

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 4: Lesson 16** Write a summary

***“The Legend of Keesh” adapted by B.P. Skinner from Jack London’s story, “The Story of Keesh”***

How does a person who began in humble circumstances become a legend? Along the rim of the Polar Sea, Keesh lived and died. From father to son, from brother to sister, from summer when the sun does not set, until winter when the sun does not shine, Keesh’s story is still told over and over again.

When Keesh’s father was killed while hunting to save the village from starvation, the villagers soon forgot him. They neglected Keesh and his widowed mother, Ikeega, who shared a small igloo together. This all changed when Keesh turned thirteen. Because his father’s blood ran in his veins, Keesh was bright, healthy, and strong. When the village council met in the big igloo of Chief Klash-Kwan, Keesh, despite his youth, spoke up.

“When my father hunted, he brought home more meat than any of the two best hunters combined,” Keesh explained, “With his own hands he divided the meat, and with his own eyes he saw to it that the neediest of the village received their fair share.”

The elders and onlookers jeered at the young boy; how dare one so young speak out in the council? Despite them, Keesh continued, “You speak for your wives and mothers. So, I speak for my mother, Ikeega, who should have her fair share of meat. All we get is gristly meat that’s full of bones.”

The anger of the men boiled. Keesh was ordered to leave the council with no dinner and was promised a beating. Keesh’s blood pounded in his head and his eyes flashed. “Take this, you men, as my last word. My father, Bok, was a great hunter. When he was alive, he made certain that no widow or child ever cried at night because there was no meat. Today, many go hungry while you, the strong men of the village, stuff yourselves with the best meat.”

The next day, Keesh was seen leaving the village with his father’s enormous hunting-spear and bow, and an ample supply of bone-barbed arrows. The villagers whispered to one another—it was unprecedented that a young boy should go hunting alone!

**Notes:**

The Legend of Keesh		
Setting	Characters	Events

**Independent Practice:** Write a summary paragraph explaining the opening section of the Skinner’s adaptation of “The Legend of Keesh”. As you write, think about how to incorporate the details from the chart. Also, be sure to include why Keesh chose to speak to the council, specific examples from the text, an introduction, and conclusion. Finally, be sure to think about how you will link your thoughts together.

**Creative assignment:** Draw Keesh speaking to the council in the chief’s big igloo. Use details from the story to guide your illustration.

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