

# Know-Wonder-Do Chart for Squamish 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 Sḵwx̱wú7mesh legends popularized by Indigenous activist and poet E. Pauline Johnson's book, "Legends of Vancouver." In her live storytelling performance, Kung Jaadee will share her telling of Squamish legends popularized by Indigenous activist and poet E. Pauline Johnson's book, "Legends of Vancouver." The legends she'll share may include Siwash Rock; the Two-Headed Sea Serpent; Two Sisters (The Lions mountains); and how the Squamish People Came To Be.

These stories are also available as a pre-recorded video series. The videos feature Kung Jaadee telling Squamish stories in Stanley Park, along with some stories and songs filmed in Chekwelp (known as Gibsons) along with her Uncle Bob Baker, a Squamish elder and leader of Spakwus Slolem (Eagle Song Dancers).

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

**Pre-recorded videos:** 60 minutes + 30-min Q&A via Zoom, Google Meet or Teams

### About the Art Form

The Skwxwú7mesh Úxumíxw, the Squamish People are the descendants of the Coast Salish First Nations People that lived in present day Greater Vancouver, Gibson's landing and Squamish, BC. Their territory is 6732 square kilometers. There are about 4,000 members of the Squamish Nation. They speak Skwxwú7mesh Snichem, the number of fluent speakers is extremely low but they are aggressive in bringing back to their youth. Their majority of their territory is found along the ocean. Their clothing, food, housing and transportation has adapted to the temperate rainforest.

Skwxwú7mesh are caretakers of the land their culture is a reflection of it. Their history is tied to the rivers, lakes and mountains, when we give directions we reference them.

Many First Nations communities including the Squamish were oral societies. The Squamish created written languages in the 1970's.

Storytellers had the immense and important role of being historians for their community. The Squamish have real or true stories based on major events or people that were pivotal to them. They also have myths or legends that were used to teach their morals and values to their children.

Each First Nations community chose and trained their storytellers in their own way, and repetition was a key tool. Unfortunately, when the flu and smallpox epidemic decimated their communities, many stories were lost. Also from 1881-1949, children were forcibly removed from their parent's homes and sent to residential schools. Even more stories were lost or altered.

\*Source: Quoted from the Skwxwú7mesh Líl'wat7úl Cultural Centre website at <https://slcc.ca/history/>

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions	Links to Curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do the terms Indigenous, First Nations, Metis and Aboriginal mean? <a href="#">Watch this CBC Kids video</a></li> <li>• Can you name three First Nations? Which nations are in the territory you live on?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 Squamish Nation.</li> <li>• Language Arts: These are important stories that normally are not written down, but passed down orally</li> <li>• Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul>

Post-Performance Activities	Post-Performance Discussion Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to map of Canada that shows the Indigenous territories: <a href="https://maps.fpcc.ca/splashscreen">https://maps.fpcc.ca/splashscreen</a></li> <li>• Visit the <a href="#">Legends of Vancouver</a> website and read one of the Squamish Legends told by Pauline E. Johnson. Compare it with Kung Jaadee's telling and discuss the similarities and differences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name three things you've learned about the Squamish?</li> <li>• Which of your stories is your favorite and why? Discuss the moral or lesson in this story.</li> </ul>

- [View this interactive map of Stanley Park from the Legends of Vancouver website](#). Take a field trip to Stanley Park and visit these places and landmarks after listening to Kung Jaadee's telling of these Squamish Stories (Lost Lagoon, Siwash Rock, the Two-Headed Serpent, The Sacred Mask at Lumberman's Arch)

**Links:**

- Legends of Vancouver by poet Pauline E. Johnson:  
<https://www.legendsofvancouver.net/>
- History of the Squamish People on Wikipedia:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Squamish\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Squamish_people)

- Compare similarities and differences between Squamish legends and other cultural stories you may know. What are some similarities and what are some differences?
- Discuss the importance of land acknowledgments and why they are said during event introductions.

For more info about Kung Jaadee, visit <https://www.pebblestarartists.com/kung-jaadee>

**Lessons and Teachings of Squamish Stories**

**How the Squamish Came to Be**

- Remember to share with your family and friends
- Remember to help your family and friends

**The Flood Story**

- People must always be humble, kind, and help and share with each other
- People must listen to the wise ones, who are here to help us

**The Two-Headed Serpent**

- Perseverance pays off; Kwitchital stuck to his mission for 10 long years
- Working on oneself, to help make oneself a better person, helps make our world better

**Salmon Story**

- Show respect to the salmon by returning the bones to the water
- Give thanks to the salmon, always

**Siwash Rock**

- Stand up for yourself when you need to
- Always try to be a good and kind person