

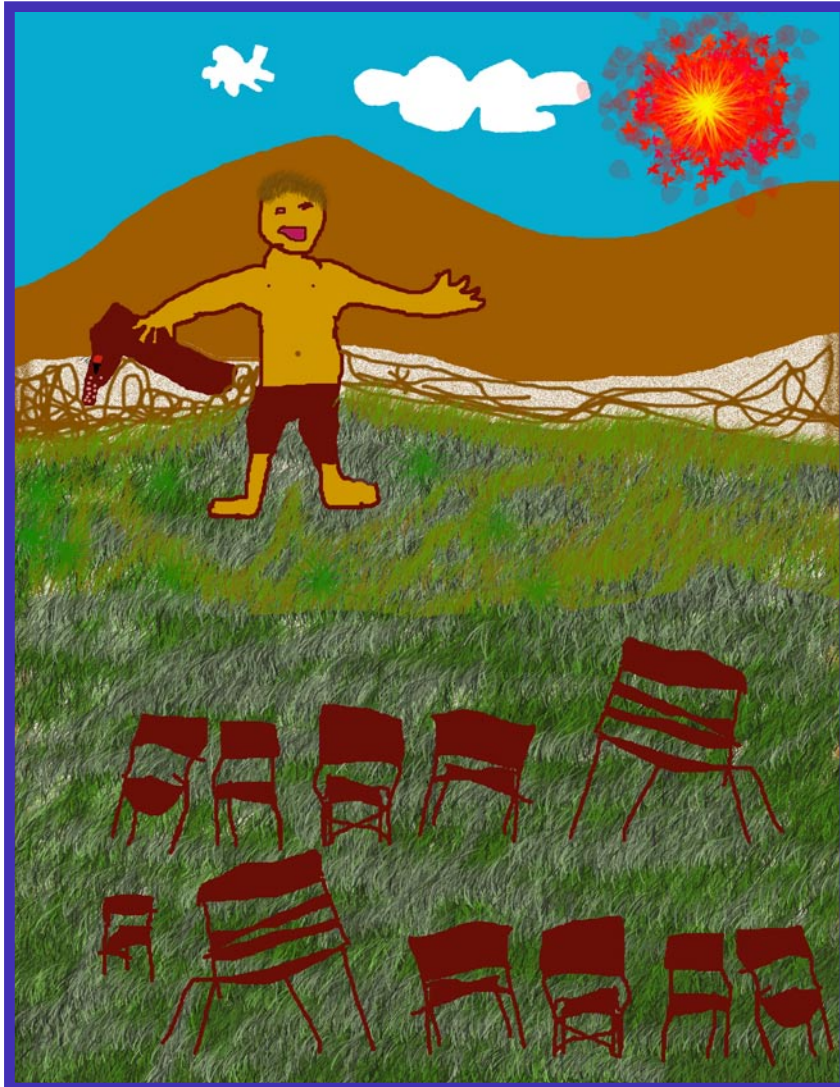


# How to War Dance

written and illustrated by Cher-ere Cooper

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To get ready for the War Dance, Cher-ere put on a feather holder, which is grass inside of tape with a leather strap that goes around his head. Then he put on a head band. He also wore necklaces, one or two. Necklaces are usually glass beads, pine nuts, and dentalia shells. Then he put on his

eagle feather. He got his quiver, which has some willow brush in it. The quiver is made of otter skin, and has a red-headed woodpecker head on it. He had to put three arrows in his quiver.

Then Cher-ere got a jumpstick. He didn't have his own, so he used one from the medicine man. Some of the jumpsticks are made from twisty sticks (any stick that has been twisted by having a vine grow around it while it is growing).

After he got all that together, he went to line up for the practice dance. After practicing, the boys and men go on to the dance grounds. There are usually nine or ten men, including young men, lined up singing background.



Then  
Cher-ere  
jumped  
center. He  
got low  
and yelled  
“ea ea ea  
ea eaaa.”  
He was  
squatting  
and jumping  
at the same  
time. He  
waved and

jumped rhythmically in the air while chanting. He always tries to concentrate on fixing the earth because it is being destroyed.

Then Basketball Bob jumps center with Cher-ere. He answers Cher-ere's song and dances with him in a war dance, poking the jump stick at him.

Once the center dance is over, signaled by a loud "eeaaaaa," the two dancers go back in line without turning their backs to the fire. The dance continues for nine songs each night for twelve days.





We spend twelve days dancing medicine dance at Katimiin even when there's no Deerskin Dance. We dance to fix the earth and pray for the world.

The End



*About the Author*

Cher-ere Cooper is a tall for 11 years old in the 5th grade at Orleans Elementary. He enjoys basketball, reading, and playing on the internet

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