

# DENÉ LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION COURSE HANDBOOK



ALBERTA COLLEGE OF ART • DESIGN

**ACAD**



LODGEPOLE CENTER

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Alberta College of Art and Design  
2018 Dene Language Revitalization  
Course

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## Commentary

The Tsuut'ina language is a unique Dene Language that has weathered the test of time. It was the most stable language of the Dene dialects. The proper pronunciation of tones is the most critical aspect of Tsuut'ina. There are three tones probably four (the fourth tone is an extra high tone). The word for *horse: ístłí, I am: ístłí, I am tasting: ístłí* the non-speaker will hear only one word. Loss of toning will mean an introduction of slang and other forms of intrusion on a language that has remained pure and stable. The effects on the morphology lexicon, syntax and semantics will be the next signs of language loss.

Tsuut'ina has words that will never be translated *inàgōò* the closest English translation is "*I have deep empathy for you.*" There are other words but this word is so profound that the receiver of this word experiences comfort when it is spoken.

In the past, I have tried immersion. The support for immersion must be present 24/7. In Tsuut'ina there are only 29 speakers in the world, of that 29 there are less than 14 that can assist in any supportive form. The answers to some of the questions when asked are not provided by the speakers or a substitute word is used i.e. sweetgrass *tł'ùw tłitsinī, t'ùw tsin, gútł'ùwī tłitsinī* more likely it is the later is the word from a linguistic and cultural point of view. Linguistically the word *tł'ùw* appears in all three words and culturally sweetgrass is considered a medicine. There is much more to the language. I use these examples to show the variations that toning has on the semantics.

The best way to retain Tsuut'ina is the written form. If English is your first language, you need to have a written record of words for future reference. A recall of words or sentences that are verbally taught daily is difficult to absorb and retain.

Language has given me a unique identity over the years. It has taught me that Tsuut'ina is not a language of aggression, it is a language of balance, it is a language that keeps a person's dignity intact and can express difficult and serious matters in a different way. It is a language of prayer and humility. It has a complex structure of expression that will make you visualize the event as it happened in story telling. It is a language of respect for one another. Ceremonial events have more meaning in Tsuut'ina. Prayer language differs slightly with the endings of the words in prayer. When I pray I am pleading with the Creator for well being and balance.

I am a fluent speaker and my Tsuut'ina is true immersion. I heard the language everyday when I play, wake up, before I go to school, when I get home until I go to bed, all weekend, summertime and school holidays. I am a firm believer that immersion cannot work with a limited amount of speakers. We have been doing immersion since the early 1970s in Tsuut'ina and we never produced a single fluent speaker. The funding was never enough and the teachers had to develop their own lesson plans on a daily basis. In my late forties, I went back to university to learn more about linguistics and the assumptions that were made about Tsuut'ina. At that time, I thought I knew everything that needs to be known about Tsuut'ina. The instructors that I had helped me to understand the fundamentals of language. I applied those principals to Tsuut'ina and found out that there was so much more to learn. I transcribe and translate Tsuut'ina material. I have worked in culture and language in all my employment history. I am currently the Language Commissioner for the Tsuut'ina Nation and my job is to ensure the integrity of Tsuut'ina language.

Bruce Starlight

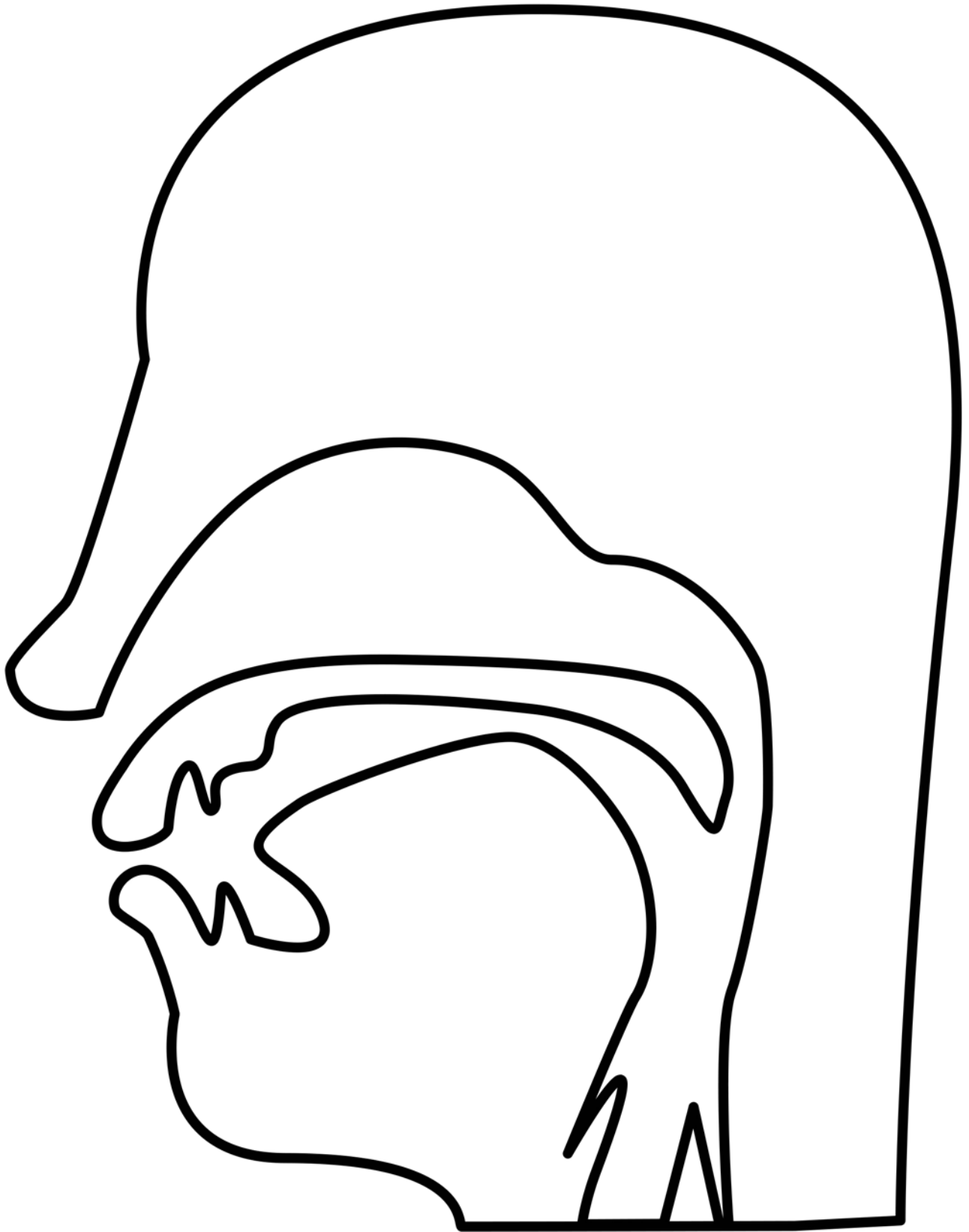
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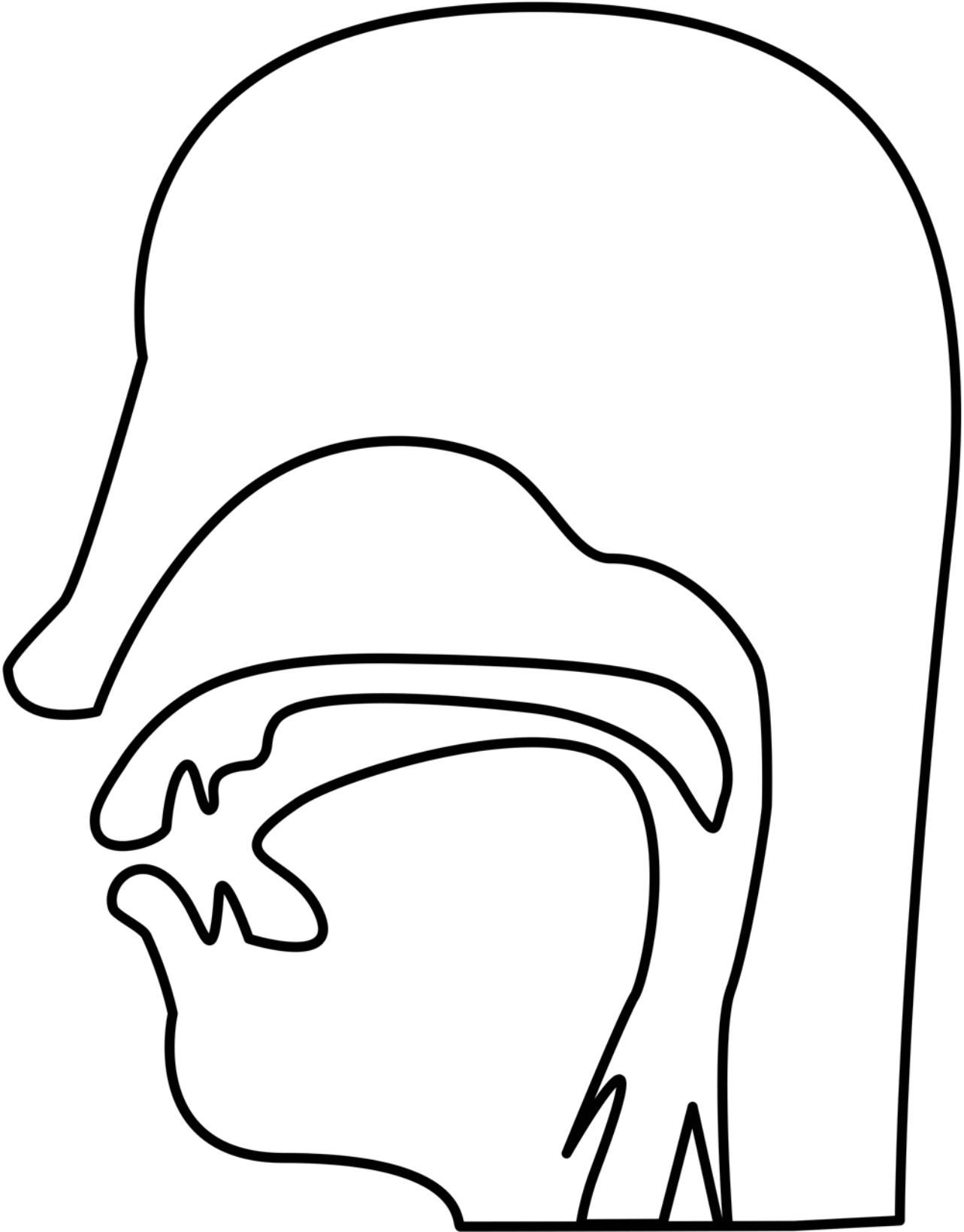
### Tsuut'ina Language Places of Articulation.

There are 32 consonants and 4 vowels in the Tsuut'ina Language. The following 10 illustrations are a representation of where your tongue sits when you are speaking the Tsuut'ina Language. This serves as a guide to help the reader better understand how to speak the Tsuut'ina Language.

