



Wel:a: Wuke:y



Wel.a: Wuke:y (Theft of Fire) as told by Lena Cox
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Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council
Language Preservation Program



Pich:ak:ang nan:ut wuke:y. "Chaskana:! Chaskana:! Kach:ut wuke:y
nan:u'pa:k. 'Epet:uch:ut lil:em:y' shawa:y.

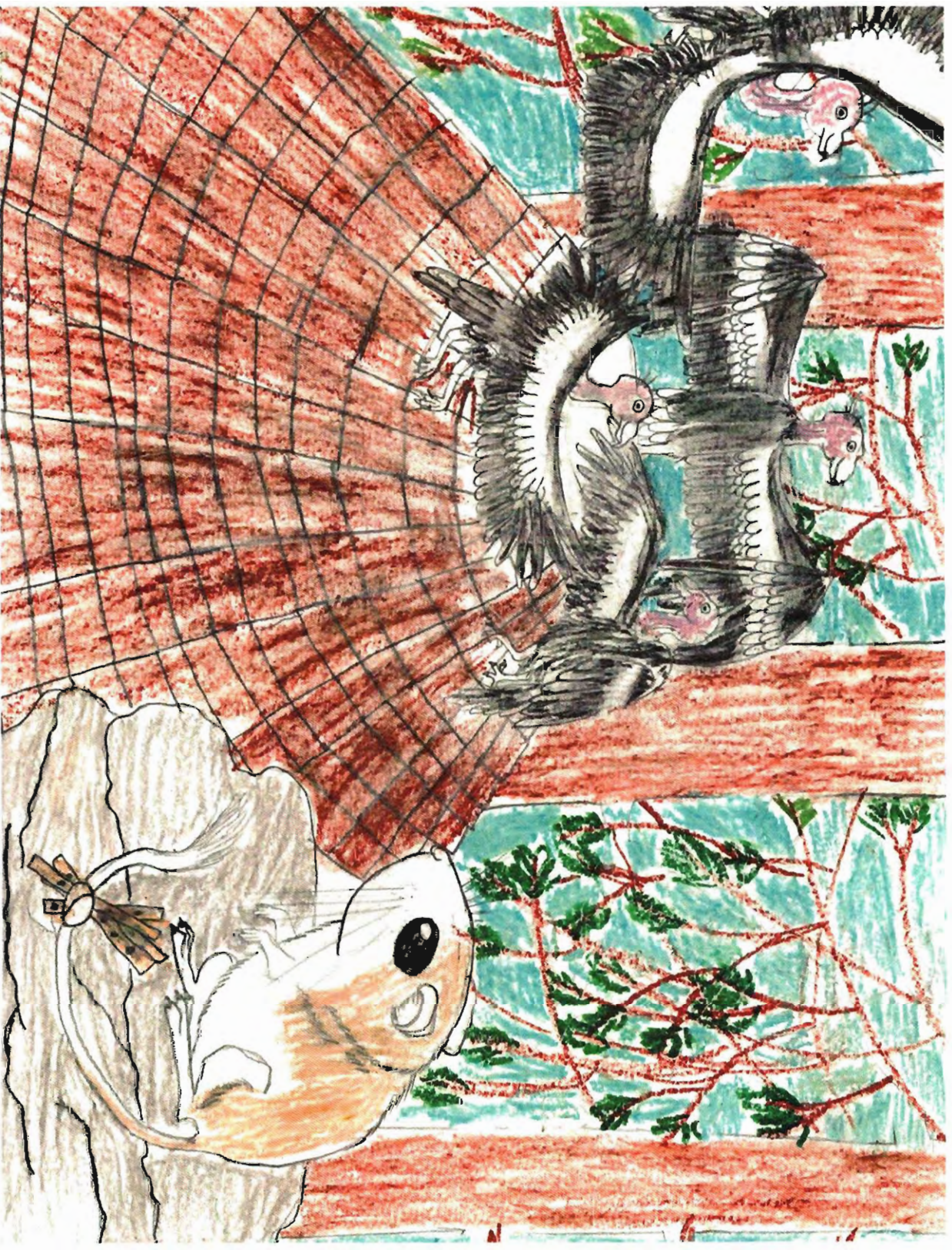
*Lizard perceived fire. "A spark has flown! A spark has flown!" The lizard said. He
was lying on his belly on a rock.*



“Wufe’uf:eningtaj nan:un:in ’ush:ufu:ning shuntu:m!” Kach:ush:ush katwa:ng. “Yosh:ik, shuy:uch:ochnok!” kach:ush:ush pich:ak:a:ng. “You are apparently stupid and have bad eyes!” said coyote. “The fire will proceed, you watch!” said lizard.



