter cave

Setting: Jenu is on an elevated platform with the elder men of the clan to one side

Narrator The boys follow a path that takes them to the entrance to the sacred cave. Both boys approach the entrance to the cave with fear.

Bowan It's about to happen Dar! Soon we'll be men.

Dar Go inside Bowan. What are you waiting for?

Bowan You go first. (As they enter the cave drumming and flute music begin. Dar enters first and Bowan follows. They crawl though and come out into the cave where Jenu and the clansmen await. Dar and Bowan approach Jenu.)

Jenu Come forward! (He takes the knife from his pouch and holds it over his head.)
When I speak, the spirits listen,
Give abundance, guard our people
When I speak, all creatures listen
Great bear dances, bison gather
When I speak, the seasons listen
White snow melts, red berries ripen.
When I speak, the clan must listen
Live in balance, all in balance
(The music stops. Jenu holds out his knife.) We are here to determine if these two boys are ready to leave their childhood and become men. They must prove their bravery in front of all the men of the clan. If they show pain or fear manhood will be denied them. Dar, come forward. (Dar approaches. Jenu grasps his arm and dramatically cuts five slashes in his upper arm. Then he rubs the cuts with ashes.) Bowan, Come forward. He does the same to Bowan. Then Jenu cuts his own palm and mingles his own blood with theirs.)
Through me, your blood is merged with the guardian spirits

Now you carry within you all that is sacred to us. You will come into manhood to serve the clan, not yourselves. When the moon is reborn from the black womb of the sky you two will be reborn as men and will be welcomed into this clan. Now let us dance in celebration of your manhood. (The drums and flute music begin again and all the men begin to dance in a ritual style.)

Part 4: The Journey

Characters:

Narrator

Dar

Mora

Toreg

Seelan

Clanspeople from Toreg's clan

Props

Shelter

Fire

Deer meat

Dar's pouch, spear, and sunstone

Stumps to sit on

Setting

Mora and Dar are in camp. Sleep robe is out with food for the trip and Dar's belongings

Dar (Dar is packing his belongings.)

Mora What are you doing Dar?

Dar I can think of nothing but the spear thrower. It is calling to me. Now that I have my man marks I do not need my uncle's permission to seek for the stranger's camp. I'm leaving tomorrow before sunrise. I'm going to find Toreg's clan, and trade my sunstone for the spear thrower.

Mora How far away is this camp?

Dar The camp is in the valley between two mountains with a large lake nearby. It might take ten days to get there.

Mora How do you know you can trust this man or his people? Many years ago when my brother was a young man, hunting was poor. He decided to go out scouting for a new campsite. I heard my father warn him about a fierce clan that lived by a lake. They looked like animals and didn't even live in tents. (Tearfully) My brother left and never returned. You could be going to the same clan that killed my brother.

Dar He may not have been killed by another clan. He could have been hurt or died on the journey.

Mora You may be right, but I fear for you and for myself. I do not want to look for another loss.

Dar Grandmother, don't worry. I can take care of myself.

Mora I suppose you are determined to go. I will leave food for your journey by your sleep robe. (Dar gets ready for bed. Lights out.)

Scene 2

Props

Lake (a blue plastic paint cloth)

Big rock

Dar's pouch and spear

Mountain backdrop

Setting

Place rock at one end of the stage and mountain backdrop at the other. Lake is center stage.

Narrator (As the narrator tells his story Dar is acting the scene silently.)
The next morning Dar gets up, collects his gear, and leaves the village. For the first few nights Dar misses his people. Each day Dar travels he makes a notch on a walking stick to number the days. On the tenth day he sees a vast lake. When he gets closer he touches it with his spear and finds it frozen. He tries to cross the frozen lake but the ice breaks. He frantically looks for a way out, probes with his spear, and finally pulls himself out half-frozen. He struggles to shore and is thankful for his survival. He rests. (Lights go down and come up.) The next day he smells smoke from a campfire and knows he is close to his destination. He looks around a boulder and sees the camp. (Lights out)

Scene 3

Props

Flint knapping tool kit

Berries and basket

Skin and scraper

Wooden spear

Fouton for Seelan

Toolkit for Seelna

Spear thrower

sleeprobe

Setting

Put out shelter. Put out sleep robe. Put out tool kit for Seelan to be working on. Put out a blanket to conceal Seelan's leg. Give clanspeople their props. Seelan is propped up on his bed in front of the shelter. Clanspeople are gathered. As Dar approaches them and lays down his spear they all stop and stare.)