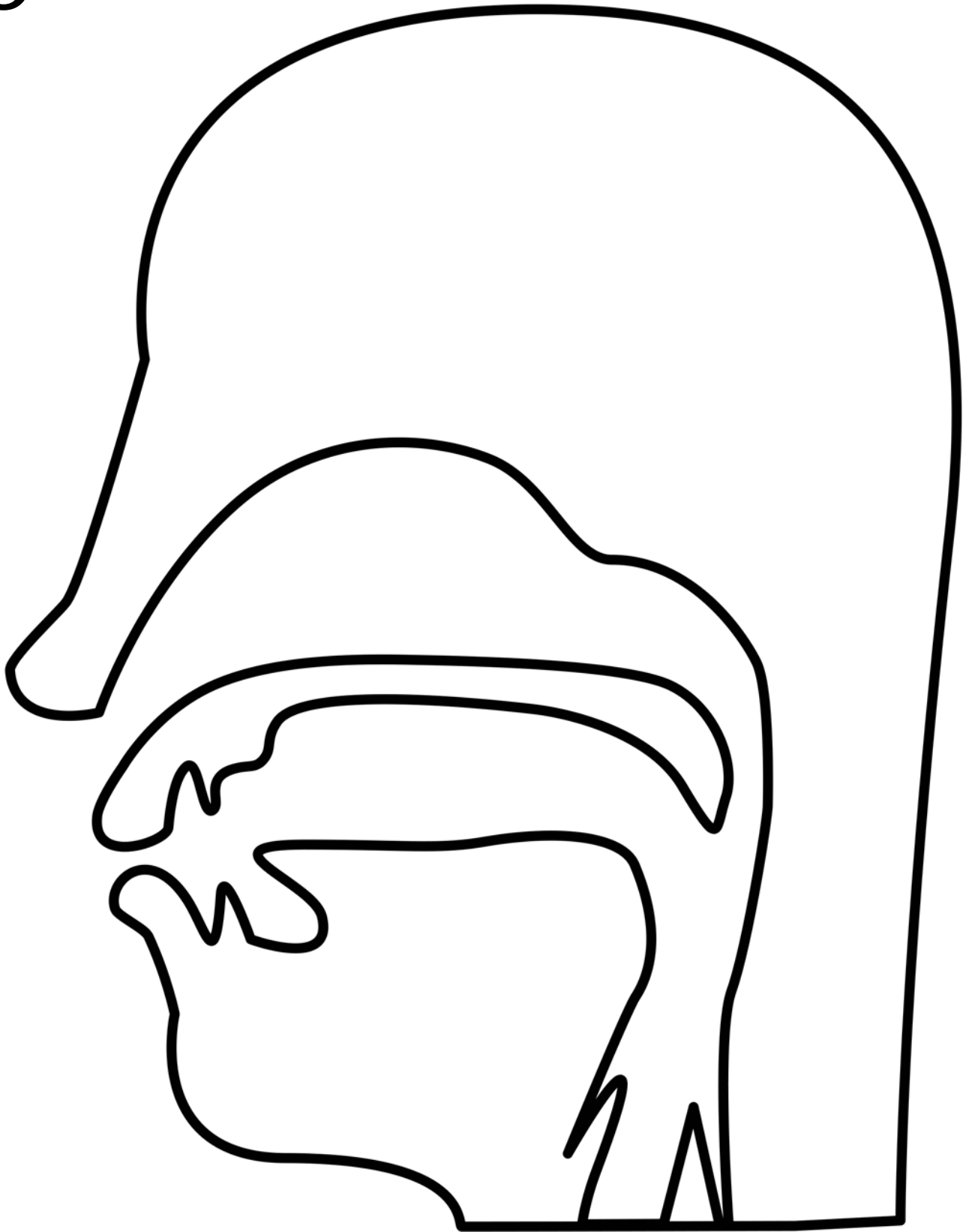
1



A

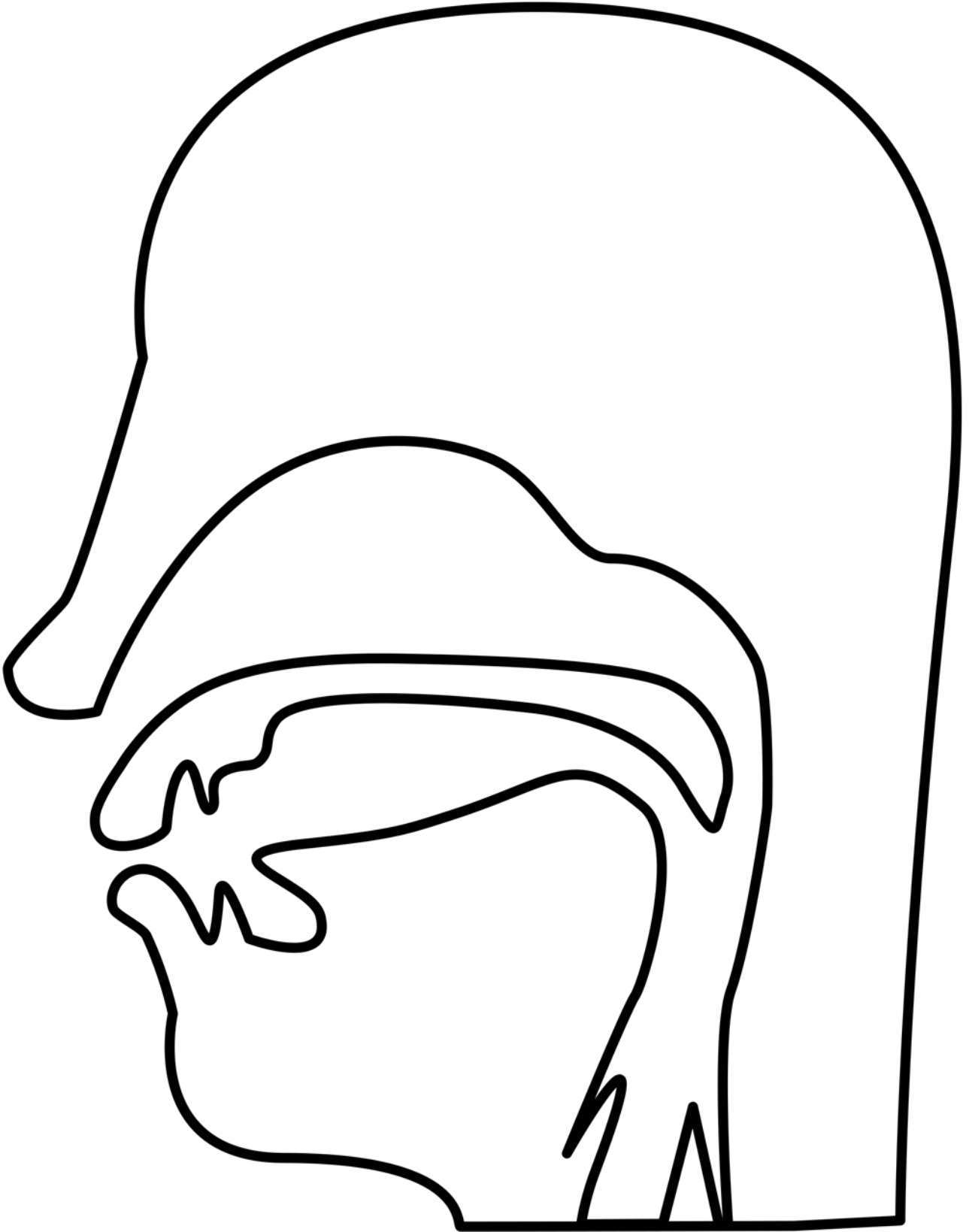


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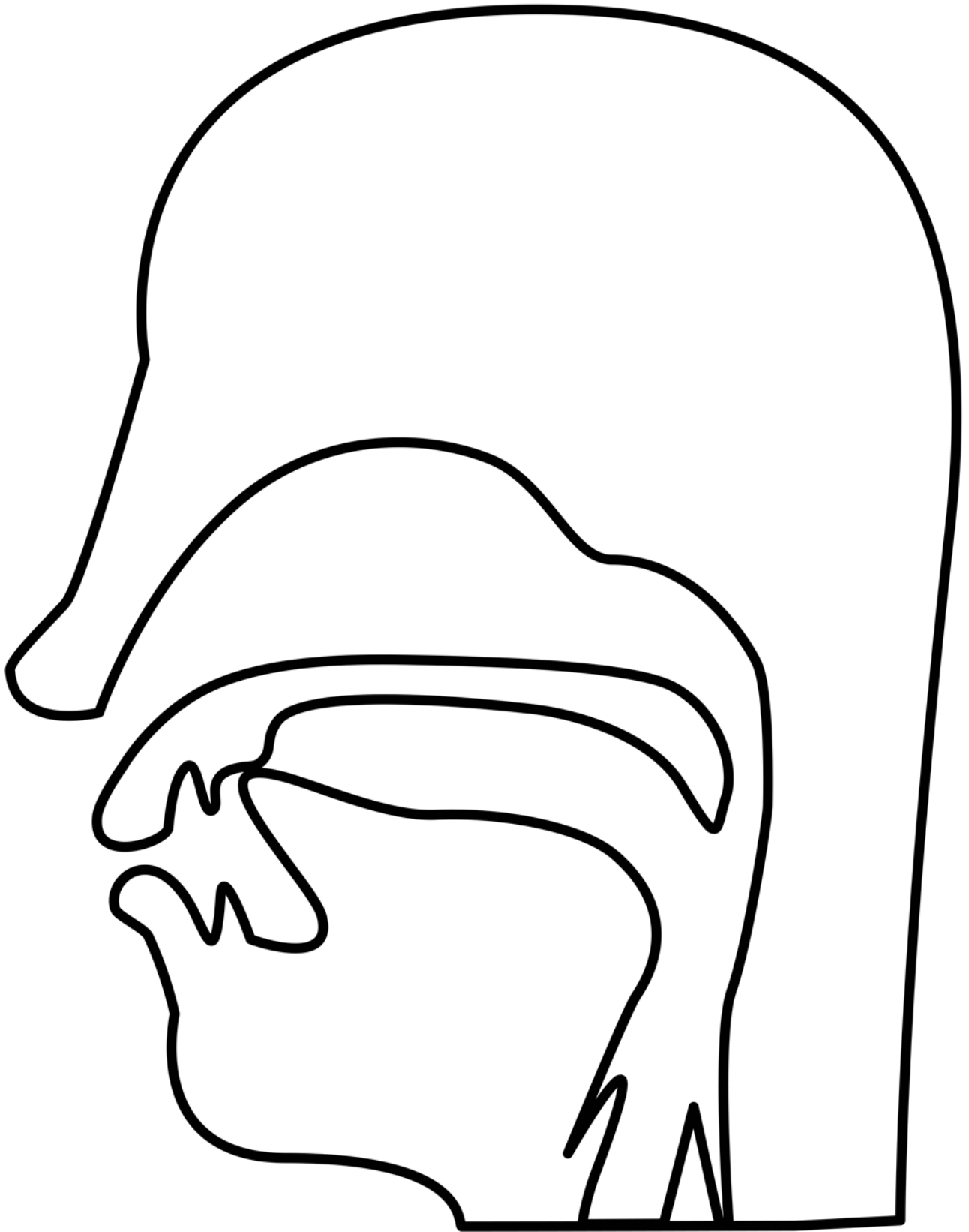




