



Summer



One summer day, Jesse Bright Sun woke up early and looked out his window. In the east, he saw the first light. He saw the tall corn growing in the fields.

Jesse was happy. Today the Gathering of All the Tribes would begin. People from many places had come to his village to talk and sing and dance and eat.


Jesse's grandmother was cooking food for the feast that night. She said, "Jesse, you have an important job today. You must gather all the children from all the tribes. Bring them to the school."





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Jesse Bright Sun  gathered the children from all the tribes.

He found Molly Small Deer  from the eastern coast.

He found Kyle Fire Walker  from the western coast.

He found Carla Laughing Girl  from the land of great lakes, and many others.

They all went to the school to see Grandmother.

Grandmother said, "Children, I have something important to tell you. Listen well. I am going to tell you about Mother Bear. I am going to tell you how Mother Bear helped children to be safe."

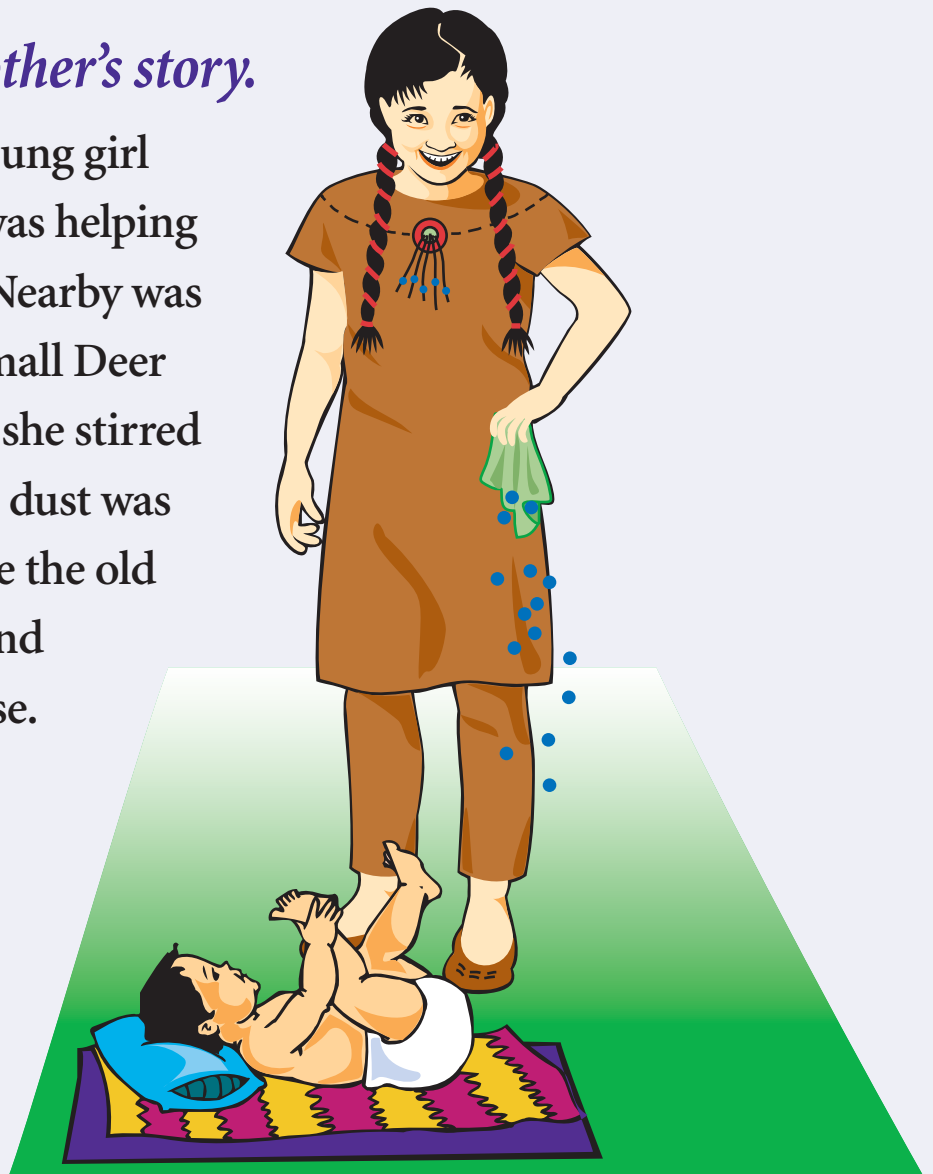




Grandmother said,
"Molly Small Deer,
this story is about your
family from long ago."

Here is Grandmother's story.

Many years ago, a young girl named Small Deer was helping to clean her house. Nearby was her baby brother. Small Deer was using a rag, and she stirred up a lot of dust. The dust was a pretty blue, just like the old paint on the doors and windows of her house.

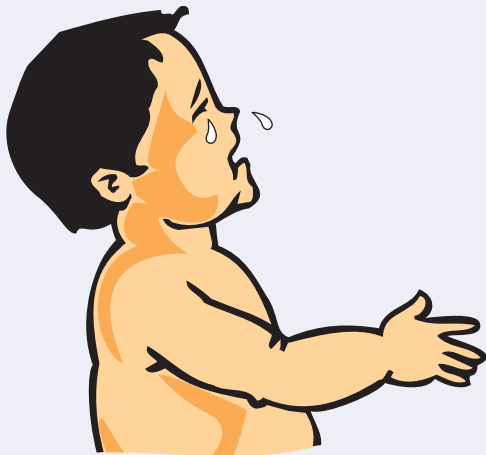




Suddenly, Small Deer heard soft growling. She looked up and saw a great bear.

