Translated By Nancy Scott

Cherokee Nation College Resource Center

Illustrated By Zachary Barnes

with assistance from Roy Boney, Jr. Cherokee Nation Language Program



The printing of this book was made possible through funds from the Community Services Block Grant.

Copyright © 2016 Cherokee Nation All Rights Reserved.

Jewe Lsb Capt Szpt

Legend of the Giant Turtles

From A Story By Benny Smith

The printing of this book was made possible through funds from the **Community Services Block Grant.**

деже Гер Слет Ягег

Legend of the Giant Turtles

From A Story By

Benny Smith

Translated By

Nancy Scott
Cherokee Nation College Resource Center

Illustrated By

Zachary Barnes with assistance from Roy Boney Jr. Cherokee Nation Language Program



Copyright © 2016 Cherokee Nation All Rights Reserved.

Glossary

Dh&BP

COSA &V

hG

DhCMA

JhhC

4M

GULOA

RGA dWh L&b DhW

D&ᢒ ቆወ LZ ልᢒし ልሃ

Al TS KW Ancient Ones/Elders

Beautiful Land

Canoe

The Cherokee People

Children

Corn

Creator/God

Earth Eggs Turtle Fire

Into The Water It Is Not Good

Spring Day

Tobacco

About the Author

Benny Smith was raised in the traditions, practices, customs and values of Keetoowah life ways. He is a fluent Cherokee speaker and literate in Cherokee syllabary. The grandson of Red Bird and Lucy Fields Smith, he was educated by Cherokee elders in ceremonial and spiritual customs. He completed his teaching certification in 1962 and received his Master's Degree in 1966. During his educational career, he has taught at small schools in Alva, Keys and Waynoka and went on to coach at Haskell Indian Nations University from 1971-2002. He also served as Associate Dean of Students. Benny enjoys hunting, shoeing horses and translating Cherokee language documents.

Cherokee Syllabary

D_a	$R_{\scriptscriptstyle e}$	$T_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{i}}$	ふ 。	\mathcal{O}_{u}	$\mathbf{\dot{l}}_{\mathrm{v}}$
Sga Oka	$oldsymbol{h}_{ ext{ge}}$	$\mathbf{y}_{\scriptscriptstyle{ ext{gi}}}$	A_{go}	${f J}_{ m gu}$	$\mathbf{E}_{ ext{gv}}$
o V̄ _{ha}	$\mathbf{\hat{P}}_{ ext{he}}$	$oldsymbol{eta}_{ ext{hi}}$	$\mathbf{f}_{ ext{ho}}$	$\Gamma_{ ext{ iny hu}}$	$Q_{ m hv}$
$\mathbf{W}_{ ext{la}}$	$oldsymbol{\delta}_{ ext{le}}$	$\mathbf{P}_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{li}}$	G_{lo}	$oldsymbol{M}_{\mathrm{lu}}$	$\mathbf{\hat{q}}_{ ext{ lv}}$
or ma	O1 me	$H_{\scriptscriptstyle m mi}$	$\mathfrak{Z}_{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{mo}}}$	$\mathbf{y}_{\scriptscriptstyle{ ext{mu}}}$	G_{mv}
$\Theta_{\mathtt{na}} t_{\mathtt{hna}} G_{\mathtt{nah}}$	$oldsymbol{\Lambda}_{ ext{ne}}$	$\mathbf{h}_{ ext{\tiny ni}}$	Z_{no}	$\mathbf{Q}_{ ext{nu}}$	$\mathbf{O}_{ ext{nv}}$
$\mathbf{I}_{ ext{qua}}$	$oldsymbol{\omega}_{ ext{ iny que}}$	$\mathcal{P}_{ ext{ iny qui}}$	$oldsymbol{V}_{ ext{ t quo}}$	$oldsymbol{\mathfrak{D}}_{ ext{quu}}$	ϵ_{quv}
U _{sa} ® _s	4_{se}	$\mathbf{b}_{ ext{si}}$	∔ ₅₀	$\mathcal{C}_{\mathrm{su}}$	R_{sv}
$\mathcal{L}_{ ext{da}}$ $W_{ ext{ta}}$	${f S}_{ ext{de}}$ ${f T}_{ ext{te}}$	$oldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}_{ ext{di}}$ $oldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}_{ ext{ti}}$	$V_{ ext{do}}$	$S_{\scriptscriptstyle m du}$	6 ° dv
$oldsymbol{\delta}_{ ext{dla}}$	$\mathbf{L}_{ ext{tle}}$	$C_{ ext{tli}}$	$oldsymbol{\Psi}_{ ext{tlo}}$	$oldsymbol{ au}_{ ext{tlu}}$	$\mathbf{P}_{ ext{tlv}}$
G^{tsa}	$oldsymbol{V}_{ ext{tse}}$	$\mathbf{k}_{ ext{tsi}}$	$K_{ ext{tso}}$	$d_{\scriptscriptstyle ext{tsu}}$	C tsv
$G_{\scriptscriptstyle m wa}$	${f Q}{f y}_{ m we}$	$\mathbf{O}_{ ext{wi}}$	6) mo	$9_{\rm wu}$	6_{wv}
$oldsymbol{arOmega}_{ ext{ya}}$	$oldsymbol{eta}_{\scriptscriptstyle m ye}$	$oldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}_{\mathrm{yi}}$	$\mathbf{f}_{y\circ}$	G yu	B_{yv}

