



Owl Paints the Raven

“Owl Paints the Raven” is an endearing Inuit legend that explains why the Owl is a beautifully painted creature and the raven is jet black. Inuit legends often provide explanations for realities within nature, or how something in nature came to be. By portraying the animal world as a functional community in which animals of different species interact, this Inuit story reflects aspects of the natural world and of human nature.

Impatience, Jealousy and Vanity are the story’s theme.

Believe it or not, but in distant times past the Raven and the Owl were both white as snow. One day they met on the tundra, and raven said:

“Aren’t you tired of being so white, Owl? I know I am. Why don’t we each paint the other a different color?”

“All right,” the owl replied. “We can try and see what comes of it, I suppose.”

The Raven was pleased.

“Good! Good!” he cried. “Let us begin. You paint me first and then I’ll paint you.”

“Oh no,” said the owl. It was you who suggested it, so it’s you that has to begin.”

“Very well,” Raven agreed.

He scraped some of the burnt-out fat from a lamp, and using that and a large feather plucked out from his own tail, set to painting the owl. He took great care doing it and drew gray spots of every size on each feather, larger ones on the owl’s wings and smaller ones on her breast and back.

“Oh, how beautiful I’ve made you, owl!” cried he when he had finished. “Just look at yourself.”



The owl looks at herself and could not get her fill of looking. “Yes indeed!” she said at last, please. “These spots are lovely. And now let me do the same for you. By the time I get through with you’ll be so handsome you won’t know your own self.”

The Raven turned his head towards the sun, squinted his eyes and froze on the spot. He was very eager for the owl to make a good job of painting him.

The owl set about it with great zeal. It took her some time to get done, and when she had, she looked the Raven over. Then glancing from him to herself, she found that the Raven was now brighter and more beautiful than she. Angered that this should be so, she came up close to him, poured what was left of the fat she had been using over him and flew away.

The Raven rubbed his eyes, and that he was now quite black all over, cried: “Oh, you sharp-clawed Owl, oh, you keen-eyed Owl, what have you done! You have made me blacker than soot, blacker than night!”



Materials

Surface to mount story

Sculpey white, black

Wire

Toothpicks

Sculpting tools

Toaster Oven

Dremmel with bits that correspond to the size of wire.

Steps

1. Make the moon with 2 holes in bottom for wire
Set it
Put the holders on the back of the moon with a hole for wire
Set it
2. Make 3 or 5 stars with a hole in bottom

Set them. You can colour them, press a stamp in them if you want. Or leave black and white for the starkness.

3. Make a black and white raven and place a hole in the bottom of each raven for a wire
Set it
4. Make a white and painted snowy owl and place a hole in bottom of each owl for a wire
Set it
5. Insert 3 inch of wire to holes in moon and fix to base
6. Cut 5 inch pieces of wire for stars. Coil around pencil to make a curl and pull to desired height.
Put one end in the hole in the base and the other in the hole in the star.
7. Assemble Ravens and Owls to the back of the moon with pivots.
8. Assemble everything on the base. The base can be painted, covered with sculpey, texture...
wherever your imagine takes you.

These story platforms can be used to illustrate all sorts of stories, bringing the magic in a 3D format.

Enjoy!