Small Deer asked, “Mother Bear, why are you here?”

Mother Bear said, “Do not be afraid. I came to warn you about a danger in our world. I will teach you about this danger. Then you and your family can be safe.”



Mother Bear said, “This danger is lead. If lead gets inside your body, it can make you sick. If it gets inside your baby brother’s body, it can make him very sick.”

Small Deer asked, “Mother Bear, where is this danger? I do not see any lead.”



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Mother Bear said, “Lead is as sneaky as a coyote.
It hides in many places.



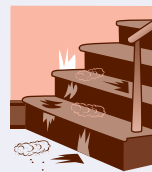
- Lead hides in dust  and flakes  from old paint.



- Lead paint  may be on old windows  and doors.





- Lead paint  may be on old stairs  and railings.





- Lead paint  may be on old porches.



- Lead paint dust  and flakes  may be in dirt around old houses.

- Lead hides in water from old pipes.



- Lead hides in bullets  and shotgun pellets  and fishing sinkers.”



Small Deer asked, “Mother Bear, how can I be safe from these dangers?”







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Mother Bear answered, "I will tell you how to keep lead out of your body:



- Never, never touch dust  from old paint.
- Never, never touch flakes  from old paint.
- Ask a grownup to wash away lead paint flakes and dust with a damp soapy rag. 

- Wash your hands before you eat and after you play. 

Wash very carefully if you touch bullets  or fishing sinkers. 

- Leave your shoes  at the door and wear socks or slippers  in your house. 

- Let your water run from the faucet  until it is cold.

- Eat healthy foods, like lowfat milk  and yogurt,  fruits  and vegetables,  beans,  and lean meat." 

Small Deer said, "I will do as you say, Mother Bear. I want to be safe from lead dangers. I want to help my family to be safe."

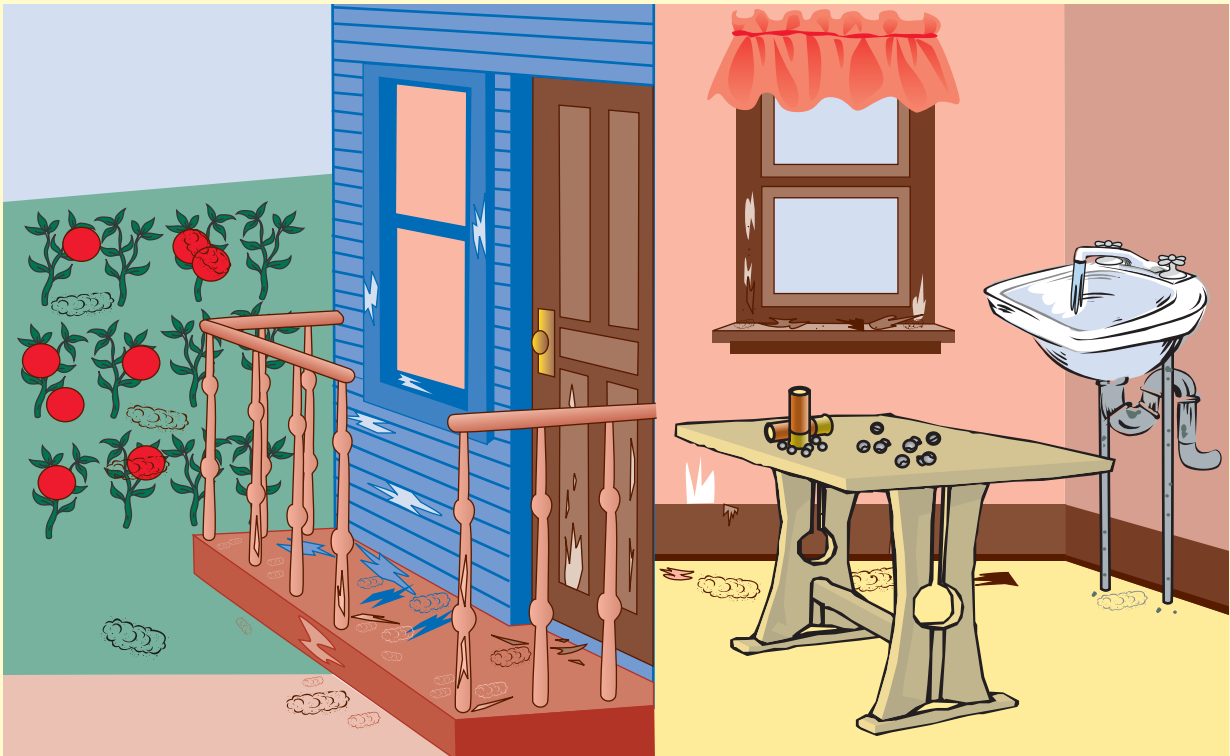
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Grandmother said to the children, "Here is a picture of a house. Can you find lead dangers in this picture?"

Things to look for:

- Paint flakes
- Paint dust
- Shotgun pellets
- Water from old pipes
- Fishing sinkers

How many lead dangers did you find? Write the number here: _____



Let's Talk about It

With your class, talk about where you would look for lead dangers around your home. Write your answers below.

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This book was developed by Healthy Environments for Children Initiative for the Penobscot Indian Nation.

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Funding was provided by the Penobscot Indian Nation, with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Printing courtesy of Tribal Based Environmental Protection Membership.