Dhsbp capt ohzpl o rga b tv kf4t, Oaloa sopat Dhewy. Sast kw, 4m osaa dhw opafl oowoa. Oz dowo isb aal osgaat. Dzz he oisas of sv daayh l eawaa af4t oayhh sv fr oospae gaa diapaf gz ahaigss Oaloa salabet.

The Ancient Ones tell of that when the earth was still new, God created the Cherokee people. He gave them tobacco, corn and fire, all important things to help them survive. He put them at the place where the giant turtles lived. The land was surrounded by water on all sides but the water was not fit to drink. However, the land provided everything they needed as long as they followed God's teachings.



"OPPORAZ O LSB ACCOONAT RY
haaa aacaoas ool
haccos, haaa Tcpola, Tcwoa Tvb
osoo spko oolaas shcaz op
door aakms raoa daoyh dea
Tclvpovt raoa scppvb o lsb."

"The giant turtles that I have placed you with are sacred and they will provide for you as long as you care for them and treat them with respect. You will always have food, tools to survive and shelter. You will be allowed to harvest a few of the mature turtles but before you do, you must give thanks to the turtles."



9AM FR D&GCJ DJP O LSB. YW AF TOPOWHL, DHYU DOSYOFT SV DHMFT JWH JHJ OBCJ. JHOWKO OWOJOFT JWH JSHO D&GCJ JL GHGOF OOZ DOGTHVP OOCUFOOT.

For the most part, the turtles lived in the water. Early in the spring, the female turtles, full of eggs, would come out of the water to lay their eggs in the ground. They became very tired after they laid the eggs and would go back to the shallow part of the water to float around and rest.



O Dhebp shoat ahac aorawia o dhyu led oaga awa lalo laroa gosport aevvat taw. Goctuz dhi, o ahac lhobpor va deaba

The elders gave the older children the responsibility to watch over the female turtles while they rested and to protect the eggs because they did not want anything disturbing the turtles or the eggs. When the eggs hatched, the children made sure the baby turtles got safely to the water.



Ο ΛΙΑΚΟ ΟΘΑΊΤ ΘΕΡΘΙΑΙΒ Ο 186,

D4ΘΥΝ 9CGLT ΟΊΑΘΑΡΑ ΑΥΣΊΑΙΚ

ΟΘΑΊ ΘΕΡΛΑ. Η ΤΕ Ο ΗΘ DΘΟ

ΦΙΘΑΤ, "Τίγαι ο 186 D&λ Φολ ΤΑΘΙ

GHMCT." VZ ΟΘΥΊΨΛΤ. DEΛ ΓΚ

ΘΊΨΟ ΟΘΥΊΨΛΤ. ΟΎΣΙΖ DΑΘΟΊ

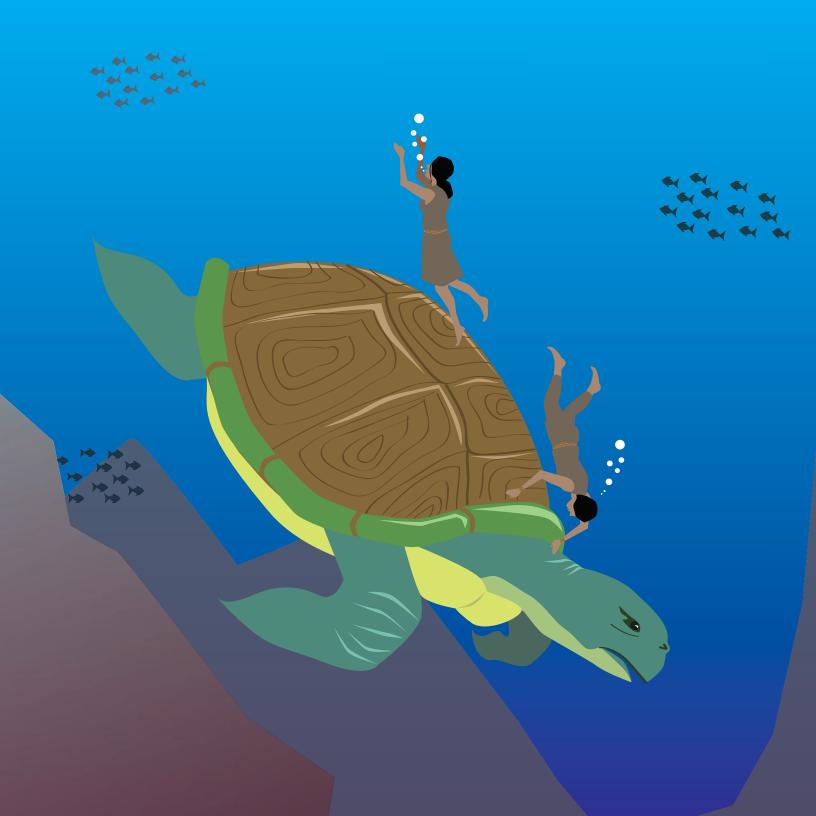
SΘΥΊΨΛΤ ΚΕΙ 186.

