

Sides do not need to be memorized

Tip and El Side #1

Note to auditionees: the text in red will eventually be translated into Swampy Cree. This scene is about two characters trying to communicate despite the language barriers. For the Audition, please read the red text as written, unless you are fluent in another language - if so, feel free to speak that language instead of the red text!

ACT 2

The River Freezes

Either way, auditionees should play the scene as if the words in red were a language that only Tip understands, except for the few words El begins to learn in the scene.

Scene 1 - Calm

During this, Moon in shadow can show the direction that Tip and El went on a map so that the audience can see the Map of Manitoba and where each family goes.

Moon: Not long after Struana's birth, Tip and their family continued their journey north, as they did every fall, to reach the wooded land of the muskrat and muskeg. Over the cold months they hunted and trapped rabbit, marten, moose, beaver and caribou. They collected medicines to share with other families at the meeting place. The Meeting Place. They did this every year. Tip enjoyed the change of scenery, and they liked knowing they had a job to do.

And once El's mother was well enough to travel, El and her family followed the Red River south to their land, which was before the fork with the Assiniboine river, which Tip called the meeting place. The cold weather waited just long enough for them to clear a bit of land and build a temporary shelter before the river froze smooth and solid.

Tip and El each spent time during those cold days when the wind was blowing the blankets of snow across the frozen ground wondering about their friend and how they survived the winter.

Finally, after many months, the air grew warmer and the land started to melt. The Sun melted the snow and revealed the fresh dirt and grass that was hiding underneath. The ice on the river turned thin and floated away in pieces, not to be seen again until next winter. El's family learned what spring plants were good to eat and what to plant in the soil near the river. Tip's family took down their homes and started their journey south, as they did every year. Towards the meeting place near El's home.

July 1859

El: Tip!

Tip: El. *[Big hug]* For you.

Tip hands El a small bag with medicine in it.

El: This is beautiful. *[Using gesture]* Did you make this?

Tip: Yes, while grandfather was telling the story of how Nanabush brought fire to his people.

El: What? Never mind. What makes it shine?

Tip shakes head

El: Shine? Shine...*[She holds it up to the light]* Shine.

Tip: *[using gesture]* Fish scales.

El: Fish? Fish scales?

Tip: *[nods]* Fish scales. *[shows another part using gesture]* Porcupine quills.

El: Porcupine? *[repeats gesture]* How do I say 'Thank you?'

Tip: Thank you. Thank you.

El: Thank you.

Tip: You're welcome/Okay (this may be more like an acknowledgement depending on how the language works)

El: You came back on the perfect day! Today is my birthday.

Tip: Birthday?

El: Day I was born. *[uses gesture for birth from Act 1]* When I was born.

Tip: Born?

El: Yes. Born. Today I am 12 years old *[puts 12 lines on birch bark tree, which may be on the map/screen]*. 12.

Tip: *[counting the lines]* 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12. 12 years. *[indicates me too]* Today.

El: Today? Today?

Tip: *[Nods]* I was born...12.... Under a red moon.
El shakes her head.

Tip: Red. *[Shows El something red]*

El: Red.

Tip: Yes. Red. Born red moon *[gestures moon]*.

El: Wait. 12 years ago, born under a blood moon...red moon?

Tip: Yes.

El: We were both born on the same day! Happy birthday!

Tip: *[Awkwardly]* Happy Birthday.

El: That is a bit strange.

Tip: Strange?

El: Yes. *[El smells the bag]* This smells lovely. What is inside?

Tip: Lilac.

El: Lilac?

Tip: Yes. To help you be calm and see *[uses gesture for breath and copies to see gesture from first act]*.

El: To breathe and see? *[She throws a handkerchief at Tip]* Are you trying to tell me something?

Tip: Yes. Breathe...see.

End