

Learning any language takes time and patience.

This book includes words from Hul'q'umi'num' (*hul-quh-MEE num*). Some of the sounds of this language may be new to you, but please remember that proper pronunciation is not important for enjoying and learning from this story!

' is a glottal stop (a closing of the space between your vocal cords). You stop making noise for just a moment, like in the middle of *uh-oh*. At the end of a word, ' makes the sound stop abruptly. When combined with a consonant, ' makes the sound "pop."

hw is like the first sound in *which* (for English speakers who pronounce *which* and *witch* differently). Round your lips as if ready to whistle and place your tongue as if you're going to say *k* but with it not quite touching the roof of your mouth, making a whooshing sound.

lh is like a combination of *l* and *sh*. Hold your tongue just behind your teeth and push air past the sides of your tongue, making a hissing sound.

q is like *k* but farther back in the throat. *q'* is the same but with a catch in the throat that makes the sound pop.

th is always soft like in *think*.

ts is a single sound like at the end of *cats*.

tth' is a single sound like in the middle of the phrase *cut thin*. Place your tongue against your teeth while making a *t* sound. A catch in the throat makes the sound pop.

x is like *h* but with the tongue at the back of the throat, making a hissing sound.



hey'ewulh
hey EH-wulh

goodbye (to one)

smun'eem
smun-EM

children of our community

Hul'q'umi'num'
hul-quh-MEE num

the language of author
Andrea Fritz's People

sta'lo'
STAH loh

river

huy ch q'u
HAICH-quh

thank you (to one)

thuqi'
THUH-qee

sockeye salmon

huy tseep q'u
hai-TSEP-quh

thank you (to many)

Tth'hwumqsun
tth-HWUMQ-sun

shining point, also
known as Porlier Pass,
on the south end of
Le'eyqsun Island

Le'eyqsun
leh EYQ-sun

an island in the Salish Sea,
also known as Valdes Island,
and the home of the Lyackson
First Nation

tumus
TUM-us

sea otter

Leeyqsun
LEYQ-sun

Douglas fir point, also known
as Shingle Point, on the west
of Le'eyqsun Island

xihwu
XEE-hwuh

purple sea urchin