Even though the children knew how sacred the turtles were to the Cherokee, over time they got bored from their task of caring for the turtles because they did the same thing day after day. One day one of the boys said, "Let's ride one of the turtles until they start diving into the deep water." So the children rode on the turtle's back. The first time they rode it for just a short while. The next day they rode the turtles longer.



PB 9CGL O JARC LOLAOJ& idyo GAAA D& & oh ajgra krt. O leb asoped, wid thhadk leb shadet oshroe taal ooz d&a est golobart.

It reached a point where the children made a game out of seeing who could hold their breath the longest. When the turtles dove downward, the children would grab onto their shell and hold their breath as long as they could before letting go and swimming to the surface.



OZ DHSBP SHAW OOMAW JHAC, SHOHWAT, "POU BACYALOROUS O USB. LZ BOU BY ROSB HASCOSS DHYU. JHOUKO FIT TO HIGOHYL FRODO JUN JHOU FRT. LVLOU HSCOSFOJ."

When the Elders saw what the children were doing, they got on to them. "Do not ride on the turtle's backs! It is not good for you to treat the female turtles that way. They travel a long distance to get here and after they lay the eggs, they are exhausted. Treat them with more respect."



Loyhaa hekwaa tgomas o ahac, ohzoyl b loyaaoet o lsb yg aosaoo ay. Ocglz oco tooco tooco and o ahac ehwa dhsbr loyaaoe lsb. Pbz o dhsbr ohwav lhoolsb o ahac.

The children did not do as the elders told them. They continued to ride the turtle's backs when no one was looking. Over time, the children got braver and rode the turtles in front of the elders. Eventually, the elders quit getting on to the children.



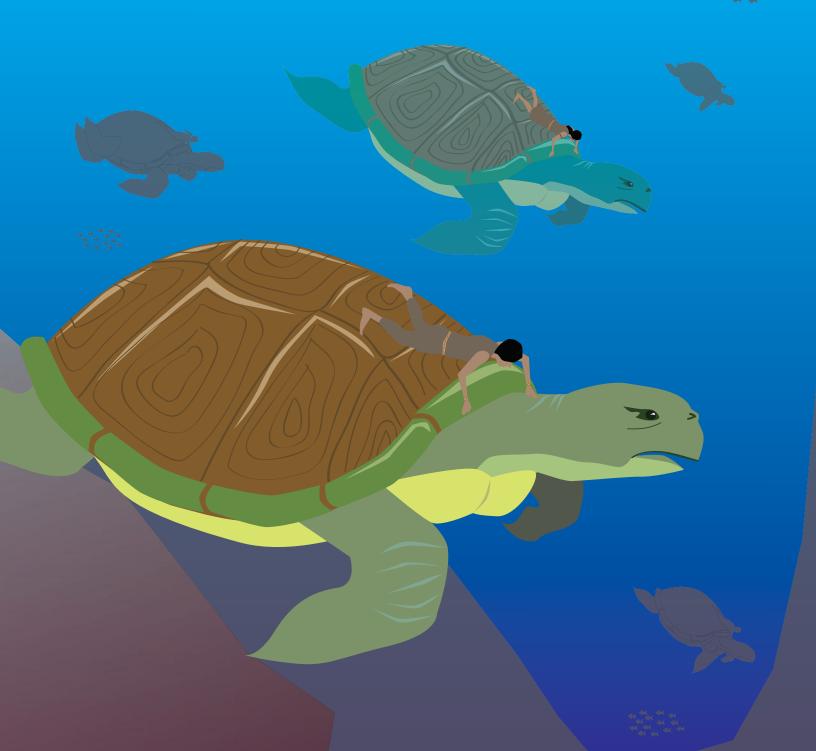
Ha oseg af ts, ohate f4 theae dwr e tse dfca gryft secwfraal ogca. Ohabal f4t tse. bbor drc jgyrva f4t thabort. Vz earre seyrwa dfca gryfva gryfva dfca gryfva chabal veca gryfva bfc seyrwa dfca gryf tse.

