**The Biggest Moccasins in the World**

**A Short Story by Richard Van Camp**

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|  | Richard Van Camp is a Dogrib (Tlicho) Dene from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. He is an internationally known storyteller and best-selling author of adult and children’s fiction. Richard was awarded Storyteller of the Year for both Canada and the United States by t he Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers in 2007. |
|  | *This story is all true. I’ve been known to fib gently, buth this is all true. I’m not being cheap and I’m not sprucing git up. Really. Not even a little. Mahsi Cho. Thank you very much. A ho!* |

**Vocabulary/Pre-Reading Tips:**

**1. italics:** words from other languages are set in italics; for example, *pardonnez-moi* and *mahsi cha.*

**2.** [**Dogrib**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C5%82%C4%B1%CC%A8ch%C7%AB)**:** First Nations peoples who live in the Great Slave Lake area of the Northwest Territories.

**3. *Nagha*** (**Sasquatch**): A very large, hairy, humanlike creature said to live in remote wilderness areas of Canada and the United States.

**4. Old Man’s Beard**: A type of fungus with a hair-like appearance that grows on branches.

**5. *mahsi cho:*** Thank you very much (in the Dogrib language).

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| **Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Being:**  **Explain with evidence from the story:** |

**Pre-Reading:**

**1.** Do you know someone who tells good stories? What is about this person’s storytelling that engages you? What makes a good story? Give an example.

**During**:

**2.** As you read this short story, think about what the author means when he says, “This is a story of respect from my family to you.”

**Questions for Comprehension:**

**3.** What have you learned about the Dogrib culture by reading this story? Give details from the story to support.

**4.** Why did the family decide to move their camp? Choose the best answer from the choices below:

**a**. They didn’t want to get attacked by the *Nagha.*

**b**. They set up camp too late at night and didn’t realize that the land was inhospitable.

**c**. They needed to find a better area for hunting.

**d**. They wanted to respect the *Nagha* by not camping in his territory.

**5.** In the story, the grandmother gives the gift of the moccasins to the Nagha as a sign of respect. What are the other instances of respect in the story?

**6**. What are 3 themes in this story> Write one theme statement.

7. Reread the first sentence in the story and think about why the author wrote the story. How does knowing the author’s purpose for writing a story enhance your understanding of it?