Dar Toreg? (The clanspeople mutter together. Finally one girl approaches Dar and signals for him to follow her. She brings him to Toreg who is in the distance. When Toreg sees Dar he pounds Dar on the back in a friendly manner. As Dar flinches he notices Dar's man marks. He points at them and signals for him to follow.)

Toreg Dar! (Toreg gestures for Dar to follow him. They approach the shelter. In front of the shelter they see an old man lying on a sheepskin robe sleeping. Toreg touches him and he awakens.)
Seelan?

Seelan (As the old man gets up Dar notices the man mark of his own tribe on the old man's arm.) (Speaking to Dar) Who are you?

Dar My name is Dar. I come from a clan ten day's journey south. On your arm...your marks are the same as mine! You must be my great uncle! If this is true my grandmother, Mora, is your sister. She thinks you're dead.

Seelan Ah, Mora. I haven't spoken her name since I was a young man and lived among your people. Sit here beside me. We have much to tell each other.

Toreg (To Seelan) Mano seetee wanash su gerah bru. Furah gee tu annah ti wandahlah. Subee tommeh nataloo seetee nala. (Toreg exits.)

Seelan Toreg has told me why you are here. You want his spear thrower, and he wants your wonderful stone that sparks fire. Why do I know nothing of this stone?

Dar After you left the clan my grandfather traded mammoth's tusks for the stone. Great uncle why are you here?

Seelan I left the clan as a young man to scout for a new campsite. As I approached the lake I fell into a pit trap covered with branches and

moss. I fell onto half-buried stakes and I suffered many wounds. These people found me and saved me! They are my people now.

Dar But why did you never return home?

Seelan (Pulls back the cover to show he has only one foot.) My foot became swollen and green. They had to remove it to save my life. They cared for me like one of their own clan. I found a place here.

Dar (Toreg returns to the cave and holds out the spear thrower to Dar. Dar reaches into his pouch and gives the sunstone to Toreg. Dar looks closely at the spear thrower.) This is beautiful. Who made it?

Seelan: I made it! (Points to the toolkit.) Over the years I have become very skilled at making tools. I sit in the cave entrance and work. Because I am old I rest in the afternoon.

Toreg: Latanah Latanah tawanda tonsu mo intila. Chonsu mi duanna ti rangu.

Seelan Toreg says you will have to get to know the spear thrower before you return home. He will begin to teach you how to use it now.

Dar I'm not sure I'll need help. Can it be so hard to use?

Seelan (To Toreg) Fingillah manguah unghi dranco. (Both men laugh at the Dar.)

Dar: Well, if Toreg has the time, tell him that would be generous of him to teach me.

Seelan (To Toreg) Soto chunsa un latee.

(Toreg and Dar retreat behind the cave. Dar practices with the spear thrower and Toreg helps him. They act out the narrator's story.)

Narrator During the next several days Dar is expertly taught how to use the spear thrower. His first attempts are clumsy but he steadily improves. When he isn't practicing with the spear thrower his Great Uncle shows him how to carve and make tools. One day he is invited to a great musk oxen hunt with the adult hunters. He does well and is accepted as a hunter in the clan. Time passes and he and his uncle grow close.

(Dar and Seelan in front of the shelter.)

Dar Great Uncle I have learned much since I have come here, but tomorrow I must start for home.

Seelan You could stay here with us. I like having you here and so does Toreg. He has no sons of his own. I could teach you well and one day you could be a master carver.

Dar Uncle I cannot stay here.

Seelan Why not?

Dar Last night I had a dream about a white owl. Its voice sounded like the flute in my initiation ceremony. It took me until now to understand its message.

Seelan What was its message?

Dar The owl was our shaman. He told me during the ceremony that once we have become men we should serve the clan, not ourselves. Now I know that I must return to the tribe to bring the spear thrower to the other hunters. I owe my grandmother a great debt too, for she is the one who raised me from an infant.

Seelan When you see Mora tell her that she is the one I have missed the most. I will miss you too Dar.

Dar Thank you great uncle for all you have done for me. You will live within me all my life. (They embrace and Dar starts out on his journey to return home.)

The End