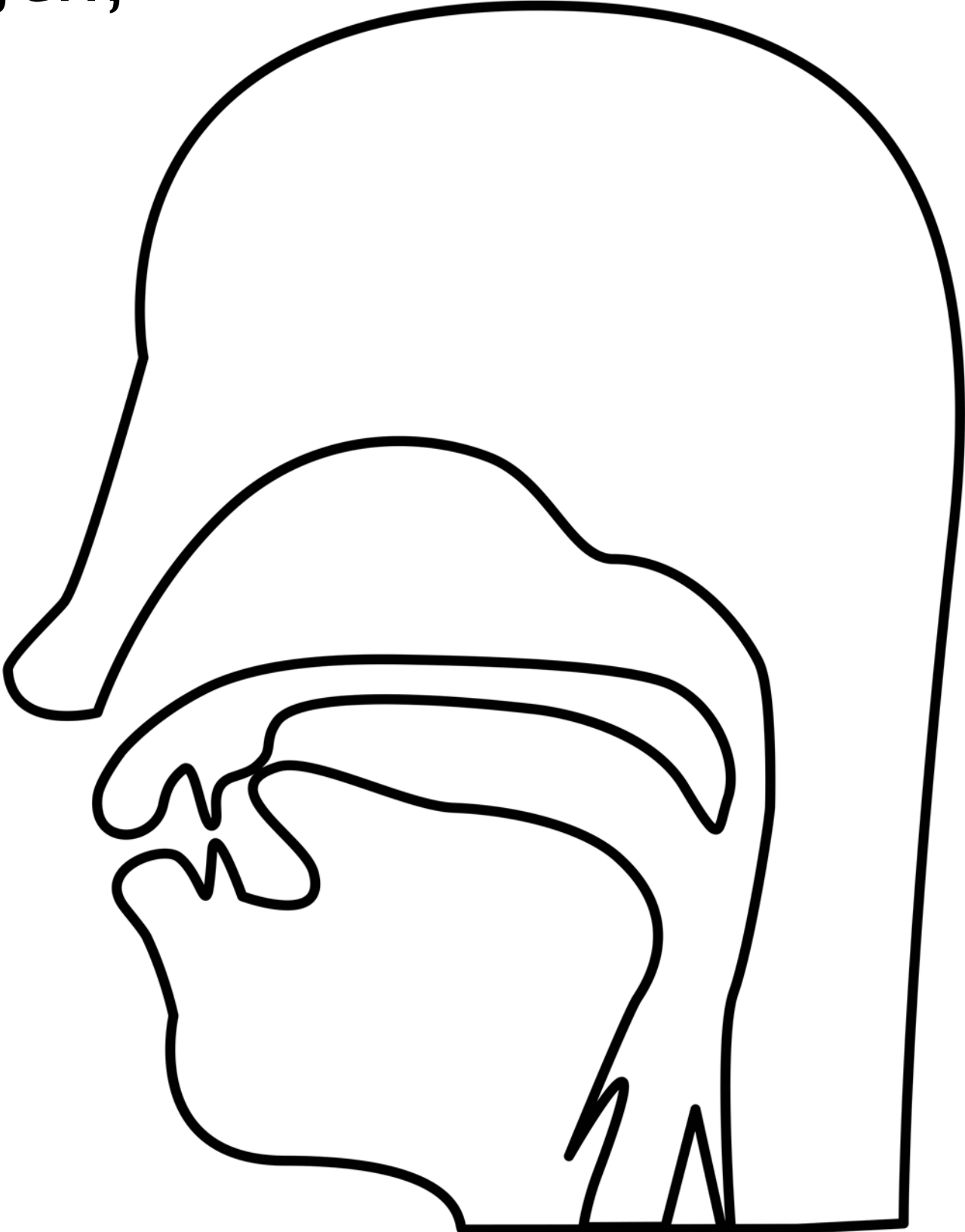
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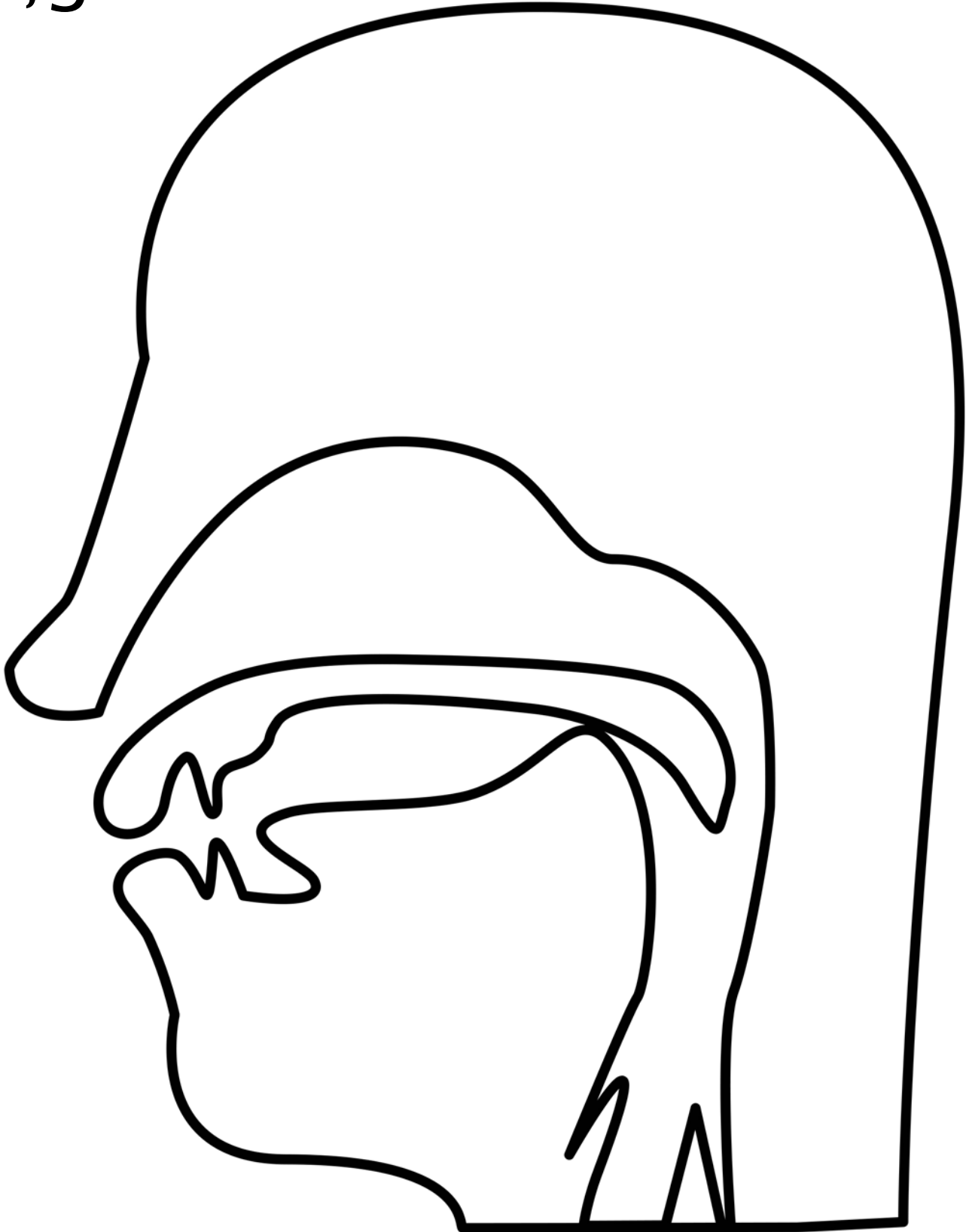
t,d,s,dz,n,l,ʈ



