tu st'kwas stqeeye' | The Blind Wolf

by sq'utxulenuhw | George Seymour

tun'ni' 'utl' shts'um'inus | from Stz'uminus

Story Schema

Hul'q'umi'num' literature is all based on oral story-telling. When you hear a Hul'q'umi'num' story out loud, you will notice it has a certain structure to it. This helps the story-teller with his/her oral performance, and it helps the listener follow the story and understand it. Hul'q'umi'num' stories typically begin with an introduction. Many times, though not always, Hul'q'umi'num' story tellers will also include the origin of the story—where they first heard it, when they heard it, and who told it. You will notice that generally the actual story is nestled in between a vast amount of information. This information is what makes Hul'q'umi'num' stories so rich in cultural context. You may think of Hul'q'umi'num' stories as forming a sandwich. The introduction and the setting act as the top slice of bread. The epilogue and conclusion act as the bottom slice. The actual story is the meat. The purpose of the bread is to lead the reader/listener into the main body of the story by providing all the information that is needed to grasp the message within, without directly giving it away. The beauty of story-telling in this manner is that it allows the listener/reader to take what they need; what each person takes from the story can differ. Some stories have the ability to connect people with their land, their history, and their spirituality.

The outline below shows the story schema for my story Blind Wolf.

INTRODUCTION:

Opening: speaker introduces themselves and the story, a short title or what the story is about.   Lines 1–4

Origin of the story (optional): where the story-teller learned the story from. What was the setting when they first heard the story.   Lines 5–13

BODY OF THE STORY:

Orientation: information setting time, place, mood.   Lines 14–18

Complicating action or build-up: sequence of events moving the action along.   Lines 19–48

[Usually there are a series of complicating actions interspersed with

evaluation or elaboration]

Result or resolution: the final result of the complicating action

Precursor and lead up: Lines 49–52

Climax the culminating event usually having greatest interest

hwu q'ullhanumutsun!!! Line 53

Denouement elaborates on the climax and winds down to the final outcome.   Lines 53–54

>>> LEAVE THE STORY WORLD

Epilogue

Moral: Line 55 summarizes the course of events after the time of the story.   Lines 56–59

CLOSING: ni' hay. *The end.*

nilh kwu'elh 'uw' sht'es'ul' nusqwal 'u tun'a kweyul.

That is all I am going to say today.

huy tseep q'a. *Thank you.*   Lines 60–61

http://www.sfu.ca/~gerdts/Stories/FramingAStory.html

This story schema is quite typical in Hul'q'umi'num' story-telling.