The Flag of My Country. Shikéyah Bidah by Cecil S. King

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[Transcriber's Note:

This book contains a few characters not included in the Latin-1 character set. Those have been marked up in the following way:

[l-] is an l with stroke. [a,] is an a with ogonek. [i,] is an i with ogonek. [á,] is an a with acute accent and ogonek. [í,] is an i with acute accent and ogonek. [ó,] is an o with acute accent and ogonek.]

NAVAJO NEW WORLD READERS · 2

[Illustration]

The Flag of My Country

SHIKÉYAH BIDAH NA'AT'A'Í

KING -- NEZ -- BAHE

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* * * * *

This story was written by CECIL S. KING Leader, Special Navajo Program

The Navajo was written by MARIAN NEZ Teacher-Interpreter

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all of the Carson Indian School

* * * * *

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NAVAJO NEW WORLD READERS · 2

[Illustration]

The Flag of My Country

SHIKÉYAH BIDAH NA'AT'A'Í

KING -- NEZ -- BAHE

NAVAJO NEW WORLD READERS

At this writing (1951) there are approximately 26,000 children of school age on the Navajo reservation. About 40 percent of these are between the ages of 12 and 18. The great majority have never been inside a school, and do not speak English. Recently the government has provided space for more than 4,000 of these non-English-speaking adolescents in ten of its off-reservation boarding schools. A five-year

intensive educational program is provided designed to teach these children to speak, read, write, and think in English; to do simple arithmetic, to know the facts of American history, world geography, civics and health; and to provide the basic skills which will enable them to obtain and hold a permanent job away from the reservation. The reservation resources will support only about half the present population.

We have learned how to teach these non-English-speaking Navajos to speak and read English very rapidly. However, there isn't much material for them to read. They are maturing adolescents with adolescent interests. Primers and first readers prepared for use by six-year-old school children don't have much interest for them. Because most non-Indians learn to read when they are young, very few books are published in which the ideas are mature, but the vocabularies simple enough for beginning readers. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, therefore, has undertaken the preparation and printing of booklets written by the leaders who are working directly with these children. Because the children are entering a new culture, and their success will depend upon the degree to which they make the basic ideas of this culture their own, these new books will rely on the material of this new culture for their content. They will present to these young people a new and different world from that through which they have grown during their early years on the reservation.

Willard W. Beatty Chief, Branch of Education

[Illustration]

I am a Navajo boy.

Naabeehó 'ashkii nish[l-][í,].

[Illustration]

This is my home.

Díí shighan 'át'é.

[Illustration]

My home is in Arizona.

Arizona bii' shighan.

[Illustration]

Arizona is in the United States.

Arizona 'éí kéyah dízdiin dóó ba'aan tseebíí sinilígíí bii'.

[Illustration]

The United States is my country.

Kéyah dízdiin dóó ba'aan tseebíí sinilígíí shikéyah 'át'é.

This is the flag of the United States.

This is the flag of my country.

This is my flag.

Dii dah na'at'a'í Kéyah dízdiin dóó ba'aan tseebíí sinilígíí bá 'át'é.

Dii dah na'at'a'í shikéyah bá 'át'é.

Dii shi dah na'at'a'í.

[Illustration]

I look at my flag.

Shi dah na'at'a'í nísh'[í,].

[Illustration]

I think of my home.

I think of my mother.

I think of my baby brother.

Shighan baa nitséskees.

Shimá baa nitséskees.

'Awéé' sitsilí baa nitséskees.

[Illustration]

I think of my father.

I help my father.

Shizhé'é baa nitséskees.

Shizhé'é bíká 'anáshwo'.

[Illustration]

I think of the sheep.

I take care of the sheep.

I can herd the sheep.

Dibé baa nitséskees.

Dibé baa 'áháshy[á,].

Shí na'nishkaad yiishch[í,][í,]h.

[Illustration]

I think of the lambs.

I take care of the lambs.

The lambs can run.

I run and play with the lambs.

Shidibé yázhí baa nitséskees.

Shidibé yázhí baa 'áháshy[á,].

Dibé yázhí naanáájah dayiich[i,][i,]h.

Dibé yázhí bi[l-] naanááshjahgo bi[l-] nidaashnée [l-]eh.

[Illustration]

I think of the corn.

I can plant corn.

I like to plant corn.

Shinaad[á,][á,]' baa nitséskees [l-]eh.

Shinaad[á,][á,]' k'éédíshdlééh.

Naad[á,][á,]' k'éédíshdléehgo shi[l-] yá'át'ééh.

[Illustration]

I think of the sun.

I can play in the sun.

The sun is warm.

I am happy in the sun.

Shí jóhonaa'éí baa nitséskees.

Sh[á,][á,]'góó naashnée [l-]eh.

Jóhonaa'éí bits'ání[l-]doi.

Sh[á,][a,]'j[i,]' shi[l-] hózh[ó,].

[Illustration]

I think of my horse.

I like to ride my horse in the wind.

Shi[l-][í,][í,]' baa nitséskees.

Níyol bii' shil[í,][í,]' nashiyéego shi[l-] yá'át'ééh.

[Illustration]

I think of the deer.

I think of the birds.

Shí b[i,][i,]h baa nitséskees [l-]eh.