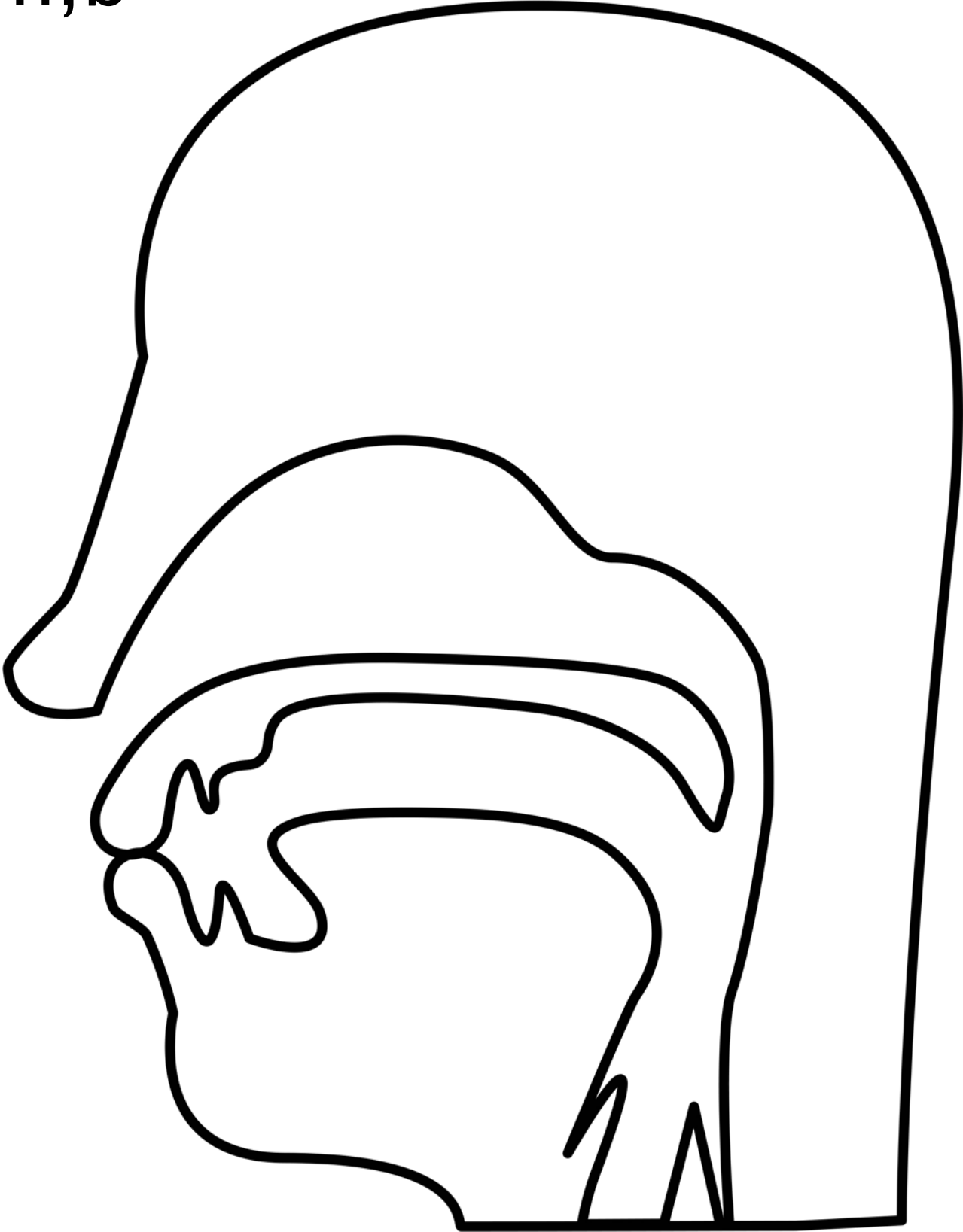
j, ch,



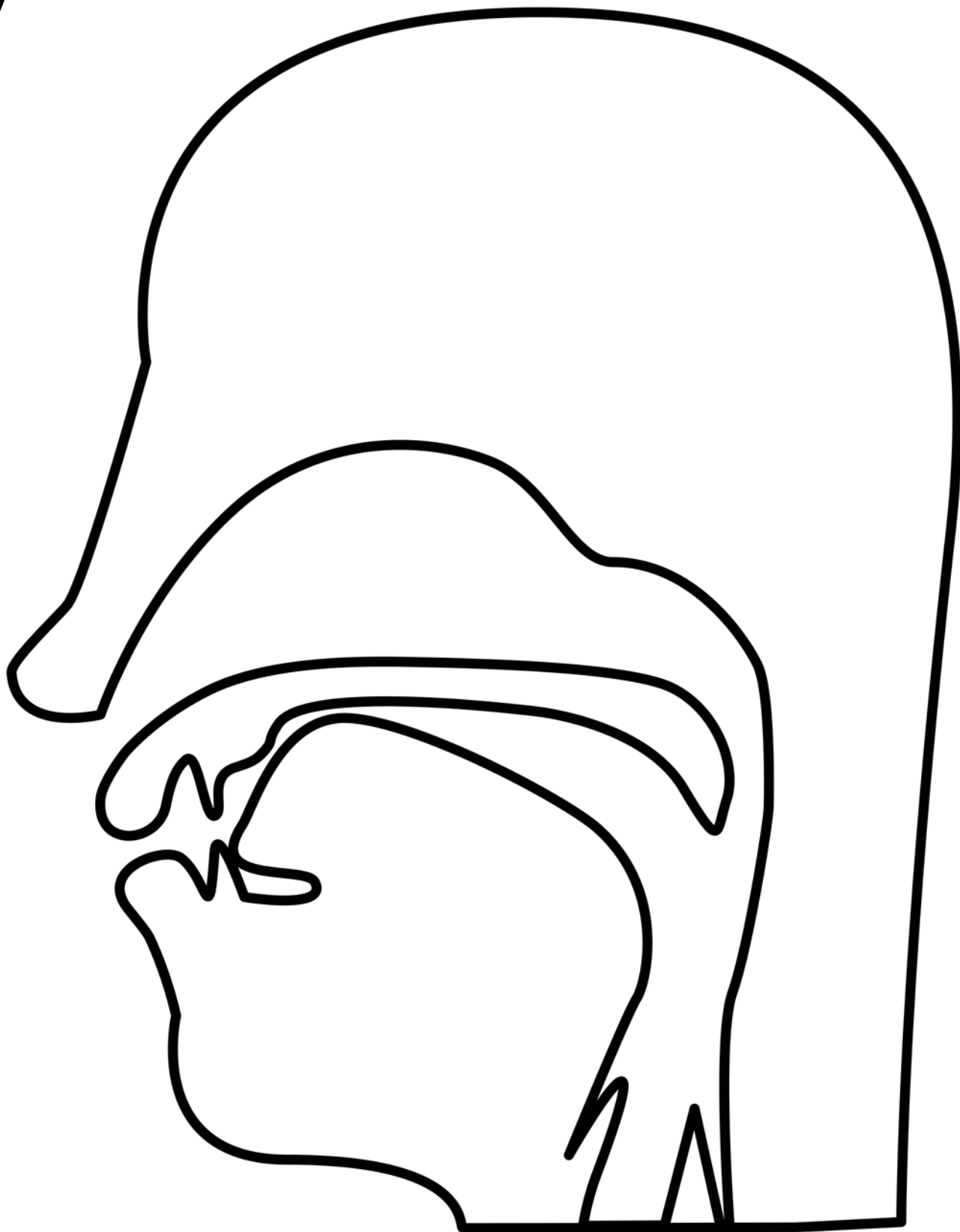
k,g



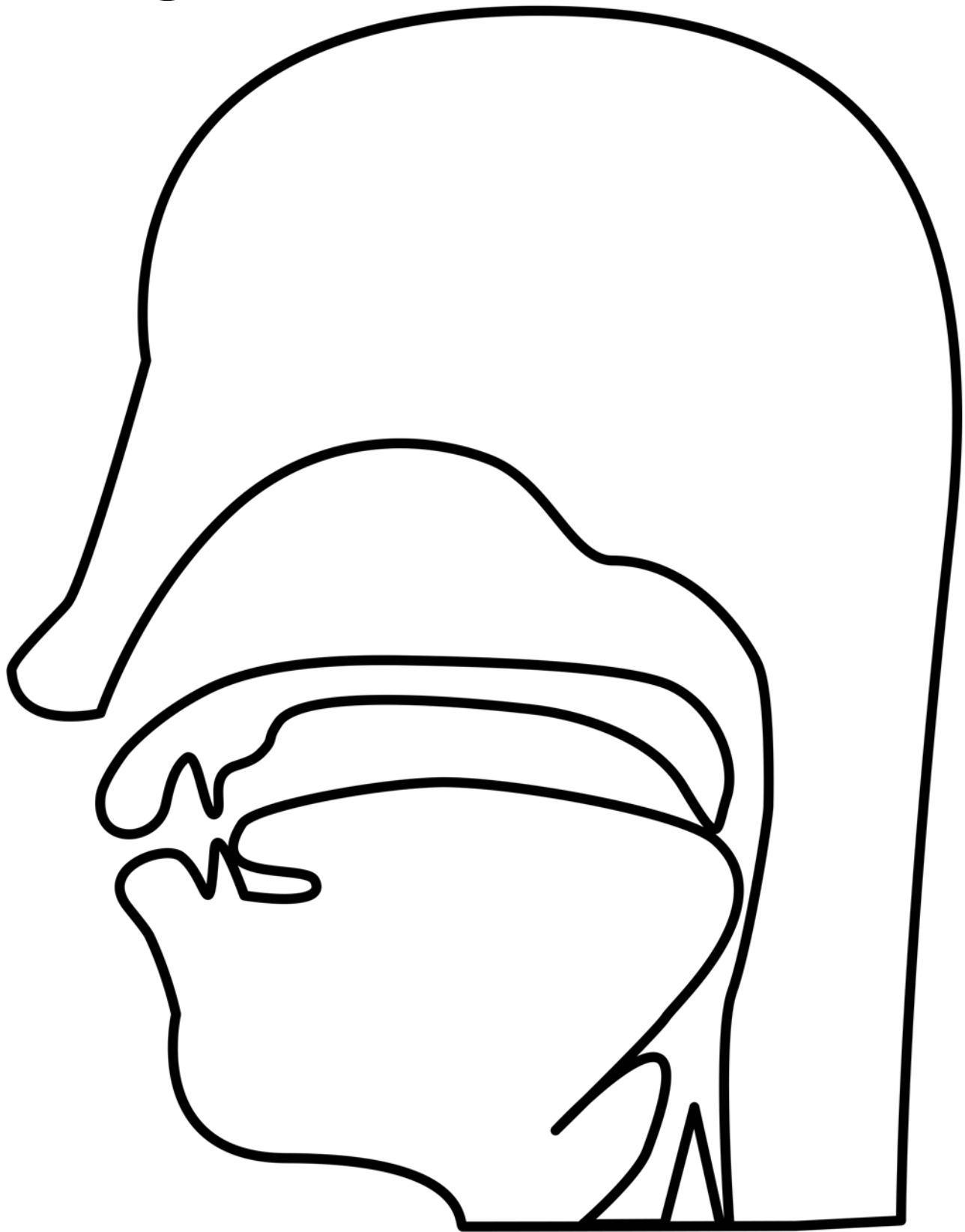
m, b



y



g, ʔ (glottal)



## Nonsense Words to associate morphemes

| <u>Vowels</u>    | <u>i</u>                           | <u>a</u>                           | <u>o</u>                           | <u>u</u>                           |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>PLAIN</u>     | di<br>dli<br>dzi<br>ji<br>gi       | da<br>dla<br>dza<br>ja<br>ga       | do<br>dlo<br>dzo<br>jo<br>go       | du<br>dlu<br>dzu<br>ju<br>gu       |
| <u>ASPIRATED</u> | ti<br>tʰi<br>tsi<br>chi<br>ki      | ta<br>tʰa<br>tsa<br>cha<br>ka      | to<br>tʰo<br>tso<br>cho<br>ko      | tu<br>tʰu<br>tsu<br>chu<br>ku      |
| <u>EJECTIVE</u>  | t'i<br>tʰ'i<br>ts'i<br>ch'i<br>k'i | t'a<br>tʰ'a<br>ts'a<br>ch'a<br>k'a | t'o<br>tʰ'o<br>ts'o<br>ch'o<br>k'o | t'u<br>tʰ'u<br>ts'u<br>ch'u<br>k'u |
| <u>NONVOICED</u> | ʰi<br>si<br>shi<br>xi<br>hi        | ʰa<br>sa<br>sha<br>xa<br>ha        | ʰo<br>so<br>sho<br>xo<br>ho        | ʰu<br>su<br>shu<br>xu<br>hu        |
| <u>VOICED</u>    | li<br>zi<br>yi<br>ghi              | la<br>za<br>ya<br>gha              | lo<br>zo<br>yo<br>gho              | lu<br>zu<br>yu<br>ghu              |
| <u>NASALS</u>    | mi<br>ni                           | ma<br>na                           | mo<br>no                           | mu<br>nu                           |



# Tsuut'ina Tadisli

Iyaho Ito

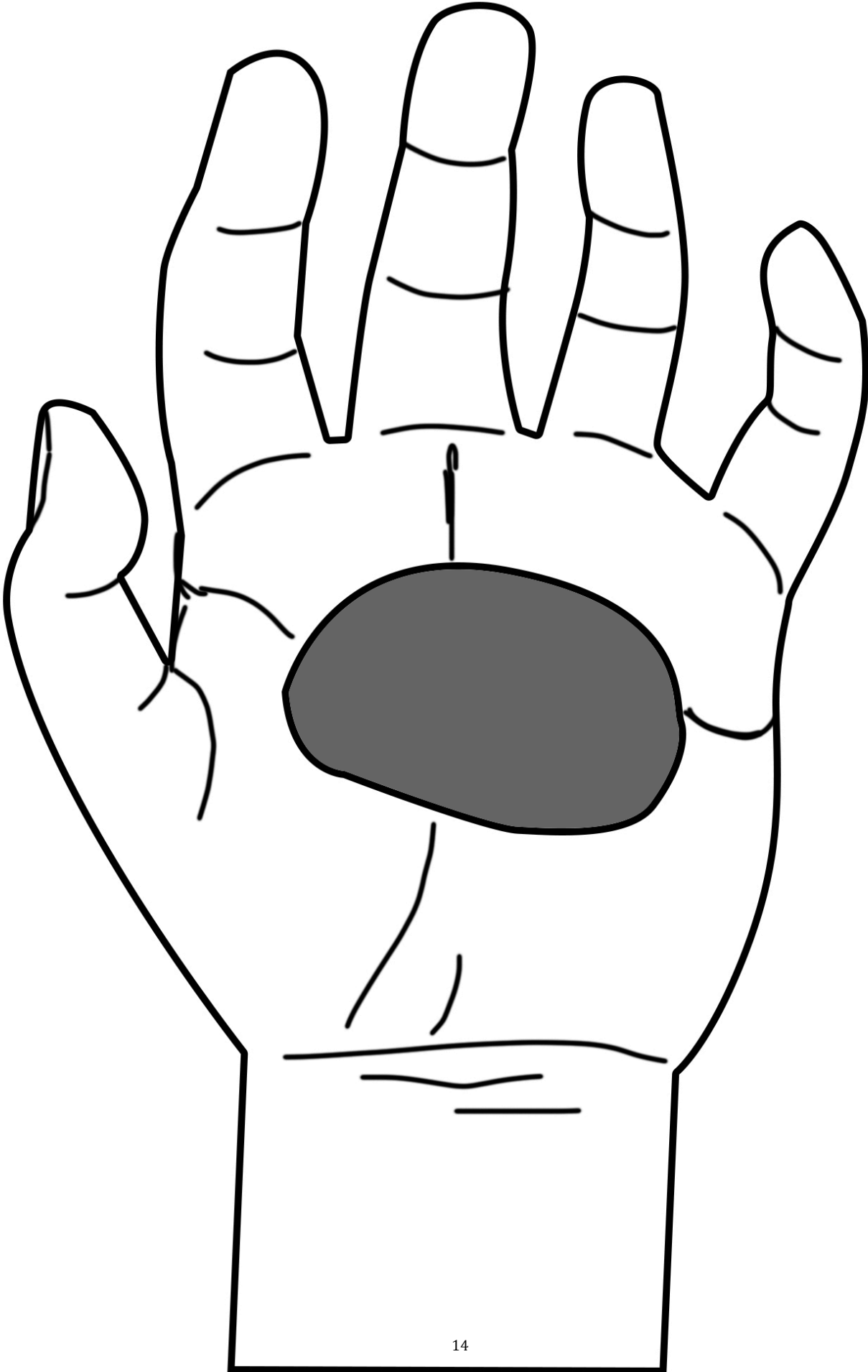
Sōghānít'ā àà

Sīsgākā ōghānít'ā àà

Gwānistlīn dīyī dzínīsà

Xát'ā yīnīsīn

Xát'ā nīts'ī ískād



## Verb Phrase Book

### “will ask” Non Past

**I will ask.**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> will ask.**  
**He/She/It will ask.**  
**We will ask.**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> will ask.**  
**They will ask.**  
**Someone will ask.**

- Īdīskīd.
- Īdískīd.
- Īdīskīd.
- Īdāākīd.
- Īdāskīd.
- Īgīdīskīd.
- Īts’īdīskīd.

