

Shared stories

These stories were shared by Nuu-chah-nulth learners, and retold by fluent elders.

1. Thanksgiving

by taaʔisumqa Josephine George, as told by saak^wisʔ Hilda Hanson

<p>kithšaʔtints ʔaasiiqskqs, haawawiiqšat Thanksgiving dinner.</p> <p>ʔahʔaaʔʔaʔ... tiq^waasaʔin tiipin.</p> <p>ʔahʔaaʔʔaʔ ʔaasiiqskqs ʔaʔaatuu yaqʔaqʔii ciciqink.</p> <p>siyaaq, siyaaq—waaʔaʔt Robert.</p> <p>ʔahʔaaʔ ciciqinkšaʔʔ.</p> <p>ʔaayičʔ ʔaatiiq q^waaʔiitq haʔum.</p> <p>ʔahʔaaʔ ʔačuulʔ siičʔ ʔaatiiqi ʔuuk^wiʔ nananaqsk.</p> <p>čamaht ʔačuulʔ siičʔ ʔataqšʔ ʔuuk^wiʔ nananaqsk.</p>	<p>My niece phoned me to invite me to Thanksgiving dinner.</p> <p>Then... we were sitting at the table.</p> <p>Then my niece asked who would say grace.</p> <p>“Me, me!” said Robert.</p> <p>So he started praying.</p> <p>He said many thank yous for the food.</p> <p>Then he looked me in the face, and said thank you for his grandmothers.</p> <p>He looked me right in the face, and said thank you for his grandmothers.</p>
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2. čayix Verna – Verna picks berries

by Verna Jules, as told by saak^wisʔ Hilda Hanson

3. čayix Verna – Verna picks berries

by Verna Jules, as told by q^waaʔinsath Al Vincent

<p>čayixintwaʔš ʔuucamh muučink.</p> <p>muu ʔuucamh—Verna ʔuhʔiiš ʔaak^waaʔk^w Veronica, Joanne ʔuhʔiiš Lynne, ʔišsiʔ ʔuʔuʔiih.</p> <p>pawišʔiič Verna.</p>	<p>Four ladies were picking berries.</p> <p>Four ladies—Verna, her daughter Veronica, Joanne, and Lynne, picking blackberries.</p> <p>Verna disappeared.</p>
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hayimḥaʔł q ^w icičłii.	They didn't know where she had gone.
tictaayswaʔš ʔuuk ^w ił ḥaaʔaḥ kuwisi.	She had fallen in a hole.
čañiintiič hin hił kuwis ḥaaʔaḥ hiłʔiitq ḥisšiłmiti.	She hadn't known there was a hole where the blackberry bushes were.
ḥaaʔaḥ tictaays wiikiłšaʔłiičaʔł.	She fell in, and they couldn't find her.
hayimḥ q ^w icičłii.	They didn't know where she had gone.
ʔuʔuukḥałiič hitacwiis ʔuuk ^w ił kuwisi.	She came out of the hole on her own.
wiikšaḥs—huwaałiič.	She said, "I'm okay."
čuu.	The end.

4. ʔuʔuuciiḥ ḥayuumaʔin – Vince gets sea urchins

by ḥayuumaʔin Vince Smith, as told by saak^wisł Hilda Hanson

5. ʔuʔuuciiḥ ḥayuumaʔin – Vince gets sea urchins

by ḥayuumaʔin Vince Smith, as told by q^waaʔinsath Al Vincent

čuu, ʔuuhłaʔqłs ḥayuumaʔin, Vincent Smith.	I'm going to tell about Vince Smith.
hiłintwaʔš maḥtaʔs.	He was at Queens Cove.
taakšiłintiič ʔuʔuuciiḥ ḥaaʔaʔłquu ʔuuhwł ʔuuchtaa.	He would go after sea urchins at low tide, using a sea urchin spear.
ʔuʔuq ʔuupaałk ^w i.	He went with his friend
kamaanp čapic.	They filled up their canoe
ʔaḥʔaał wałšił hinit ʔuuk ^w ił ʔaya... [AV: hinił ʔuuk ^w ił ʔaya quuʔas.]	Then they went home and invited many people.
hitinqsaʔł ʔaya quuʔas ʔuucminḥ kiłyik, q ^w aaḥwłʔaaḥaał kiiłkiił ʔuucup ʔuuk ^w ił.	Many people came down the beach carrying crackers, which they would use to crack open the sea urchins.
ʔaḥʔaał nisimḥčaʔłqooł, hiničł ʔuuk ^w ił	Then when they got full, they took the

ḥaaʔaḥ yaaqmilitq wałšił.	leftovers home.
čuu.	The end.

