Stories and Legends

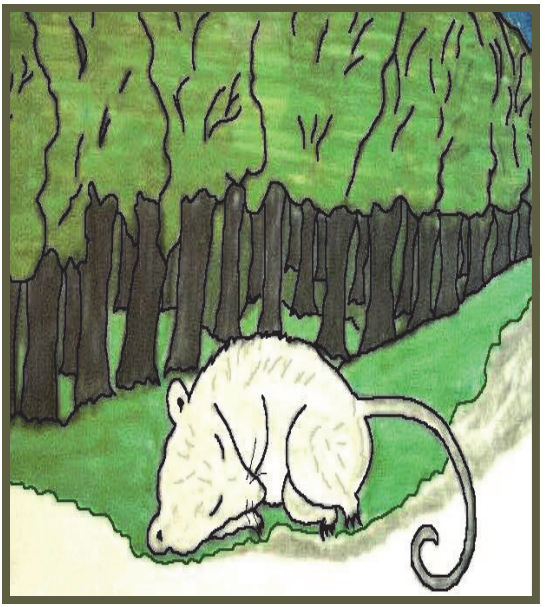
BOOK 7

Shawi yat Shokkata Iholábina Halibis at Mofahtók

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

"Lifeways of the Choctaw People"

Shawi yat Shokkata Iholábina
Halibis at Mofahtók



BOOK 7

CHOCTAW TRIBAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Halítoh!

Shawi yat Shokkata I holábina
Halibisat Mofahtók
(Why the Possum Has a Hairless Tail)

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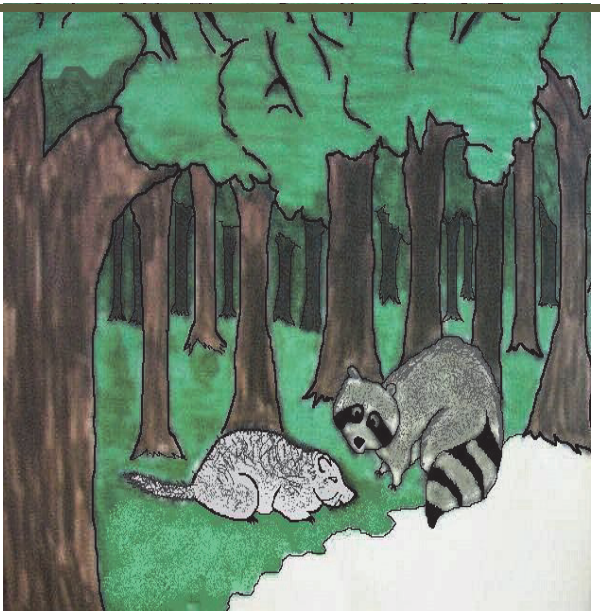
This collection of Choctaw Stories and Legends celebrates our rich history of using stories to teach moral values, to bring laughter and joy to our people, and to provide an insight to today's Choctaw culture.

Shokka Annopa kómikat kanaha kanit akchokmát mayáchika imábachih kiyok mat kaniyómi kato pi yoppa ikbi yómih. Isht ika ak ósh shokka annopa anóli attók. Isht ika mat akchokmát atta, nokwiya iksho, hicha hopóyoksa ilawah okmako oklah atókolih íkattók. Himakno kanah at shokka annopa oklah annólih alhi kiyoh. Hih kiya shokka annopa kómika falámat hapim alla imanólit ikít oklah il ilhkólik ma Chahta annopa hakloh ósh maya hínah.

Chahta annopa ik hapi kaníyoh kiya!



Nittak himonna ka shawi hicha shokkata yat ittafámah tók. Shokkata ak ósh shawi i halibis im achokmahnih átok ósh kanímihchih ósh halibis basówa ishit tóka iponakloh tók.

(Once upon a time a raccoon and a possum met in the woods. The possum had always admired the raccoon's tail, so the possum asked the raccoon how he made the stripes in his tail.)

Shawi yat iláp áy alhíha illa kásh i halibis at yohmih ósh mayah bannah á tok osh i holábih tók. “Iti itta hoblit tahli li chá óti lik ma lowat ot moshót tahak ma tokchobi lashpa illah ósh ashak ma sa hálibis ma takchit tahli li chá anoka pit bohli lí tok ósh ik hopákok ma kohchi lih ma yot basówah tók kíyo,” im áchih tók.