### “ASK WITH IS IT”

**Will I not ask?**

**Will you<sup>sg.</sup> not ask?**

**Will he/she/it not ask?**

**Will we not ask?**

**Will you<sup>pl.</sup> not ask?**

**Will they not ask?**

**Will someone not ask?**

- Dú?īdīskīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īdīskīdīlā?
- Dú?īdīskīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īdīskīdīlā?
- Dú?īdīskīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īdīskīdīlā?
- Dú?īdāākīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īdāākīdīlā?
- Dú?īdāskīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īdāskīdīlā?
- Dú?īgīdīskīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īgīdīskīdīlā?
- Dú?īts’dīskīdī ìlà?
- Dú?īts’dīskīdīlā?

### “WILL ASK HIM/HER/IT” Non Past

**I will ask him/her/it.**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> will not ask him/her/it.**  
**He/She/It will ask him/her/it.**  
**We will ask him/her/it.**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> will ask him/her/it.**

- Mīdīskīd.
- Mīdískīd.
- Yīdīskīd.
- Mīdāākīd.
- Mīdāskīd.

**They will ask him/her/it.  
Someone will ask him/her/it**

- Gīyīdīskīd.
- Mīts'īdīskīd.

**“I WILL ASK HIM/HER/IT LATER ON” Non Past**

**I will ask him/her/it later on later on.  
You<sup>sg.</sup> will not ask him/her/it later on.  
He/She/It will ask him/her/it later on.  
We will ask him/her/it later on.  
You<sup>pl.</sup> will ask him/her/it later on.  
They will ask him/her/it later on.  
Someone will ask him/her/it later on.**

- Mīdīskīdī.
- Mīdīskīdī.
- Yīdīskīdī.
- Mīdāàkīdī.
- Mīdāskīdī.
- Gīyīdīskīdī.
- Mīts'īdīskīdī.

**“ASK ANOTHER PERSON” Non Past**

**I will ask you<sup>sg.</sup>.  
You<sup>sg.</sup> will ask me.  
He/She/It will ask me.  
We will ask you<sup>sg.</sup>.  
You<sup>pl.</sup> will ask me.  
will ask me.  
Someone will ask me.**

- Nīdīskīd.
- Sīdīskīd.
- Sīdīskīd.
- Nīdāàkīd.
- Sīdāskīd.
- Sīgīdīskīd.
- Sīts'īdīskīd.

**“WILL ASK THEM” Non Past**

**I will ask them.  
You<sup>sg.</sup> will ask them.  
He/She/It will ask them.  
We will ask them.  
You<sup>pl.</sup> will ask them.  
They will ask them.  
Someone will ask them.**

- Gīmīdīskīd.
- Gīmīdīskīd.
- Gūdīskīd.
- Gīmīdāàkīd.
- Gīmīdāskīd.
- Gūgīdīskīd.
- Gīmīts'īdīskīd.

**“ASKED” Past**

**I asked.**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> asked.**  
**He/She/It asked.**  
**We asked.**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> asked.**  
**They asked.**  
**Someone asked.**

- **Īdīyīskīd.**
- **Īdīyīskīd.**
- **Īdīyīskīd.**
- **Īdīyāàkīd.**
- **Īdīyāskīd.**
- **Īgīdīyīskīd.**
- **Īts’īdīyīskīd.**

**“FINISHED ASKING ” Past**

**I finished asking**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> finished asking**  
**He/She/It finished askng.**  
**We asking finished asking.**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> finished asking.**  
**They finished asking.**  
**Someone finished asking.**

- **K’ā?idīyīskīd**
- **K’ā?idīyīskīd**
- **K’ā?idīyīskīd**
- **K’ādīyāàkīd**
- **K’ādīyāskīd**
- **K’ā?igīyīdīyīskīd**
- **K’ā?its’īdīyīskīd**

**“ASKED HIM/HER/IIT” Past**

**I asked him/her/it.**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> asked him/her/it.**  
**He/She/It asked him/her/it.**  
**We asked him/her/it.**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> asked him/her/it.**  
**They asked him/her/it.**  
**Someone asked him/her/it.**

- **Mídīyīskīd.**
- **Mīdīyīskīd.**
- **Yídīyīskīd.**
- **Mīdīyāàkīd.**
- **Mīdīyāskīd.**
- **Gīyīdīyīskīd.**
- **Mīts’īdīyīskīd.**

**“ASKED THEM” Past**

**I asked them.**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> asked them.**  
**He/She/It asked them.**  
**We asked them.**

- **Gīmīdīyīskīd.**
- **Gīmīdīyīskīd.**
- **Gūdīyīskīd.**
- **Gīmīdīyāàkīd.**

**You<sup>pl</sup> asked them.**  
**They asked them.**  
**Someone asked them.**

- Gīmīdīyāskīd.
- Gūgīdīyīskīd.
- Gīmīts'īdīyīskīd.

**“BE ASKING” Progressive**

**I am asking/about to be asking.**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> are asking.**  
**He/She/It is asking.**  
**We are asking.**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> are asking.**  
**They are asking.**  
**Someone is asking.**

- Īdīyīskīṭ.
- Īdīyīskīṭ.
- Īdīyīskīṭ.
- Īdīyāàkīṭ.
- Īdīyāskīṭ.
- Īgīdīyīskīṭ.
- Īts'īdīyīskīṭ.

**“ASKING HIM/HER/IT” Progressive**

**I am asking him/her/it.**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> are asking him/her/it.**  
**He/She/It is asking him/her/it.**  
**We are asking him/her/it.**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> are asking him/her/it.**  
**They are asking him/her/it.**  
**Someone is asking him/her/it.**

- Midīyīskīṭ.
- Midīyīskīṭ.
- Yīdīyāskīṭ.
- Midīyāàkīṭ.
- Midīyāskīṭ.
- Gīyīdīyāskīṭ.
- Mīts'īdāskīṭ.

**“ASK HIM/HER/IT AGAIN AND AGAIN” Repetitive**

**I ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**He/She/It ask him/her/it again and again**  
**We ask him/her/it again and again**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> ask him/her/it again and again**  
**They ask him/her/it again and again**  
**Someone asks him/her/it again and again**

- Nāmīdīskīīzh.
- Nāmīdīskīīzh.
- Náyīdīskīīzh.
- Nāmīdāàkīīzh.
- Nāmīdāskīīzh.
- Nágīyīdīskīīzh.
- Nāmīts'īdīskīīzh.

“ASK THEM AGAIN AND AGAAIN” **Repetitive**

**I ask them again and again.**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> ask them again and again.**  
**He/She/It asks them again and again.**  
**We ask them again and again.**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> ask them again and again.**  
**They ask them again and again.**  
**Someone asks them again and again.**

- Nágīmīdīskīzh.
- Nágīmīdīkīzh.
- Nágūdīkīzh.
- Nágīmīdāàkīzh.
- Nágīmīdāskīzh.
- Nágūgīdīkīzh.
- Nágīmīts'īdīkīzh.

“MIGHT ASK YOU<sup>pl</sup>/US” **Non Past**

**I might ask you<sup>pl</sup>.**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> might ask us.**  
**He/She/It might ask us.**  
**We might ask you<sup>pl</sup>.**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> might ask us.**  
**They might ask us.**  
**Someone might ask us.**

- Nīhīdīskīdī-gūlà.
- Nīhīdīskīdī-gūlà.
- Nīhīdīskīdī-gūlà.
- Nīhīdāàkīdī-gūlà.
- Nīhīdāskīdī-gūlà.
- Nīhīgīdīskīdī-gūlà.
- Nīhīts'īdīskīdīgūlà.

“WILL NOT ASK HIM/HER/IT AGAIN AND AGAIN” **Repetitive**

**I will not ask him /her/it again and again.**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> will not ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**He/She/It will not ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**We will not ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> will not ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**They will not ask him/her/it again and again.**  
**Someone will not ask him/her/it again and again.**

- Dúnámīdīskījī átà.
- Dúnámīdīskījāátà.
- Dúnámīdīskījī átà.
- Dúnámīdīskījāátà.
- Dúnáyīdīskījī átà.
- Dúnáyīdīskījāátà.
- Dúnámīdīsāàkījī átà.
- Dúnámīdīsāàkījāátà.
- Dúnámīdāskījī átà.
- Dúnámīdāskījāátà.
- Dúnágīyīdīskījī átà.
- Dúnágīyīdīskījīáátà.
- Dúnámīts'īdīskījī átà.
- Dúnámīts'īdīskījāátà.

“ASK”, “WILL HAVE ASKED HIM/HER/IT” **Past**

**I will have asked him/her/it after awhile**

**Noun Phrase ask**

**Handle Verbs**

**blanket**

**my blanket**

**on**

**on a blanket**

- K'ādā ídá mídíyīskīdī.
- K'ādāādá mídíyīskīdī.
- ídīkīdi

**Handle Verbs-Non Past**

“is on a blanket” **Non Past**

**1). It is on a blanket (granular substance)**

**2). It is on a blanket (vessel with content/s)**

**3). It is on a blanket (rope/several objects)**

**4). He/she/it is sleeping on a blanket (human/animal)**

**5). It is on a blanket (stick-like object/sackful)**

**6). It is on a blanket (cloth-like object)**

**7). It is on a blanket (solid stone like object/default)**

- tààl
- sītàlà
- -k'à
- tààlk'à.

- Tààlk'à sījààzh.
- Tààlk'à sīkón.
- Tààlk'à sīlō.
- Tààlk'à sītín
- Tààlk'à sītón.
- Tààlk'à sītsùùz.
- Tààlk'à sīʔón.

“was on a blanket” **Past**

**1). It was on a blanket (granular substance)**

**2). It was on a blanket (vessel with content/s)**

**3). It was on a blanket (rope or several objects)**

**4). It was on a blanket (stick-like object)**

**5). It was on a blanket (cloth-like object)**

**6). It was on a blanket (solid stone like object/default)**

- Tààlk'à yījààzh.
- Tààlk'à yīkòn.
- Tààlk'à yīlō.
- Tààlk'à yītón.
- Tààlk'à yītsús.
- Tààlk'à yīʔòn.



**carry it, give to him/her/it active (granular)**

**“CARRY (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” Non Past**

**I will carry it (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> will carry it (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it will carry it (granular substance).**  
**We will carry it (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> will carry it (granular substance).**  
**They will carry (granular substance).**  
**Someone will carry it (granular substance).**

- Dīsdzá.
- Dídzá.
- Yīdīdzá.
- Dāàdzá.
- Dāsdzá.
- Gīyīdīdzá.
- Ts’īdīdzá.

**“CARRIED (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” Past**

**I carried it (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> carried it (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it carried it (granular substance).**  
**We carried it (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> carried it (granular substance).**  
**They carried it (granular substance).**  
**Someone carried it (granular substance).**

- Dīsījààzh.
- Dīsídjààzh.
- Yīdīsjààzh.
- Dīsājààzh.
- Dīsāsdjààzh.
- Gīyīdīsjààzh.
- Ts’īdīsjààzh.

**“CARRY HOME (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” Non Past**

**I will carry something home (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> will carry something home (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it will carry something home (granular substance).**  
**We will carry something home (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> will carry something home (granular substance).**  
**They will carry something home (granular substance).**  
**Someone will carry something home (granular substance).**

- Nádīsdzá.
- Nádídzá.
- Náyīdīdzá.
- Nádāàdzá.
- Nádāsdzá.
- Nágīyīdīdzá.
- Náts’īdīdzá.

