

Grade 6.2.2 Wilson Fluency

The Girl Who Married The Moon

bas dig cran au what un
el nev kets ging ber tumn
ev der ders er ry stand ing

baskets digging cranberry autumn
whatever understanding elders never

Long ago, in the village of Chiniak, on the island of Kodiak,
there were two cousins.

Like the other girls of the village, they were skilled in many things.
They knew how to weave beautiful hats and baskets from spruce roots.
They were good at digging cranberry and other roots and finding the berries
that were ready to be gathered in autumn. Like all the girls of their village,
they had always been shown much love and understanding
by their parents and the other elders. They had been given the freedom
to do whatever they wished, but they had also been raised to be strong and brave.
When they were very small, they had been placed many times
in the cold salt water of the sea, yet they had never cried out.

Their lives were good in Chiniak. In the morning,
they might watch the sunrise with their relatives, sitting on the sod roof
of the big family house. During the day, when they were not out gathering food
on the land or on the ocean in their two-person kayak,

they might sit in the large common room by the hearth.
Or they might take sweat baths in one of the small rooms
attached to the common room, where steam would rise
as they placed water on the heated stones. But whatever those cousins did,
they always did it together.

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