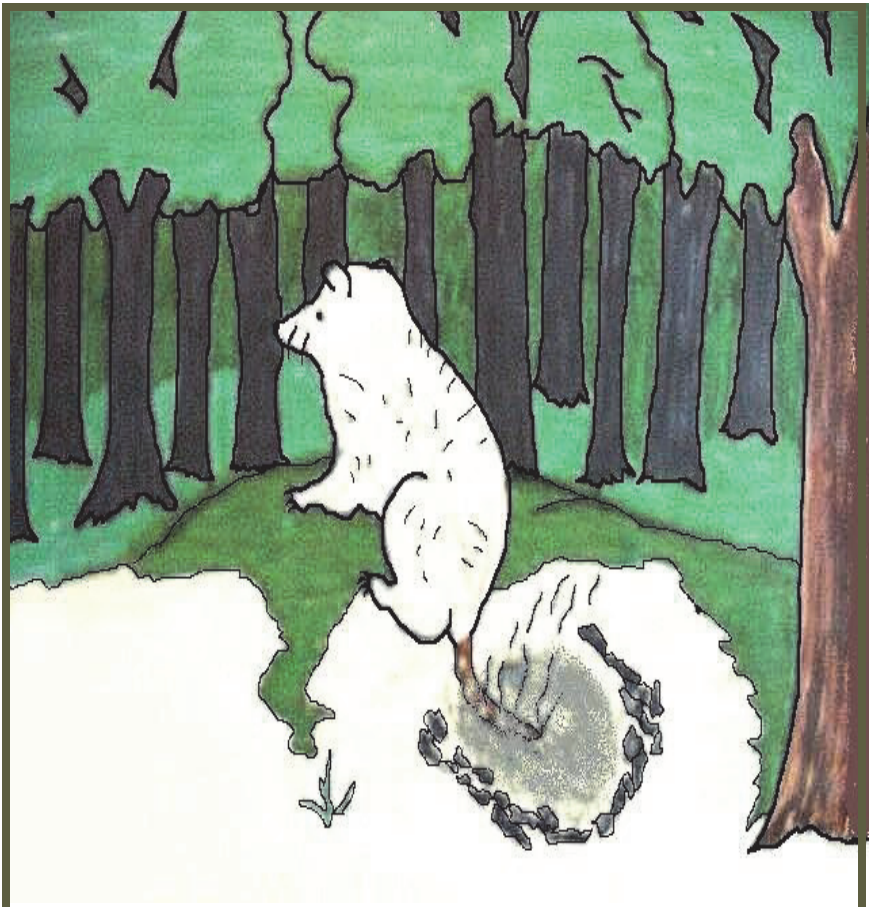
(But the raccoon did not want other animals to imitate raccoons so he lied to the possum. The raccoon told the possum, “I gathered together some wood and built a fire. When the fire died down and only hot ashes were left, I wrapped up my tail and put into the hot ashes for a while and pulled it out. And that’s how I got the stripes.”)

Hihma shokkata akkiya i halibis pisa achokma lih bannah átok ósh hikiya ik-shoh ósh balílit iti itta hoblit iyah tók.

(So the possum, wanting a pretty tail, did not wait around even a moment but went in a hurry to gather wood.)

Nánit iti itta hoblit lawá chit tahlih mat ótih tók.

(The possum gathered wood together and started a fire.)