**“WILL HAND/GIVE SOMETHING TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” Non Past**

**I will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance)**

- Mōghànīsdzá.
- Mōghànídzá.
- Yōghàyīdzá.

We will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
You<sup>Pl.</sup> will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
They will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
Someone will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance)

- Mōghànāàdzá.
- Mōghànāsdzá.
- Gīyōghàgīdzá.
- Mōghàts'īdzá.

“WILL HAND IT TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” **Non Past**

I will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
You<sup>Sg.</sup> will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
He/she/it will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
We will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
You<sup>Pl.</sup> will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
They will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
Someone will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).

- Mōghàyīnīsdzá.
- Mōghàyīnīdzá.
- Yōghàyīdzá.
- Mōghàyīnāàdzá.
- Mōghàyīnāsdzá.
- Gīyōghàgīyīdzá.
- Mōghàyīts'īdzá.

“HANDED/GAVE TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” **Past**

I handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
You<sup>Sg.</sup> handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
He handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
We handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
You<sup>Pl.</sup> handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
They handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).  
Someone handed/gave something to him/her/ (granular substance).

- Mōghànīsjààzh.
- Mōghànījààzh.
- Yōghànījààzh.
- Mōghànājààzh.
- Mōghànāsjààzh.
- Gīyōghàgīnījààzh.
- Mōghàts'īnījààzh.

“HANDED IT TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” **Past**

You<sup>Sg.</sup> handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
He/she/it handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
We handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
You<sup>Pl.</sup> handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).  
They handed/gave it to him/her/ (granular substance).  
Someone handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).

- Mōghàyīnījààzh.
- Yōghàyīnījààzh.
- Mōghàyīnājààzh.
- Mōghàyīnāsjààzh.
- Gīyōghàgīyīnījààzh.
- Mōghàyīts'īnījààzh.

“CARRYING IT INSIDE (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” **Past**

**I am carrying it in (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> are carrying it in (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it is carrying it in (granular substance).**  
**We are carrying it in (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> are carrying it in (granular substance).**  
**They are carrying it in (granular substance).**  
**Someone is carrying it in (granular substance).**

- Kúdīsīsjáázh.
- Kúdīsídjáázh.
- Kúyīdīsjaázh.
- Kúdīsāàdjáázh.
- Kúdīsāsdjáázh.
- Kúgīyīdīsjaázh.
- Kúts'īdīsjaázh.

“HOLDING IT UP (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” **Progressive**

**I am holding it up (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> are holding it up (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it is holding it up (granular substance).**  
**We are holding it up (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> are holding it up (granular substance).**  
**They are holding it up (granular substance).**  
**Someone is holding it up (granular substance).**

- Tāyīsdzī.
- Tāyīdzī.
- Tāyádzī.
- Tāyāàdzī.
- Tāyāsdzī.
- Tāgīyádzī.
- Tāts'ádzī.

“HOLD IT UP AGAIN AND AGAIN (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)” **Repetitive**

**I pick it up again and again (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> pick it up again and again (granular substance).**  
**He/she/it picks it up again and again (granular substance).**  
**We pick it up again and again (granular substance).**  
**You<sup>pl.</sup> pick it up again and again (granular substance).**  
**They pick it up again and again (granular substance).**  
**Someone picks it up again and again (granular substance).**

- Tānádīsjīsh.
- Tānádījīsh.
- Tānáyīdījīsh.
- Tānádīsāàjīsh.
- Tānádāsjīsh.
- Tānágīyīdījīsh.
- Tānāts'īdījīsh.

**carry it, hand to**

“CARRY (VESSEL WITH CONTENT/S)” **Non Past**

**I will carry it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>sg.</sup> will carry it (vessel with content/s).**  
**He/she/it will carry it (vessel with content/s).**

- Dīskò.
- Díkò.
- Yīdīkò.

**We will carry it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> will carry it (vessel with content/s).**  
**They will carry it (vessel with content/s).**  
**Someone will carry it (vessel with content/s).**

- Dā̀àkò.
- Dā̀skò.
- Gī̀yī̀dī̀kò.
- Ts'ī̀dī̀kò.

**“CARRIED IT (A VESSEL WITH CONTENT/S)” Past**

**I carried it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> carried it (vessel with content/s).**  
**He/she/it carried it (vessel with content/s).**  
**We carried it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> carried it (vessel with content/s).**  
**They carried it (vessel with content/s).**  
**Someone carried it (vessel with content/s).**

- Dīsī̀kón.
- Dīsíkón.
- Yī̀dī̀kón.
- Dīsā̀kón.
- Dīsā̀skón.
- Gī̀yī̀dī̀skón.
- Ts'ī̀dī̀skón.

**“WILL GIVE SOMETHING TO HIM/HER/IT (VESSEL WITH CONTENT/S)” Non Past**

**I will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s)**  
**He/she/it will hand/give something to him/her/it(vessel with content/s)**  
**We will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**They will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**Someone will hand/give something to him/her/it(vessel with content/s).**

- Mṑghà̀nī̀skò.
- Mṑghà̀nī̀kò.
- Yṑghà̀kò.
- Mṑghà̀nā̀kò.
- Mṑghà̀nā̀skò.
- Gī̀yṑghà̀kò.
- Mṑghà̀ts'ī̀kò.

**“WILL HAND IT TO HIM/HER/IT (VESSEL WITH CONTENT/S)” Non Past**

**I will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>sg</sup> will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel it with content/s).**  
**He/she/it will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**We will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**You<sup>pl</sup> will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**They will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**  
**Someone will hand/give it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).**

- Mṑghà̀yī̀nī̀skò.
- Mṑghà̀yī̀nī̀kò.
- Yṑghà̀yī̀nī̀kò.
- Mṑghà̀yī̀nā̀kò.
- Mṑghà̀yī̀nā̀skò.
- Gī̀yṑghà̀gī̀yī̀nī̀kò.
- Mṑghà̀yī̀ts'ī̀nī̀kò.

“GAVE SOMETHING TO HIM/HER/IT (VESSEL WITH CONTENT/S)” **Past**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| I handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).                  | • Mōghànīskòn.    |
| You <sup>sg.</sup> handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s). | • Mōghàníkòn.     |
| He/she/it handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).          | • Yōghànīkòn.     |
| We handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).                 | • Mōghànāàkòn.    |
| You <sup>pl.</sup> handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s). | • Mōghànāskòn.    |
| They handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).               | • Gīyōghàgīnīkòn. |
| Someone handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).            | • Mōghàts’īnīkòn. |



Tsuut'ina Lexical Semantics - Bruce Starlight, December 1, 2018

**tútákàtanidlijí**

sandpiper

**it'áàdzi**

in the morning

**it'áàdzii**

morning

**wúnáásdina**

across the river

**ák'óò iyíst'à**

early morning

**mit'úlà**

his/her/its rope

**xìsyísà / xìsyísi**

before evening time

**gudich'ulà**

rolling hills

**iik'òyí**

bull, steer

**xàt**

whip

**dimóhí**

the one that is going to war

**Ásch'ásyàí**

Christmas

**Ásch'ásyàí yìk'a gwádànáín**

upon Christmas each and every one be happy

**tláát'áà nahóghá tádisdli**

I will be praying for all of you

**tútákà gutíshí ch'át'ághà**

November

**ináchìgúk'á**

buffalo beans; the tear duct in your eyes

**sùnàkáá**

falling stars; mushrooms

**ishùshî**

shimmering light of the star

**nìsk'agudzághà**

the ears of the ground; crocus

**diit'ìdzí**

sorrel horse

**disgòshí**

black horse; something that is black

**móghatsìsuwí**

dark brown horse with a light yellow patch on the nose

**mik'usk'aá diik'ází**

strawberry roan (red mane)

**mik'usk'áà diigáyí**

palomino



**michàdisgòshí**  
buckskin

**istíí didlíshí**  
zebra

**mizìts`ìgudísúlí**  
lion

**dichààsgughóní**  
mountain lion

**ichitositíní / mílòdikòdí / isgááká / ninàghá / shásh**  
bear



## The Girl Who Married a Star

Dīnī yīnā àkíná ìt'āākúwá ìsīnā  
This-person people two-persons girls it-must-have-been  
**These two girls were sitting**

ìt'áyī dīgīhāst'ōghà ts'ōghā gīsdó-là.  
night their-own-home outside-at they-are-sitting-it-was.  
**one night outside of their teepee.**

T'ìk'ázá ìsīnā xānī-là,  
One-only it-must-have-been this-is-how-she-is-saying-it-was,  
**One of them said to her friend,**

"Ādí," ìsní-là,  
"Friend,"-(firmly-speaking) she-said-it-was,  
**"Friend," she said to her**

"Nūwí sù dōō mágūnikínī ìláádàà-jú  
Over-there star here it-like-pretty may-it-be-also.  
**"That star over there is very beautiful.**

sìkòlà áyīnā dōōt'īyī.  
my-husband he-may-become here-precisely ".  
**I wish that it would become my husband."**

Ìt'ádzī ìsīnā  
In-the-morning it-must-have-been  
**The next morning,**

kù ts'ì gīdìst'óóz-lā.  
fire-wood towards they-walked-casually-it-was  
**the two girls went out to get wood for the fire.**

Kù ágīs'íní īgūst'íyà ìsīnā  
Wood it-they-are-making all-of-a-sudden it-must-have-been  
**As they were making the fire-wood suddenly,**



īsgīyá k'á̀tashà yōghānàiyā-là.  
young-man handsome her-to-to-a-point-he-walked-it-was.  
a handsome young man walked up to her.

Dīnī ts'īdótsā xānī-là.  
This-person girl this-is-how-she-is-saying.  
The girl said,

"Xàt'á ànìtíí?" yìsní-là.  
"How-is-it you-are-doing?" to-him-she-says-it-was.  
"What are you doing?" she asked him.

Dīnī īsgīyá ī ùwāt'iyī xānī-là,  
This-person young-man the and-then this-is-how-he-is-saying-it-was.  
The young man then said,

"Nīts'ì?ást'íí nàñishā.  
You-towards-I-will-become to-a-point-I-walked.  
I have come to court you.

Nōghāná tàyīsts'ìhìgù  
You-never-mind up-I-am-floating-like-that,  
I was up in the sky, minding my own business.

"Sīkòlā áyīnā!"  
"My-husband it-may-become!"  
You said, 'I wish he could become my husband.'

"Dōō sīsdínī dōsà át'à  
"Here to-me-you-said-you-did. For-that-reason it-is  
You said to me. That is the reason

nīts'ì nākānīshā?í."  
you-towards downwards-I-walked-I-did."  
I have come down to you."

Ùwāt'iyī ìsīnā  
And-then it-must-have-been  
After,





xāyìsní-là, "Níts'ìt."

this-is-how-to-her-he-says-it-was you-your-eyes-close  
he told her to shut her eyes.

Dìsdínà zānát'ón-là. Ûwāt'iyī

Her-friend mouth-to-a-point-carry-(kissed)-it-was And-then  
The young woman kissed her friend goodbye. And then,

nìsts'ìt-là.

she-closed-her-eyes-it-was.  
then closed her eyes.

"Ūwà ìyídí?ás," yìsní-là.

"Now you-lift-up-your-eyes-to-see," to-her-he-says-it-was.  
"Now open your eyes again," she was told.

Ìyīdīs?ādzi ínídza ìsínā

She-lifted-her-eyes-to-see during-that-time it-must-have-been  
When she did so,

ìsdúdī nìsk'ā kúgīdīyízíd-là.

different-place earth in-they-sped-(spiritually)-it-was.  
she had been spiritually taken to a different world

Ách'á dzálōghā ghà nìsk'ā-là.

It-just-so-happened sky at earth-it-was.  
It was earth in the sky.

Dzáná ágùjàg-là gīmízá gūsdlàg-là.