'Iy'okyo: ha:kampü wul:et lül:a'ing, oy:is:ay lül:ay patut:anu:sh.
Then secretly went mouse, the flute player, four flutes he took.



Hu:yanit 'is:akmu'. Mol:oküing 'oy:is:ang katak:ut ka:pi:y.

The flute player arrived at the place of the fire. Four condors kept close to the smoke hole, keeping it closed.



Shok:eti'i' chükük wuke':uni:kong, ha:ma:wa', wak:a:li', 'ushu:maji', hi:ki'.
*There were many watchdogs keeping the fire, supernatural serpent, rattlesnake, bear
and dragon.*



Kuywanit 'oy:is:ay kichkichuy 'ü:kü'pak ka:püm:ü'.
*Flute player cut four pinfeathers from the condors wings and was able to enter through the
smoke hole.*



'Oy:is:ay lül:ay lüpin:anush kül:ash. Lüpín:eng lükat:anu:sh.
He filled the four flutes with burning coals. After filling the flutes he went out.



Wu':e:y, "wula:ngap:ü:m!" kach:ush:ush Koch:ya:kung tin:üt:i'. Onüp:anuk shok:et:iko:ng. 'Ewut:anu:k, min:im 'ewut:anu:k. "They've stolen Fire from us!" yelled the monster who was the owner of the house after flute player was gone. They gave chase all day. They failed to find him in any place, they failed to find him anywhere.



Nuk:ay hush:init kochha:yak:ong. “Wel:a: wuke:y!” kach:ush:u:k.
The people of the house sent rain. “They have stolen fire from us!” the people of the house said.



Ha'tanit kik:um lül:ay 'oy:is:ay nuk:ang nakpa:sh.
*Flute player threw the four flutes into the water when the rain
overtook him.*



'Eta:lash nuk:ang nakpasha:ku:ng, wu':e:y, lül:ash:u:sh. Nünap:ü'apan,
malengshe'wa'.

*After the rain stopped he took the flutes and played on them. The fire was still there, it
had not gone out.*



Hu:yanit waki:mu' hangi:m. Ka:püm:ü' lül:a:sh, kük:ang chüyü:y:et,
wuktet wa:ni' hangi:y.

*Flute Player went back to Wakimi at the Ceremonial House. On top of the roundhouse
through the smoke hole he played his flutes, the burning coals streamed down and Fire
burned inside.*



