

Know-Wonder-Do Chart for Haida Stories with Kung Jaadee

About the Artist: Kung Jaadee



Kung Jaadee (Roberta Kennedy) is a professional storyteller, educator and published author belonging to the X̱aayda (Haida), x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam) and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) First Nations. Her Haida name, Kung Jaadee, means 'Moon Woman' and was presented to her at her great uncle's memorial feast by her cousin Crystal Robinson. Over the past 27-plus years, Kung Jaadee has performed traditional Haida legends, while also sharing vivid personal stories about her clan's survival of the smallpox epidemic, and the history and culture of her people. She has performed at hundreds of festivals, schools and Aboriginal celebrations across Canada. She is the author of the popular children's books, *Raven's Feast* and *Gifts from Raven*, as well as curriculum textbooks, *Haida Nation: Indigenous Communities in Canada* and *We Are Home*. Her stories have also been published in several anthologies, magazines and online publications. Most recently, Kung Jaadee worked as the Vancouver Public Library's Indigenous Storyteller in Residence.

About the Performance

Kung Jaadee shares her telling of a few famous Haida legends about Raven (Yaahl), the creator of the world, and their universal teachings. Enjoy the stories of "Raven Brings the Water," "Raven's Brings the Light" and "Raven's Feast." She also shares some traditional Raven songs while using her drum, teaches some basic words in X̱aad Kil (Haida language), and shows her traditional regalia.

Live show: 45 minutes + 15-30 min Q&A

Pre-recorded videos: 60 minutes + 30-min Q&A

About the Art Form

Oral storytelling is a cultural artform and the way in which Indigenous people share their cultural stories and songs, while also honouring their ancestors and their traditions.

The [Haida](#) are one of the [indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast](#) of [North America](#). Their national territories lie along the west coast of [Canada](#) and include parts of southeast [Alaska](#). **Haida**

mythology is an **indigenous religion** that can be described as a **nature religion**, drawing on the natural world, seasonal patterns, events and objects for questions that the Haida **pantheon** provides explanations for. Haida mythology is also considered **animistic** for the breadth of the Haida pantheon in imbuing daily events with *Sgā'na qeda's*.

There are innumerable Haida supernatural beings, or *Sgā'na qeda's*, including prominent animal crests, wind directions, and legendary ancestors.

Within Haida mythology, **Raven** is a central character, as he is for many of the **Indigenous peoples of the Americas**; see *Raven Tales*. While frequently described as a "**trickster**", Haidas believe Raven, or *Yáahl*^[2] to be a complex reflection of one's own self. Raven can be a magician, a transformer, a potent creative force, ravenous debaucher but always a cultural hero. He is responsible for creating our world, releasing the sun from its tiny box and making the stars and the moon. In one story he released the first humans from a **cockle** shell on the beach; in another story, he brought the first humans up out of the ground because he needed to fill up a party he was throwing. Raven stories on one level teach listeners how to live a good life, but usually by counterexample. Raven has been described as the greediest, most **lecherous** and **mischievous** creature known to the Haida, but at the same time Raven often helps humans in our encounters with other **supernatural beings**. Raven acquired such things as freshwater, **salmon** and the house for humans.*

*Source: [Haida Mythology on Wikipedia](#)

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions	Links to Curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do the terms Indigenous, First Nations, Metis and Aboriginal mean? Watch this CBC Kids video ● Can you name three First Nations? Which nations are in the territory you live on? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Studies/History: First Nations history and culture is a major part of Canadian history and Kung Jaadee's storytelling provides an authentic insight to the stories and legends of the Haida Nation. ● Language Arts: These are important stories that normally are not written down, but passed down orally ● Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Post-Performance Activities	Post-Performance Discussion Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go to map of Canada that shows the Indigenous territories: https://maps.fpcc.ca/splashscreen ● Discuss the importance of land acknowledgments and why they are said during event introductions ● Compare similarities and differences between Haida legends and other cultural stories you may know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you know about the "Trickster" in First Nations culture? ● Talk about why it is important to know what land you are on, and who it has originated from ● Which of your stories is your favorite and why? Discuss the moral or lesson in this story.

<p>Links:</p> <p>Haida Nation & Council: https://www.haidanation.ca/</p> <p>Canadian History Museum - Haida Storytelling & Crests: https://www.historymuseum.ca/cmc/exhibitions/aborig/haida/hapmc01e.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For more info about Kung Jaadee, visit https://www.pebblestarartists.com/kung-jaadee
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Lessons and Teachings of Haida Raven Stories

Raven Brings the Light

- Share what you have with others, when it's needed
- Help others when necessary (help each other, to make our world better)

Raven's Feast

- Everyone is born with something they're good at (your own gifts); honour and celebrate other's gifts
- Love yourself everyday

Raven Brings the Water

- Water is important for all beings, animals, plants

Salmon Story

- Treat others with respect
- Treat your food with respect, as well