Long-time it-became-it-was their-child there-became-it-was.  
After a long time, she and her husband had a child.

Xānídà ìsínā

This-is-how-after-a-time it-must-have-been  
After a while,

dīts'àyā xāsní-là,

his-own-wife this-is-how-to-her-he-is-saying-it-was.  
her husband said to her,







"Dīyí xànígádī xóy  
This out-you-will-dig wild-turnup  
These wild turnips you are digging,

xāní ts'ònà tō nādīyí?ō dōō  
buffalo dung among up-it-is-protruding here  
there is one here that protrudes from the buffalo dung

īyīsí xàyígádí ìgùł.  
beware out-you-will-dig do-not.  
Be careful that you not dig it up.

Xānídā dízá ìsílā  
This-is-how-after-a-time her-own-child him-with  
Some time later,

tłídīdīlsh-là. Xóy  
about-she-walks-it-was. Wild-turnip  
as the woman was walking with her son,

xàdàgígàd-là.  
out-each-and-every-one-they-were-digging-it-was.  
they were each and every one digging up wild turnips.

Dīnī ts'ídó tsītł'á dóó xāsní-là,  
This-person boy little his-own-mother this-is-how-to-her-he-is-saying-  
it-was,  
The little boy said to his mother,

"Dīyí sōghā xànígád."  
"This me-for out-you-dig!"  
"Dig this one up for me."

Ách'á xāní ts'ònà tō nādīyá?ó-là.  
It-just-so-happened buffalo dung among up-it-was-protruding-it-was.  
the one that was protruding from the buffalo dung.



Móó yīch'ó ání-là.

His-mother him-against she-was-saying-it-was

**The boy's mother refused,**

Ts'idó ī yōghā ìdóghānīyītsày-là.

Boy the to-her-detriment unceasingly-he-began-crying-it-was.

**but her son started to cry unceasingly.**

Átāt'ā ìsīnā yōghā xàyīyīgád-là.

Finally it-must-have-been him-for out-it-she-dug-it-was.

**Finally, she dug it up for him.**

Xàní ts'ònà ī xàdà?ón-là.

Buffalo dung the off-she-took-it-was.

**She removed the buffalo dung.**

Xóy ī xàyīgád-là.

Wild-turnip the out-she-dug-it-was.

**She dug out the wild turnip.**

Īgūst'iyà nìsgúnìsì kúyīyī?àdzí ínídza

Suddenly earth-direction in-she-looked during-that-time

**As soon as she did so, she could see the earth through the hole**

xàt'a màs k'áts'ì ts'idīdīyìdīt-là.

amazingly hoop on-to some-people-in-sequence-all-were-walking-  
playing)-it-was.

**She was amazed. People were playing the hoop game.**

Dínìsk'ā ī k'ánágúyìnīs?ààz-là.

Her-own-land the completely-on-again-like-she-looked-it-was.

**She stared at the land where she lived.**

Át'iyī gūts'í ìsīnā

Here-precisely there-from it-must-have-been

**At that point,**





ìtsīy-là. K'ànítsày-là ùwāt'iyi ìsīnā  
she-is-crying-it-was. Finished-she-cried-it-was and-then it-must-have-been.

**she began to cry. When she finished crying**

nágīdìst'óóz-là. Nīnágīnít'óóz-là.  
home-they-casually-walked-it-was. Home-again-they-casually-walked-(arrived)-it-was.

**they went home. They got home**

Xānīdā ínídza ìsīnā  
This-is-how-after-a-time during-that-time it-must-have-been  
**A little later,**

mīkòlà nīnáníló-là.  
her-husband home-again-he-something-carried-it-was.  
**her husband came home with food,**

Mīkòlā xāyìsní-là,  
Her-husband this-is-how-to-her-he-says-it-was.  
**Her husband said to her,**

"Xàt'á yìtsàyí ík'à-gù?  
"Amazingly you-cried tracks-like  
**"I can see that you have been crying.**

Dú?ánìsdìsì?íí ìlàà?"  
not-you-it-I-said was-it-not-so."  
**Did I not warn you not to dig up that root?"**

Ùwāt'iyī ts'íká nī xānī-là,  
And-then woman the this-how-she-is-saying-it-was.  
**Then the woman replied,**

"Dīnī-làà tīyā yōghā ìts'iyí ùwāt'iyī xóy  
"This-person-it-was-so very-much of-it he-is-crying and-then wild-turnip  
**This person was crying very hard.**

ìtsōnà tō nàdīyí?ō  
dung among up-it-protrudes-(standing-it-has-position)  
**The wild turnip that was protruding from the manure.**

mōghà xàyīsgàdí.  
him-for out-I-dug.  
**When I dug it up for him,**

Sínájùná náyīs'ín.  
My-relatives again-I-saw.  
**I could see my relatives again."**

Ùwāt'iyā mīkòlà īī gūyìsdlóózh-là.  
And-then her-husband the them-he-invited-it-was.  
**After that, her husband invited other stars to his teepee.**

Xāgùsní-là, "Dàdāsá!  
This-is-how-to-them-he-said-it-was, "Each-and-every-one-of-you-go-  
hunting!  
**He said to them, "Go hunting**

Īyìsdlá sōghā átłík'àtò.  
Skins me-for together-you-carry-(gather)  
**and bring back many hides for me."**

Ùwāt'iyī gūts'í ìsīnā  
And-then there-from it-must-have-been  
**And then, from there**

īk'ánáts'idīdīyīgōsh-là.  
It-upon-again-someone-all-tracked-and-killed-it-was.  
**They killed a lot of buffalo**

Īyìsdlá īī mōghà ts'iló-là.  
Skins the him-to someone-gives-it-was.  
**and brought back many hides which they gave to him.**





Ts'ásáyìyìst'óós-là.  
Straight-way-it-he-cut-it-was.  
He cut them into long strips,

K'āts'ásáyìyìst'óóz-là.  
Finished-straight-way-it-he-cut-it-was.  
When he finished cutting them into strips,

"Ūwāgà," ìsní-là.  
"And-well," he-says-it-was.  
"That's fine!," he said.

Ūwāt'iyī ìsīnā  
And-then it-must-have-been  
After that,

ts'ik'á ī dīzā ìsīlā ìyìsdlá  
woman the her-own-son him-with skin  
The woman, along with her son,

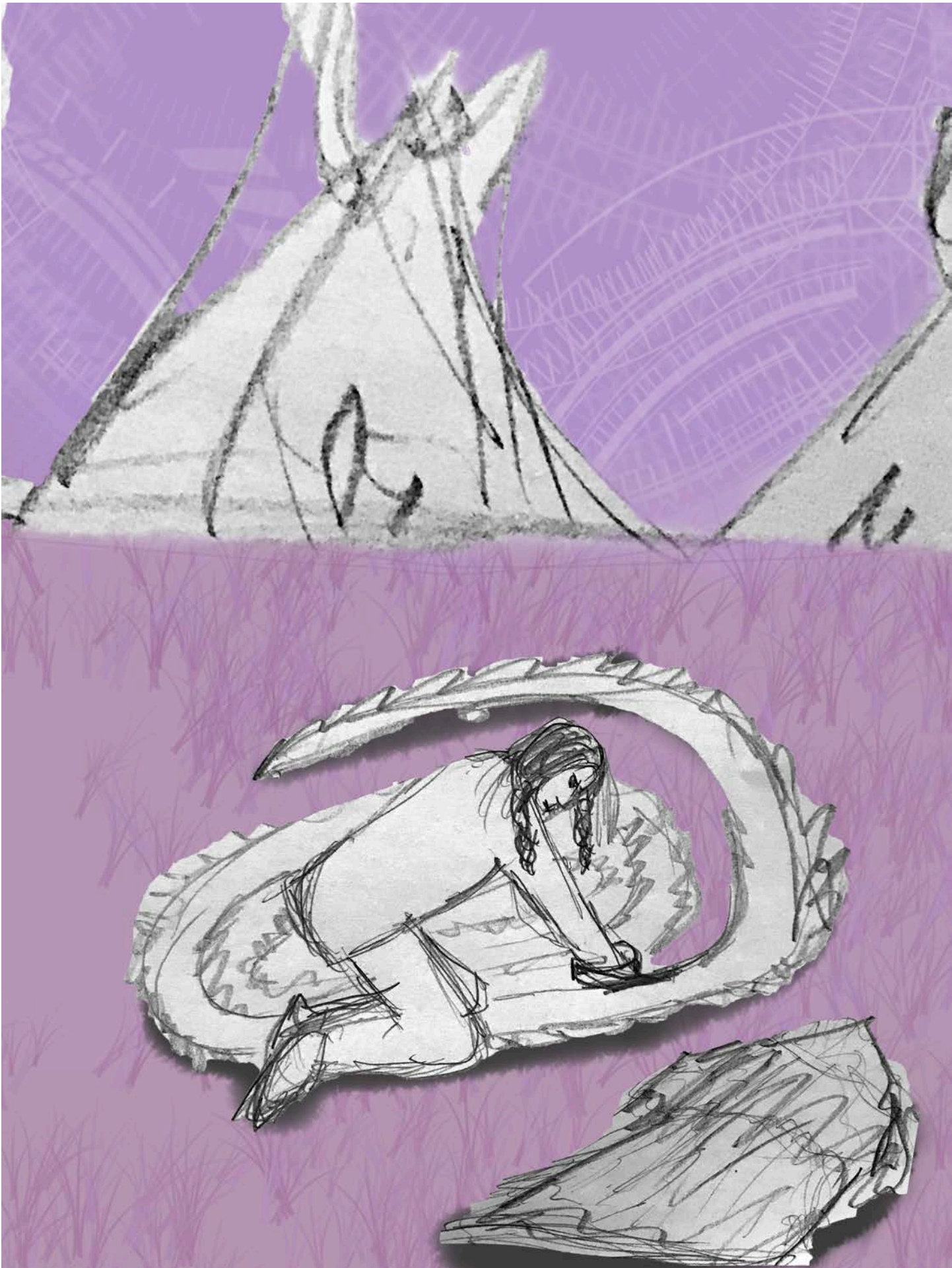
dīkōhì kīdà gīmīts'iyīstīn-là.  
it-is-rough-the-one-(rawhide) into them-someone-put-it-was.  
were put into a rawhide sling.

Gīmík'ágúts'iyīstī'ūn-là.  
Them-over-all-like-someone-them-tied-it-was.  
They laced them up completely.

Ūwāt'iyī dát'iyī xóy xàyígàdī  
And-then this-precisely wild-turnip out-it-was-dug-the-one  
And then, the wild turnip she dug up,

gūk'ā īnó ī gūts'ì gīmīts'īdīstīn-là.  
there-on hole the there-towards them-someone-carried-it-was.  
left a hole. They carried them there.





Īyìsdlá tʔ'úł ī áxádàts'īdīyīghā-là.  
Skin rope the one-after-another-each-and-every-one-together-  
someone-it-put-it-was.  
**They then tied the ropes together into one long strip**

Ùwät'iyī ìsīnā  
And-then it-must-have-been  
**And then,**

dōō īnó ī  
here hole the  
**down through the hole.**

nàkà nàgīmíts'īdìsdlùw-là.  
downwards down-them-someone-it-gradually-descends-by-rope-it-was.  
**they began lowering the boy and his mother.**

Dōō nìsgúyīghā ī  
Here there-under the  
**Down below,**

Màs k'āts'īdīdīyīdīt-là.  
Hoop upon-all-were-walking-it-was.  
**some young people were playing the hoop game.**

Dīnī ts'ídó īsīnā  
This-person boy it-must-have-been  
**One of the boys,**

mīnák'à dāgūdít's'īnī ōghà  
his-eyes-on each-one-like-it-was-gummy it-for  
**whose eyes were too gummy to play the hoop game,**

màs k'ā gúgò tàlāsītín-là.  
Hoop on there-beside on-his-blanket-he-is-lying-it-was.  
**was sleeping on his blanket near the others.**





Xānídā ínídza ìsīnā,  
This-is-how-after-a-time during-that-time it-must-have-been  
After a while,

"Nūwí dīt'àgùnā  
"Over-there what-it-must-be  
"I wonder what that is

nàkàdìsts'ídí?" ìsní-là.  
downwards-it-is-falling," he-said-it-was.  
falling!" he said.

