**From Chapter 2 in *Tsawalk* by E. Richard Atleo, He-xwa - The Struggle for Balance**

**Segment #1 - Ms. Parchoma**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| One day while the people were living at Ahous\*, the Chief's daughter went to play on the beach with the rest of the children. They had all been warned about Aulth-ma-quus, the ugly giant woman who stole children. They say she lived high up in the mountains, where she took all the abducted\* children. But children have no time to worry while at play. Every moment of play is filled with the keen\* enjoyment of life. It would be during such moments of play that Aulth-ma-quus, with a gigantic basket on her back, would come down the mountain chewing a great wad\* of gum. Aulth-ma-quus was very large, very strong, and very ugly. She was so large and so ugly that when children saw her, the tiniest ones would freeze in terror. Emanations from a powerful evil presence can be felt by spiritually sensitive little hearts, which are then gripped with terror. | \**Ahous*,  A place, a home community, on the coast of West Vancouver Island  \**abducted*,  kidnapped children  \**keen*,  delighted, invested, happy  \**wad*,  ball: like chewing on a ball of chewing gum.  \**Emanations*,  a form of radiation or bad energy given off by something. |

**Segment #2 - Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| It was such a day while the Chief's daughter played on the beach that Aulth-ma-quus appeared and began to scoop up the terror-stricken\* children with her large hands and throw them screaming into her basket. It was after this particular raid\* that one child who had been captured by Aulth-ma-quus managed to escape and find her way back home. She went to the Chief and told him that Aulth-ma-quus had taken all the children to her great\* house in the mountains. There she had put gum over all the children's eyes so that they could no longer see.  Now the people knew where their children had been taken. They wanted desperately to get their children back, but they were afraid of this ugly giant. They were afraid of her power and her strength. What were they to do? Who was able to rescue their beloved\* children? Who could restore\* family and community to wholeness? But no one in all the land\* was found who could rescue the children. | \**terror-stricken*,  Extremely afraid. Frozen with fear.  \**raid*,  planned attack  \**great house*,  impressively large house  \**beloved*,  loved ones  \**restore*,  return to its original state, make safe again  \**in all the land*,  in the area |

**Segment #3 - Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| So it was that the Chief's wife grieved exceedingly\* for her daughter. She cut her hair as was the custom\* when mourning. She wept and wailed\* until her nose ran with mucus. She wiped her nose and flung\* the mucus away. She noticed that no matter how she flung her mucus\* it would land, as though guided, into one specific\* mussel shell. She continued her grieving but soon noticed that the mussel shell had begun to move. A modern woman would no doubt be startled, incredulous\*, and suspicious of anything so unnatural.  Fortunately, she was a hakum (the wife of a chief), and as her tears continued to flow her heart filled with wonder at the tiny feet sticking out of the mussel shell. She dried her tears and went for a closer look. Today it would be called a miracle, but in those days it was not an unusual phenomenon\*. People were always transforming\* into salmon or leaves and other such beings. The mucus of the Chief's wife had transformed into a baby.  She took the baby to her husband and explained how it had been born. Her husband instructed her to take it to her aunt and uncle who were wise in the care of babies. The baby cried as other babies cry, but it did not grow in the ordinary way. | \**exceedingly*,  so much, endlessly.  \**custom*,  what people do as a part of their culture  \**wailed*,  cried loudly, deeply  \**flung*,  threw, whipped  \**mucus*,  snot, nose dripping  \**specific*,  exact, precise a “specific” choice  *\*mussel shell*,  seafood shell, dark blue shell  *\*incredulous*,  taken aback, very surprised  *\**phenomenon,  Something we can’t explain how it happens, we just know that it happens or is happening.  \*transforming,  Changing into. |

**Segment #4 - Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No, the baby ,grew rapidly. He became a boy far sooner than ordinary babies did. All the people were amazed. Especially since they knew that the Chief's wife had not been pregnant. Yet they marvelled\* at the manner of birth and accordingly\*, as was the custom, named the child Aint-tin-rnit (Son of Mucus).  As a boy, Aint-tin-mit was wise beyond his years\*. He was knowledgeable about all things and was skilful with his hands. Still, the Chief’s wife continued to grieve for her stolen daughter. Occasionally, Aint-tin-mit would ask what she was sad about. Then, one day, it seemed right for the Chief's wife to tell Aint-tin-mit that her daughter had been stolen by Aulth-ma-quus.  At about this time, Aulth-ma-quus came again to steal children. Aint-tin-mit heard of the raid and was determined\* to do something about it. Of all the people, Aint-tin-mit alone did not fear this giant woman. So before setting off\* to rescue the children, Aint-tin-rnit informed the people that they should post a lookout\* for his return. | \**marvelled*,  they were in a state of wonder, surprise  \**accordingly*,  as was the cultural way of doing things.  \**beyond his years*,  he was more developed than other children his age.  \**determined*,  he was committed, he was going to do it  \**setting off*,  leaving for somewhere else  \**post a lookout*,  Have a person or a few people watching him for his safety. |

