

Pertame Stories

A watercolor illustration of a landscape. The background features blue mountains under a light blue sky. The middle ground is a yellow field with several clumps of green grass. In the foreground, there are two large blue birds, two smaller brown animals, and a small pond. The bottom of the page is a solid red color.

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Looking for Goannas



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Arlta nyeta wentyenga lerna rrweketya mapa-lila
lheka keraka yunthetyeka pmera Panga-werna,
“Wenhenga ala unta nweka-lila petyeya kenha atha
ngenha imernetyenha nthakenha remeyeka
yunthetyeka?”

One day my aunt and I went with the other women
hunting, to a place called Winnas Camp. My aunt
asked me, “why don’t you come with me and I will
show you how to hunt for goanna?”



Yenga ntema kwera-lila lheka rerrka-werna remeyaka yunthetyeka.

Lerna ntema lhepa-lhirremela, wentyenga nwekenhela alpmileka “Nhanha raya impatya, lerna nhanha renha ntamala retyeka nthawerna ala ira lhekela”.

So I went with her to the sandhills to look for goannas

As we walked along my aunt said “Hey look! Here’s a track. We’ll follow this and see where it goes”.



Lerna ntema impatya renha ntamala reka ira
Ihwenga-ka irrpekela...

We followed the track and saw where it went
into a hole.



Wentyengala ntema yenganha alpmilaka “Lanhala
nemala raya atha lhwenga nhanha tnyamenga.
Rurla tnyanha-tynyanhela ntema ira lhwenga renha
mpareka remeya ira ala irrpekela

So my aunt said to me “sit there and watch while I
dig this hole”. I sat and watched while she dug the
hole. With the digging stick she poked around the
hole to feel where the goanna had gone in.



Ira ntema arrpenha ngirra pwelya mparemala
irkeka “atha remeya nhanha mpareka owa!”
Kela ntema ira remeya renha parenga
irrkwemela rurla tnyanha-tnyanha kwerenhela
kuperta tweka.

Suddenly she felt something soft and cried out
“yes, I can feel a goanna!”. She grabbed the tail
and pulled it out and hit it over the head with
her digging stick



Nwerna ntema ingkerreka lhera-werna lheka
pmera lanhenga warta nwerna mparekela

We all then went down to the creek where we
had made our camp



Rrweketya mapa kangkentya nthurra neka. Itna ntema metya iteka remeya, tampa pa irrwa itetyeka

All the women were happy. They set about making fires to cook the goannas, damper and tea



Kela itna merna pa kera irikwemela ntema
tnerta pula unka inteka

After supper everybody was so full up that they
hit the swag and went to sleep