Dzálósi dàts'inás?íní  
Upwards each-and-every-one-some-people-are-looking  
When the others looked up,

ínídza ìsīnā.  
During-that-time it-must-have-been  
During that time,

"Ìchìdùwà-gù," ìsts'iní-là.  
"It-is-nothing-like," it-someone-to-him-is-saying-it-was.  
"There is nothing there," someone said.

"Át'adīsī Nìhìts'ì?its'ídīnájà," ìsní-là.  
"Truthfully-I-am-saying us-towards-someone-is-coming," he-said-it-  
was.  
"What I say is true," said the boy. "It is getting closer and closer to us."

Mà?ì dīgà?ó-là.  
Him-like turned-on-their-backs-it-was.  
Then like him, they turned over on their backs.

Náts'inìtìsh-là.  
Again-and-again-someone-all-lying-down-it-was.  
the others all lay down







Gūtł'is mīnák'ā ts'ìnìł-là.

Dirt his-eyes-on someone-sprinkled-plenty-it-was.

However, they made fun of him and sprinkled dirt into his eye.

"Nīnāgūsdládzà ìsà,"

Your-eye-there-it-is-gummy perhaps-iy-is

"Maybe it is your eyes,"

ìsts'ìnìsh-là.

it-someone-to-him-kept-saying-it-was.

someone kept on saying to him.

"Átládísí ìsnìsh-là.

"Truthfully-I-am-saying," he-keeps-saying-it-was.

"No. I am telling the truth," he replies to them.

Xānídā mǎʔī

This-is-how-after-a-time him-like

After a while, like him

nádàgīnìstínī ínídžà ìsīnā

again-each-and-every-one-they-lay-down during-that-time it-must-have-been

they all lay down again

ts'áʔín-là nìkàtsīdìsts'ídī.

Someone-saw-it-it-was downwards-someone-is-falling

they saw the object dropping downwards.

Ùwāt'iyī ìsīnā

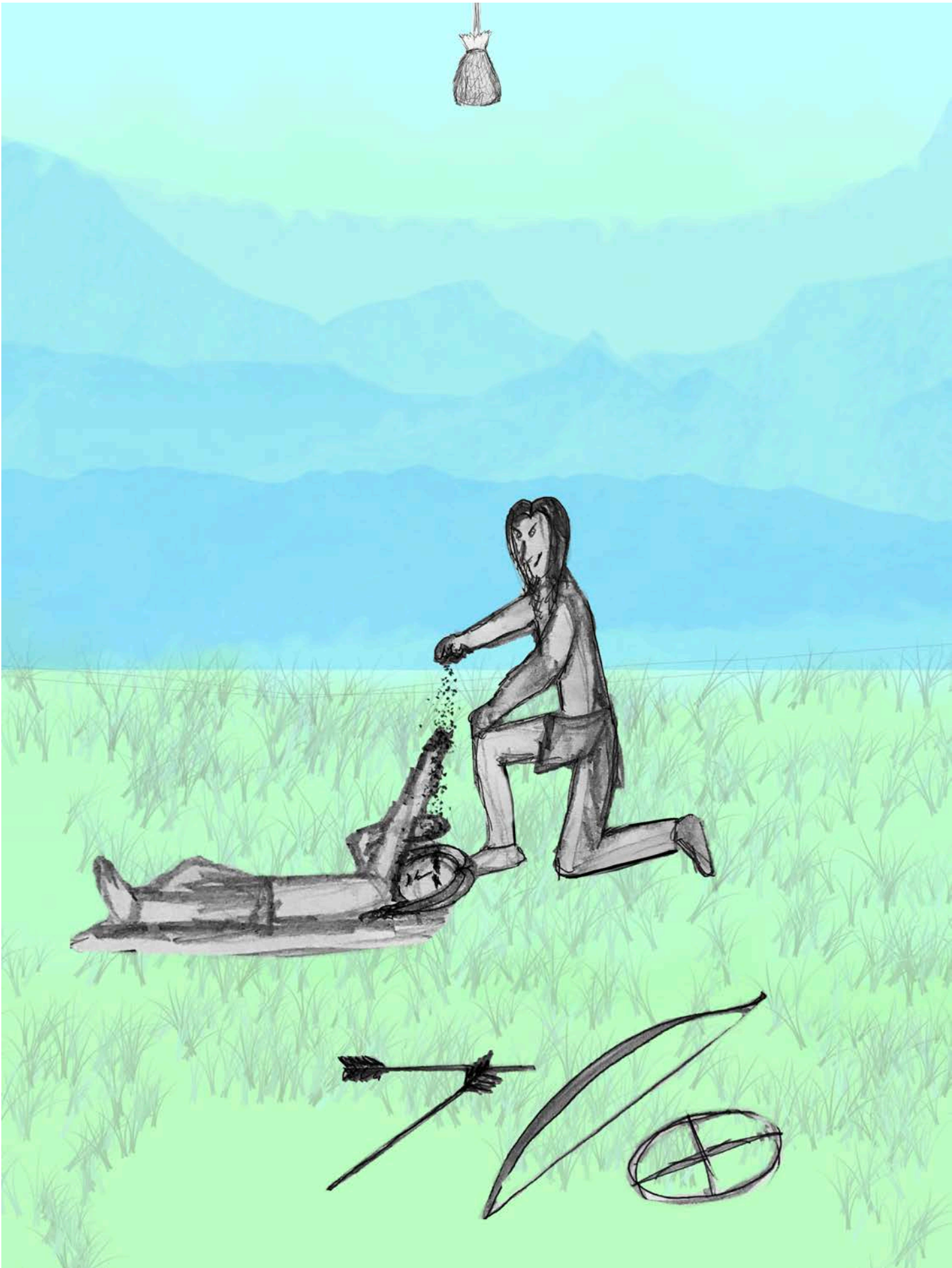
And-then it-must-have-been

And then

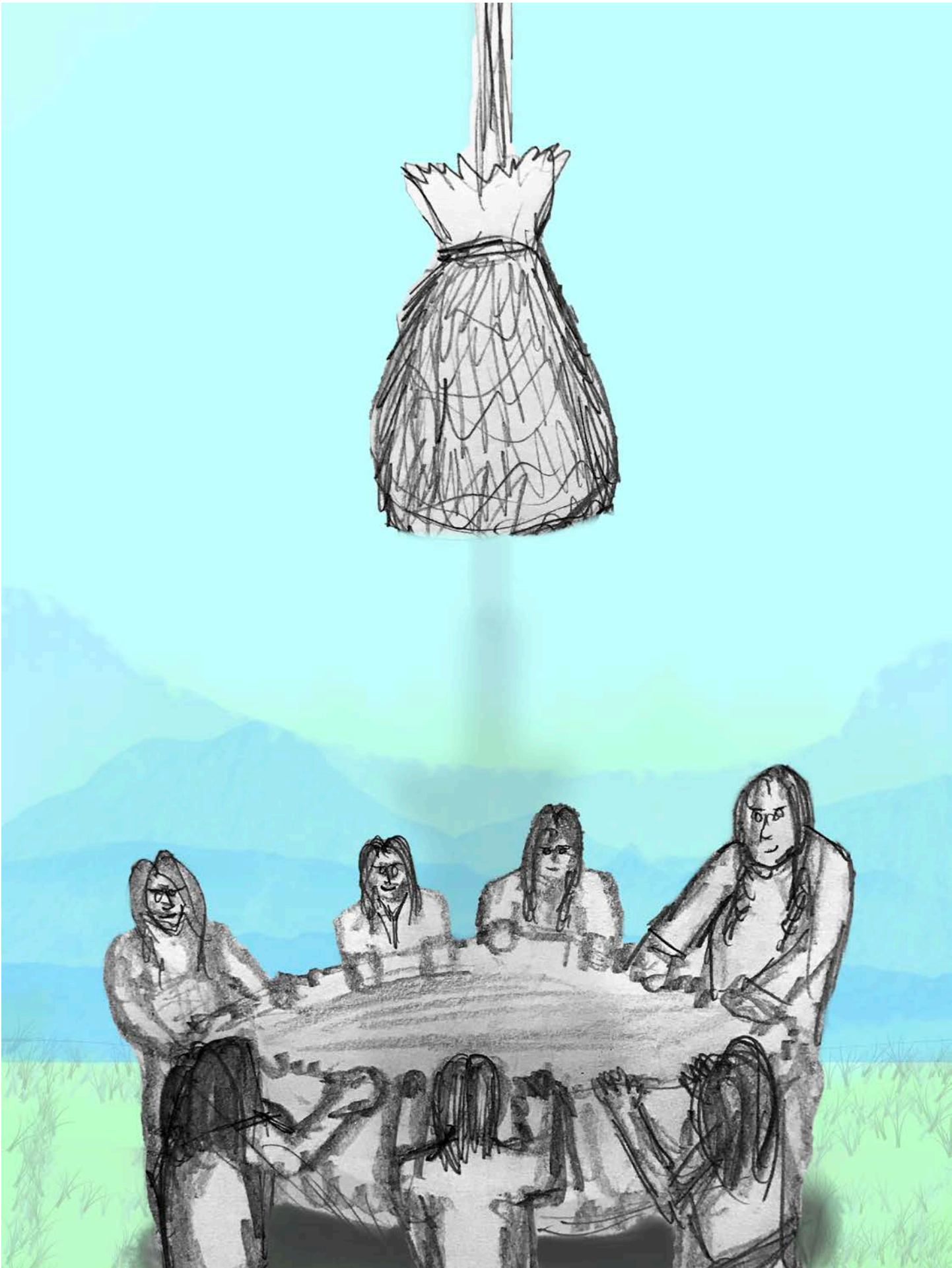
"Ts'ídí mīyāghā tādàstsús,"

"Blanket her-under up-you-each-and-every-one-put-(cloth-like),"

"Put up a blanket under her,"







ts'íní-là.  
someone-is-saying-it-was.  
**someone said**

Ts'idí mīyāghā tāts'idìstsùùz-là.  
Blanket her-under up-someone-puts-it-was.  
**They hold a blanket up for her.**

Xānídā ínídza ìsīnā  
This-is-how-after-a-time during-that-time it-must-have-been  
**After that**

ts'idí ī kīdá gáts'id-là.  
blanket the into they-(2)-fell-it-was.  
**the two people fell into the blanket.**

Dàmíts'idìstsāsí ínídza ìsīnā ách'á  
Open-someone-pulled-quickly during-that-time it-must-have-been it-  
so-happened  
**They undid the hide very quickly.**

ts'idótsā ī-là.  
girl the-it-was.  
**and discovered it was the girl.**

ūwà-gù xà?ī nàkà nágīnít'óódz-là.  
Now-like this-is-how downwards again-they-walked-(descended)-it-  
was.  
**And that is how the woman and her son came back to earth again.**

Ts'idó ts'it'á ī ìsīnā  
Boy little the it-must-have-been  
**The little boy**

it'áyī it'iyī násnūshá-là.  
night then-precisely upwards-he-shines-it-was.  
**shone at night.**



# Christmas Prayer

Iyaho Itoo

Diyi Asch'asyaŋi

Yik'a Gwadanisalinaa analahaa.

Niihisgaka dzinisa k'adanisaat'a aa guwaniiyaadaŋ

Niihigunaha ii wusa guja gula.

Nohoghanit'a aa

Xát'ā yīnīsīn

Xát'ā nīts'ī ískād