Shí tsídii baa nitséskees [l-]eh.

[Illustration]

I look at my flag.

I think of my school.

Shi dah na'at'a'í nísh'[í,].

Shí 'ólta' baa nitséskees [l-]eh.

[Illustration]

I think of my big sister.

My big sister and I go to school.

Shádí baa nitséskees.

Shádi dóó shí 'íníilta'.

[Illustration]

I can go to school.

I go to school every day.

I like my school.

'Íníshta'go bee haz'[á,].

T'áá 'ákwíij[í,] 'íníshta'.

'Íníshta'ígíí shi[l-] yá'átééh.

My school is far from my home.

My school is off the reservation.

I will go to school five years.

I will learn.

I will learn many things.

'Íníshta'dóó 'éí shighan doo deeghání da.

Naabeehó bikéyah bits'[á,][á,]di 'íníshta'.

'Íníshta'go 'ashdla' nídoohhah.

'Íhwiideesh'áá[l-].

L[a,]'ígóó 'íhwiideesh'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

I may learn to be a carpenter.

A carpenter uses a saw.

A carpenter builds houses.

Tsin nehech'iishgo t'áadoo le'é bee 'ádaal'[í,][í,]j[í,] daats'í 'íhwiideesh'áá[l-].

Kin 'íí[l-][í,][í,]nii tsin bee nihech'iishí choyoo[l-]'[í,].

Tsin niyiich'iishii kin 'ádeile'.

[Illustration]

A painter uses a brush.

A painter paints houses.

I may learn to be a painter.

Da'adleeshígíí 'éí bee da'adleeshí chodayoo[l-]'[í,].

Da'adleeshígíí kin deidleesh [l-]eh.

Kin deidleeshígíí daats'í nish[l-][í,][i,] doolee[l-].

[Illustration]

A farmer lives on a farm.

A farmer lives in the country.

I may learn to be a farmer.

K'ee'dídléhí dá'ák'ehgi bighan.

K'ee'dídléhí kéyah bii' kééhat'[í,].

K'éé'dílghééjí daats'í 'íhwiideesh'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

I may learn to take care of cars.

Chidí baa 'áháy[á,][á,]jí daats'í bihwiideesh'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

I may learn to cook.

Ch'iyáán 'ál'[í,][í,]jí daats'í bíhwiideesh'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

I may learn to mend shoes.

Ké 'ánéíl'íní daats'í nish[l-][í,][i,] doolee[l-].

[Illustration]

My sister may learn to be a housekeeper.

Shádí sh[í,][í,] 'éí kin baa 'áháy[á,][á,]jí 'íhwiidoo[l-]'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

My sister may learn to sew.

Shilah daats'í 'éí nída'a[l-]kad doolee[l-].

[Illustration]

My sister may learn to be a waitress.

Shilah sh[í,][í,] 'éí da'ad[á,][á,] góne' nda'aka' yíhwiidoo[l-]'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

My sister may learn to help sick people.

My sister will learn to do the work she likes.

Shádí daats'í 'éí diné bitah dahoneezgaiígíí yíká 'análwo' doolee[l-].

Shádi sh[í,][í,] naanish t'áá bi[l-] yá'át'éehígíí yíhwiidoo[l-]'áá[l-].

[Illustration]

I look at my flag.

Shidah na'at'a'í nísh'[í,].

[Illustration]

My flag means my home.

My flag means my father and mother.

My flag means my sisters and brothers.

Shidah na'at'a'í kwii nighan shi[l-]ní nahalingo shá 'át'é.

Shidah na'at'a'í shimá dóó shizhé'é bi[l-] 'ahee[l-]t'éego baa nitséskees.

Shidah na'at'a'í 'éí shilahkéí dóó sik'isóó bi[l-] 'ahee[l-]t'éego baa ntséskees.

[Illustration]

My flag means the sheep and the lambs.

My flag means the sun and the corn.

Shidah na'at'a'í dibé dóó dibéyázhí biniiyé 'át'é.

Shidah na'at'a'í jóhonaa'éí dóó naad[á,][á,]' biniiyé 'át'é.

[Illustration] [Illustration] [Illustration]

My flag means my school.

My flag means I can go to school.

Shidah na'at'a'í 'íníshta' biniiyé 'át'é.

Shidah na'at'a'í 'éí 'íníshta' yee has'[á,].

[Illustration] [Illustration] [Illustration]

[Illustration] [Illustration] [Illustration]

My flag means I can learn many things.

My flag means I can learn to do the work I like.

Shidah na'at'a'í 'éí l[a,]'ígóó 'íhwiideesh'áa[l-]go yee has'[á,].

Shidah na'at'a'í 'éí naanish t'áá shi[l-] yá'át'ééh sh[í,][í,] bíhwiideesh'áa[l-]go yee has'[á,].

[Illustration] [Illustration] [Illustration]

[Illustration]

I think of my country.

Shikéyah baa nitséskees.

[Illustration]

I think of the things I have in my country.

I think of the things I can do in my country.

My country is good.

Shikéyah biih t'áadoo le'é hólónígíí baa nitséskees.

Shikéyah biih t'áá bee shá haz'[á,][á,] sh[í,][í,] baa nitséskees.

Shikéyah 'éí yá'át'ééh.

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