6. hiniipšł Lillian ɣapcʔin – Lillian gets abalone

by waamiišinaał Lillian Jack, as told by saak^wisł Hilda Hanson

čuu, ʔaḥkuu ʔuyaqḥmisi ʔuuc Lillian Jack.	Well, this story belongs to Lillian Jack.
ʔacšił.intiičaʔł ʔuḥaaḥwits ɣapcʔin, ʔuʔuq ḥaaʔaḥ ʔuupaak ^w .	They would go out on the water looking for abalone, (Lillian) and a friend.
ʔaḥʔaał ʔucičł hiłʔiitq ʔaya ɣapcʔin.	Then they went where there was lots of abalone.
ʔuʔuʔiiḥšaʔłał ʔayiipšł ɣapcʔin.	They got lots of abalone.
ʔaḥʔaał wałšił.	Then they went home.
ʔuunaʔš ʔaḥʔaa.	That’s all.

7. ʔałak^włčink čapaak – Eight in a canoe

by hišiiq^wt Natalie Jack, as told by saak^wisł Hilda Hanson

hiłcamaɣqł.intwaʔš maam ^w ax ^w iʔuq Java the Hut k ^w aapaɣcwits.	Janice wanted to have coffee at Java the Hut.
wiikaałał maʔakłqs puut.	There were no boats.
čuu, ʔuyiisin čapick ^w qs—waaʔał maam ^w ax ^w iʔuq.	“Let’s take my canoe,” Janice said.
čuu, kamitqšaʔł Jayne ʔuḥaaḥ λatwaačk, ʔiqʔik.	So Jayne ran to get the paddles.
čuu, λiiḥšaʔłał ḥuu, ʔała naniqs, ʔała [ḥaath ^w aał], muu k ^w akuuc.	So they started paddling, two grandmothers, two daughters, and four granddaughters.
λiiḥšaʔł k ^w isaqsł.	They went across the bay.

<p>hiniipšł ʔuuk^wil Java the Hut, hił huupsitas. k^waapaƒačłał hił. čuu, hawaał k^waapaƒc. huʔacičłwitsałał hitaqs čapick^wał. ʔahʔaałintiič hił mamałna piikčpiikč ʔuuk^wil haaʔah čapaaki k^wiisaqsł.</p>	<p>The got to Java the Hut, on Walter’s Island. They had coffee there. They finished having coffee. They were going to go back in their canoe. By that time, there were tourists there, taking pictures of the canoers going across the bay.</p>
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8. čaynaʔth haʔumk – Chinese food

by maamaqinšał Sophie Billy

<p>hiłintin λiisuwłi. hawaałin. hiłin čuumafaas. łapatšaʔłin hiłʔaqłin haʔuk, taʔłin hayimł ʔahkuu maʔuusi. —ʔucičiz in Quality Foods—waaʔał hayał. naaciičaʔłin čaynaʔthi haʔumk. —ʔuʔiicaqłs siyaaq mini combo, ʔin čamahtayiis wik ʔiił huucma. ʔuuʔaʔłintiis ciłuk-and-čamisi pork. Adam ʔuhʔałint ʔuuʔił chicken ʔuhʔiis black beans ʔuhʔiis siisiicx^w. haawaa ʔiiłintiš haʔum. ʔaya haʔum.</p>	<p>We were at school. We finished. We’re in Port Alberni. We tried to figure out where to eat, but we don’t know this town. “Let’s go to Quality Foods,” this person (Adam) said. We saw the Chinese food. “I’ll have a mini combo, because I’m really not a big woman.” I had sweet and sour pork. Adam had chicken and black beans and rice. There was real lots of food! Lots of food.</p>
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ʔuṁaas... ʔiihint ɥaaʔaḥ plate-uk ʔuuk ^{wi} ɫ tuḥcitkqs.	The plate was bigger than my head!
ʔuṁaasaλintiis kaminλ.	I got really full.
ʔuupinλ hawiiqλ qaseekqs ʔuuk ^{wi} ɫ ɥaaʔaḥ taačaakqs.	My eyes were hungrier than my stomach.
čuu.	That's all.

¹ *Thanksgiving*, recorded 20130406, transcribed 20140320 by AW.

² *Verna picked berries* (HH), recorded 20130430, transcribed ???

³ *Verna picked berries* (AV), recorded 20130430, transcribed 20140308 by AV, AW.

⁴ *Vince got sea urchins* (HH), recorded 20130430, transcribed ???

⁵ *Vince got sea urchins* (AV), recorded 20130430, transcribed 20140308 by AV, AW.

⁶ *Lillian gets abalone*, recorded 20130430, transcribed 20131009 by HH, AW.

⁷ *Eight in a canoe*, recorded 20130430, transcribed 20140320 by AW.

⁸ *Chinese food*, recorded and transcribed 20131026 by SB, AW.