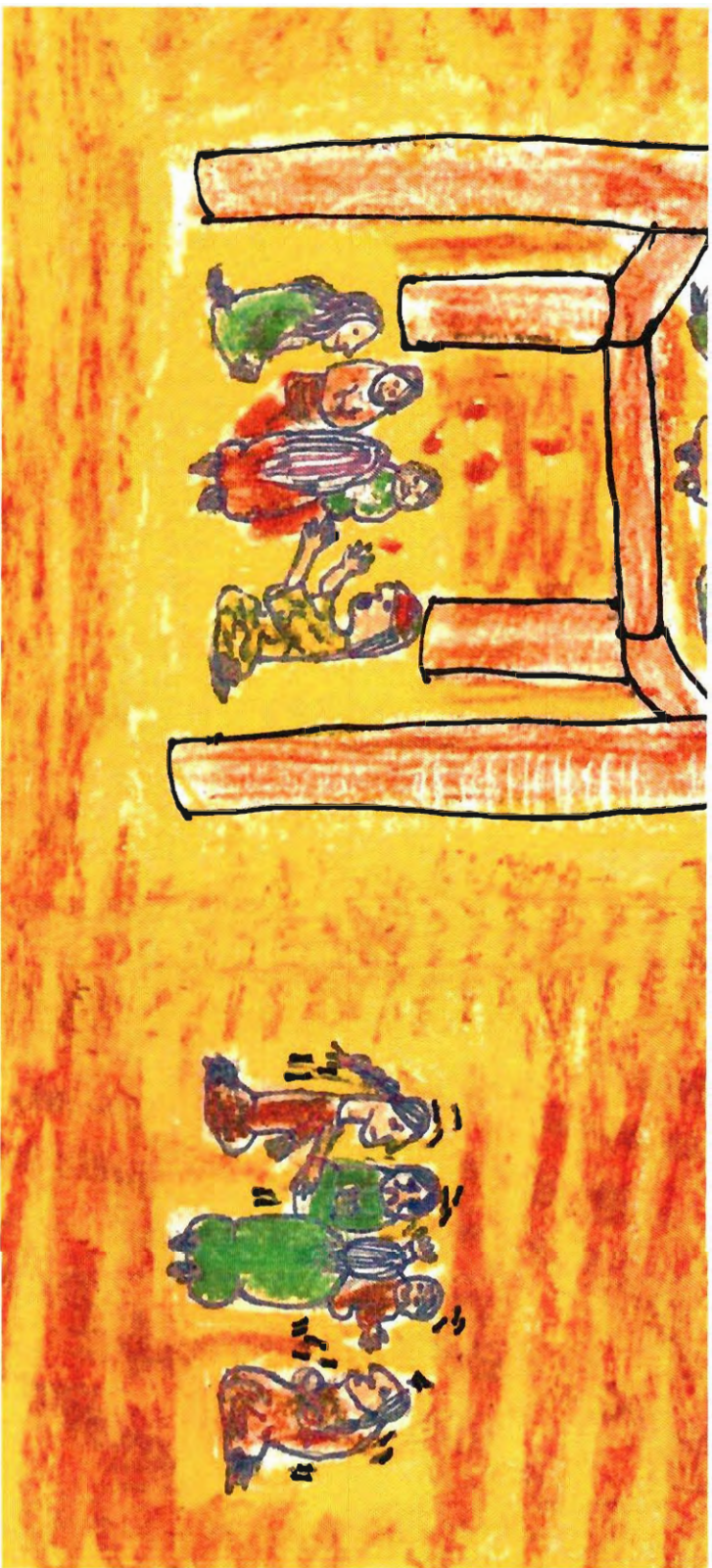
“Lüpnini’ mani:ke:’! Lüpnini’ mani:ke:’!” kach:u ‘ashe:li’. Chelket,
manikshewa:ng. Wukeng wuktet wa;ni’.

*“Heap it up higher! More! More!” said coyote. Mouse stopped playing. Fire
was blazing inside the Roundhouse.*



Kom:üşh:ük, kom:üşh:ük hay:ek:ushak:ong ka:win, hay:ek:ushak:ong
wuktash wuke:ng.

*The people warmed themselves, all those who were near the middle of the house,
those who were near the burning Fire.*