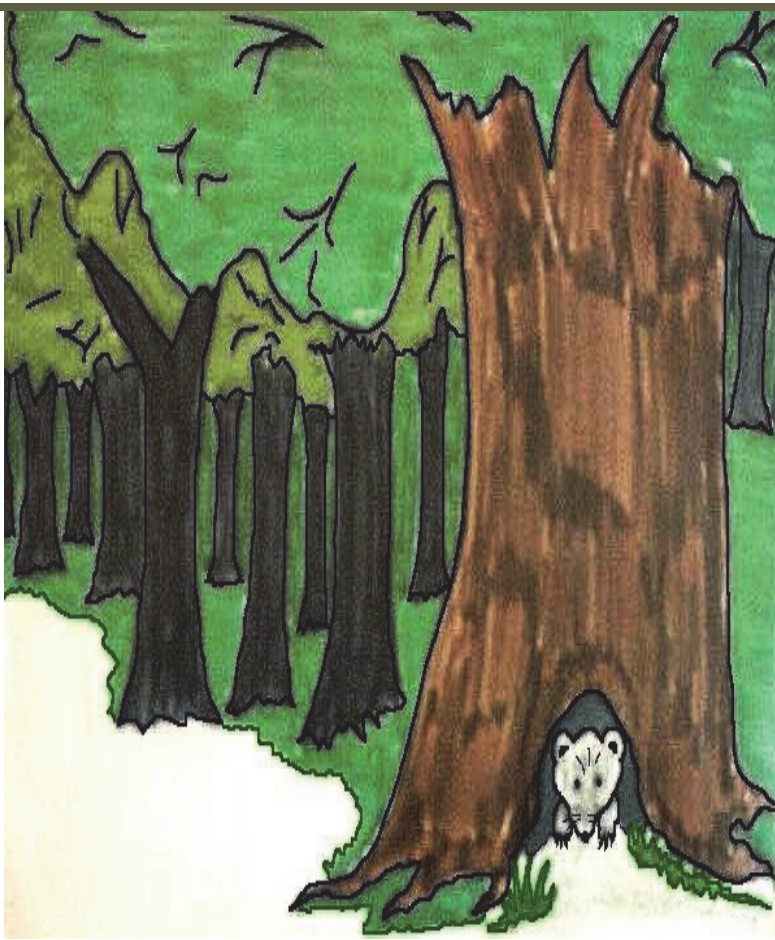


Lowak at ot moshólit táha ná tokchobi lashpa illah ósh ashah ma ihalibis takchit tahlih mat pit bohlih tók. I halibis at lowa kat hottopah ókak ósh binilih tók.

(When only the hot ashes were left, the possum wrapped up his tail and put it into the ashes. His tail was burning and painful but he didn't move.)

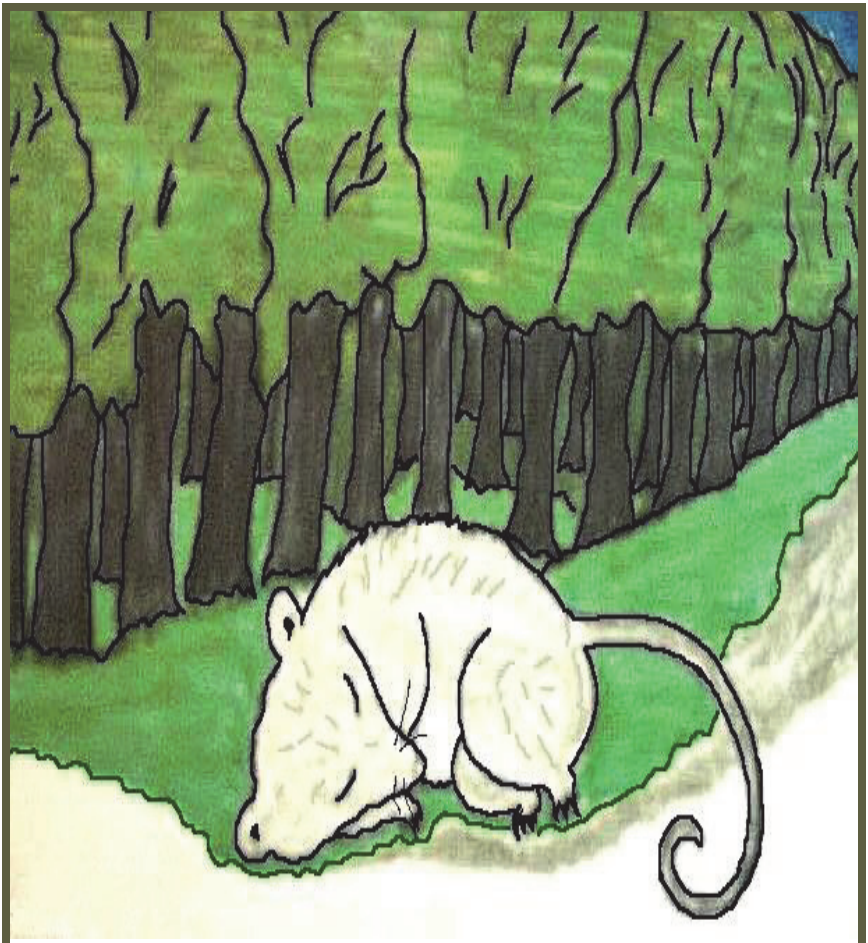
Ahchíbat tahah ma kohchit pisá tok ako i halibis at anakshowat táha na hishít ikshoho pisah tók.

(After a length of time, the possum took his tail out and saw the hair was singed.)



Hihmat, hofahya átapah ósh ichokka ot chokkowah mat lomah tók.

(It embarrassed him so much he went into his house and hid.)



Mak ahtók ásh kani ayana oklah owakak ma hofahyat akka ittóla hicha illi ilá hobih.

Toff.

(That's why when surprised, he falls down on the ground from sheer embarrassment and pretends to be dead. The End)

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

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CHOCTAW MUSEUM

The mission of the Department of Chahta Immi is to inspire, promote, embrace, and enhance the Cultural heritage of the Choctaw People.

* For more information please call (601) 663-7506 or the MBCI Office of Public Information at (601) 663-7532 and visit the MBCI website: www.choctaw.org

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