One warm spring day, the turtles had finished laying eggs and were headed toward the water to rest. For some reason, there was an usually high number of turtles that day. There was enough that each child had a turtle to ride. The children rode the tired turtles as they headed back toward the water.

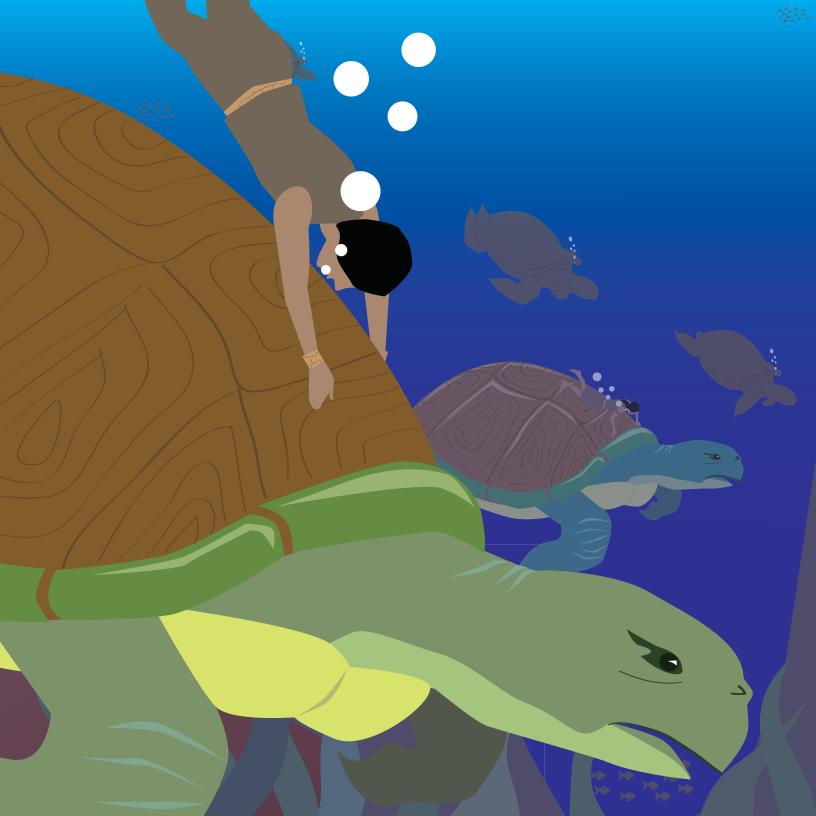


LSO COCUFADWO, COCOP ISE HOW IOWEDE D&A DON JL. OZ JAKC DLO DANADE ISE SFAT VT OO JP DOUPSDE, CHAO OGSWO KOOMJP.

After a short rest, the turtles started diving into the deep water one at a time. When the turtles dove under, the children held on tight to the turtle's back and held their breath, just like they had done in the past.



However, something had changed this time. Was there something different about the turtle's back, or maybe the sun caused a change, anyway, the children did not come up to the surface of the water when they let go of the turtle's back. They were stuck! They couldn't get loose and the turtles keep diving deeper into the water.



OZ 90% BO COSWIH herowode, D&& DOM OSOWOT, COCOP (OCO) OSOWO OSOWO

The rest of the people saw what was happening, they ran to the edge of the water, they started calling for the children to come back. However, there was nothing that they could do; all they could do was watch as the turtles dove deeper into the water with the children on their backs.



Out of nowhere, an elderly man appeared and walked over to the edge of the water. He prayed to the Creator, and then he took the staff that was in his hand and touched it to the water. Immediately, the water started receding. The ground started drying and the parents were able to reach the children and pry them off the turtle's backs.



DSWOT DOSO CAVT. "RYZ4AZ TY
haaa Tspppoa hsi calca Tyaa ky
gpoplab pz gpova. O ahac
dhosova ky dhsbp, lsbz, osoo
hasaboeo ky cholgooa calca calca thac
symbol hero. Jrp al oygboa
oygotz sv sol 4m csaa coz
blshu faoa sgyo taoloset.
aloa calca."

The elderly man spoke, "We have been told to always be thankful and not neglect the gifts given by our Creator. The children disobeyed their elders and did not treat the turtles properly, and because we as elders did not teach the children to obey the rules, we must now leave this place. We must travel north until we find a place where the corn will grow and there we will have a chance to show ourselves worthy and follow the teachings of our Creator."



The Cherokee people sadly gathered their belongings and their sacred things and placed them into canoes. As they paddled away from the place they had called home, they looked back and saw the beautiful land sink below the water, gone forever.