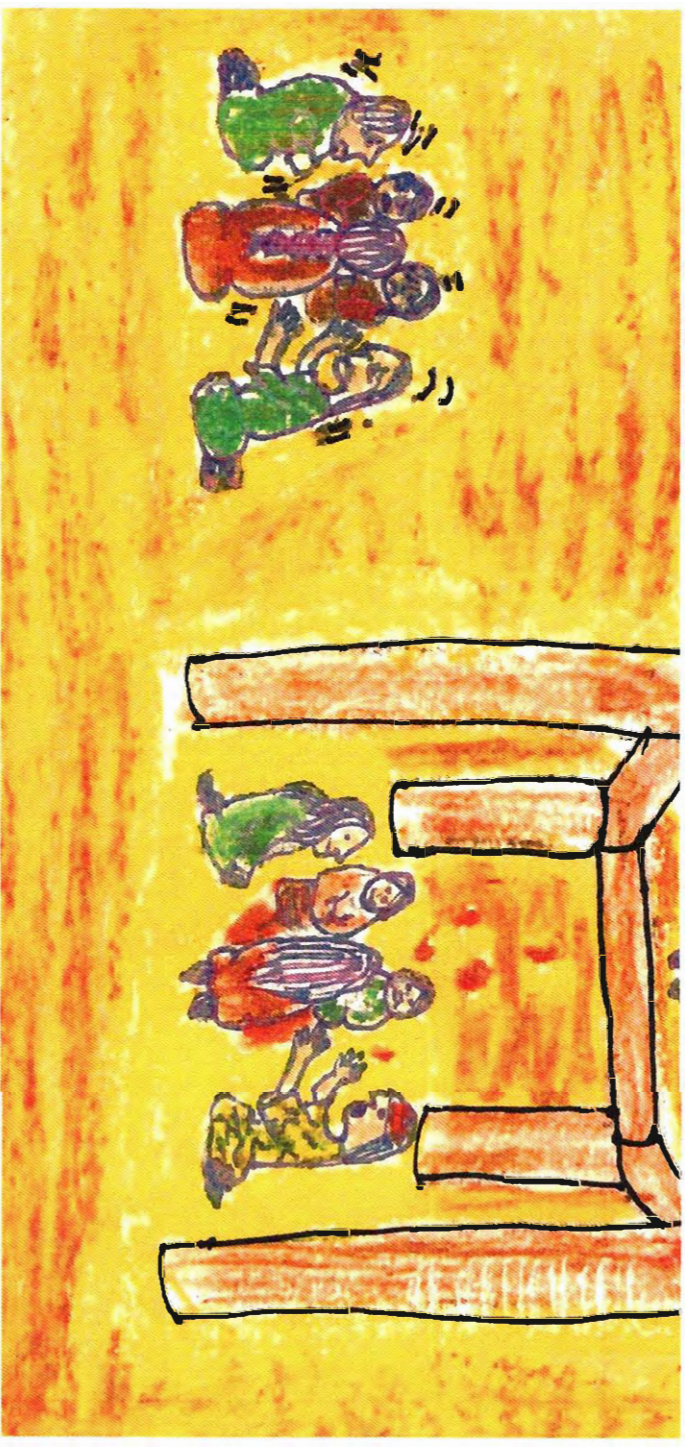
Kat:ish:uk liwa'pak hi:shuto:ko:ng.
The others became confused when speaking, the people to the East spoke a different way.



Push:iy liw:ash:u:k, tam:ule:kong push:iy liw:ash:u:k.
The people of the North spoke a different way.



Chum:eto:kong push:iy liw:ash:u:k. Kat:ish:uk liwa:y.
*The people of the South spoke a different way.
They confused the language.*



'olo:win



'Olo:wito:kong kat:ish:uk liwa:y.
The people of the West mixed up the language.



ʼE:chakaʼ ʼüch:üşh:ük komüchsheʼwa:kong wuke:y. ʼIʼ:ok
miw:upüshnüsh:esh:u:k.

They all mixed up the language, the ones who stayed at the edges of the roundhouse not warming themselves at the Fire. It was then, having found Fire, that they became people.

Miwok

Pich:ak:ang
Wuke:
Shawa:y
Katwa:ng/'Ashe:li'
L'ül:a'ing
L'ül:ay
Mol:oking
Shok:et:i' chükük
Ha:ma:wa'
Wak:a:li
'Ushu:mañi
Hi:ki'
Nuk:a
Hangi:
Tama:lin
Tam:ule
Hi:shum
Hi:shuto
Chum:ech
Chum:eto
'Olo:win
'Olo:wilo
Miw:u

English

Lizard
Fire
Rock
Coyote
Mouse (flute player)
Flute
Condor
Watch Dogs
Supernatural serpent
Rattlesnake
Bear
Dragon
Rain
Ceremonial House
North
Northerner
East
Easterner
South
Southerner
West
Westerner
People

Mewuk Language Alphabet

<u>Vowels</u>	<u>Example</u>
a	father
e	led
e:	jade
i	spaghetti
o	cone
u	due
ü	mud
<u>Consonants</u>	<u>Example</u>
ch	chip
h	hat
k	kit
l	long
m	man
n	not
ng	sing
p	pin
s	sit
sh	ship
t	top
t or t̚	talk (back t)
w	win
y	yes

Special Symbols

’ glottal stop as in uh-oh.

: hold the sound longer, this applies to both consonants and vowels.



We:la: Wukey, Theft of Fire, A Miwok myth, as told by Lena Cox with pictures by Lizzy Lavell, a young Miwok artist.