**Segment #5 - Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Aint-tin-mit found the trail of the giant woman and followed it as silently as a shadow. After some time, he came to a great house in the mountains. Furtively\* he peered inside, and there he saw many children lined up against the walls. They sat in the same formation\* as that of people sitting at a great feast. They had gum over their eyes and thus had become blind.  As Aint-tin-mit pondered\* how to rescue the children, he noticed the giant woman leave her house to go to the spring well. Then he knew what to do. As the woman prepared to go again to the spring well, Aint-tin-mit ran to the well and climbed into an alder\* that overhung it. He took a position where the reflection of his face could be seen in the water. As the woman was dipping her water bucket into the spring well she noticed the reflection in the water.  "My, what a pretty woman I am!" she exclaimed. She paused for some time to admire the reflection. She experimented\*. First she smiled and sure enough the reflection smiled back at her. In turn, she grinned, laughed, and raised her eyebrows several times in quick succession\*. In turn, the reflection grinned, laughed, and raised its eyebrows several times in quick succession. How she admired that reflection in the pool!  Later, when the woman returned to the spring well again Aint-tin-mit confronted\* her with the truth. | \**Furtively*,  eagerly, alertly, curiously  \**formation*,  arranged, positioned  \**pondered*,  he took time to think about it  \**an alder*,  a kind of hardwood tree with strong branches  \**overhung*  over top of  \**experimented*  tried different things/ways  \**in quick succession*  rapidly one after another  \**confronted*  told in a challenging way |

**Segment # 6 - Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| "Oh!" she said, obviously disappointed. "And all this time I thought it was my own reflection. So it was yours. Tell me. How did you get to be so beautiful? Can you show Me?"  "Of course!" Aint-tin-rnit replied. "I can show you. Come with me." The woman followed.  Then Aint-tin-mit said, "Lie on that flat rock. Be sure to keep your eyes dosed or it won't work. Lie still." Eagerly\* the woman lay down and dosed her eyes. Then Aint-tin-mit picked up a large rock and prepared to crush the woman's head. But the woman's resolve wavered and three times she changed her mind and said, "No! No! No!"  The fourth time she changed her mind, Aint-tin-mit pretended to walk away until finally she said, "Okay! Let's do it!" With her eyes closed tightly shut the great rock came down and crushed her head. But something strange happened. Instead of blood, Aint-tin-mit saw that her head was made of gum. When she finally stopped struggling and lay still, he ran into her great house. There he noticed, hanging on a wall, a throbbing organ. It was Aulth-ma-quus's heart. He took out his bow and put an arrow into it. | \**Eagerly,*  Alert, excitedly, looking forward to |

**Segment #7 - Group # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The story Vocabulary Guide

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To his surprise, a huge chamber pot\* became frantic\* and began yelling, "lh-ih-kithla-mo-ka! Lh-ih-kithla-mo-ka! lh-ih-kithla-mo-ka! A person has broken into your home!" ln her own home, Aulth-ma-quus was known as lh-ih-kithla-mo-ka.  But Aint-tin-mit paid no mind\* because he knew that he had killed the woman. He wasted no time in gathering the children together. Being wise, he knew how to remove the gum from the children's eyes without hurting them. As he worked with the children, the chamber pot continued to yell for the giant woman.  Finally, Aint-tin-mit smashed the chamber pot and kicked it outside. He went back to his work of rescue, but the chamber pot could still be heard protesting\* outside. Finally, all the gum was removed, and the children blinked and squinted in the unfamiliar light of day. They were weak and undernourished\*, so Aint-tin-mit slowly and carefully led them down the mountain trail.  As they approached the village, the people's lookout saw the children. As news of the children's arrival spread, the village became a bustle\* of great activity and excitement. Mothers and fathers choked back their tears of joy and relief as they were reunited with their children. The Chief ordered a great feast. The people gathered together and ate heartily, sang for joy, and danced in thanksgiving.  There they recognized Aint-tin-mit's achievement\*. | \**chamber pot*,  Before running water, people used a chamber pot to urinate in if they didn’t want to go outside.  \**frantic*,  panicked  \**paid no mind*,  He didn’t pay attention to this frantic chamber pot  \**protesting*,  crying out at the injustice  \**undernourished*,  They did not get food or water. They were not nourished.  \*bustle  move about with  \*achievement  accomplishment, result |