
Mole¹¹ / The Sky Falls

A Wiyot story told by Jerry James and published as “The Sky Falls” in Reichard (1925, pp. 184-185); and by Della Prince, published as “Mole” in Teeter & Nichols (1993, vol. II, p. 13). The two versions of the text are nearly identical; here, the Della Prince version is in **black** text and the Jerry James version is in **blue** text for comparison (footnotes are from Teeter & Nichols). Spellings have been converted to the approved Wiyot writing system.

1. **We’n Hushurreni’milh¹²** **ji** **daqh** .
We’n Hushurrenuwilh **ji** **daqh**
Mole that’s where s/he lives, resides, dwells, is there
Mole lived there.

2. **Rrak Shou’r Lhugilh** **ji** **da** **louwilh** .
Rrak Shourra Lhughilh **ji** **da** **louwilh**
Southwest-Young-Man that’s where durative s/he comes
Southwest-Young-Man came there.

3. **Qi** **klhamilh,** **da** **rridibou’** .
Qi **klhamilh,** **da** **rridibou’**
on arrival s/he sees durative two (people) cooking
When he got there, he saw two people cooking.

4. **Hou** **rrouguk,** **“Tsiqutsgurou!”**
Hou **wurouguklh,** **“Tsiqutsgurou!”**
when a while little one fall down!
After a little while, he said, “Little one fall down!”

5. **Hi** **noulunuwilh,** **bouduroush** .
Hi **noulunuwilh,** **bouduroush**
then s/he picks it up with hands wild potato; Brodiaea root
He picked up an Indian potato.

11. “Retold from R[eichard 1925 pp. 184-185] text 25, “The Sky Falls,” originally related by Jerry James (footnote 8).”

12. “Lit., “the one who held up the sky.””

6. **Hi vighi'n** .
Hiyu wighi'n
then it is divided
Then they divided it.

7. **Rrak Shou'r Lhugilh hi voudi'wuluvilh** .
Rrak Shurra Lhughilh hiyu woudiwuluwelh
Southwest-Young-Man then s/he enjoys eating it
Southwest-Young-Man ate it and enjoyed it.

8. **Hisgu'nuvoumilh** .
Hisgunuwou'
s/he gives him/her a piece
He gave Mole a piece.

9. **“Tsiqutsgurou’!”**
“Tsiqutsgurou!”
little one fall down!
“Little one fall down!” he said.

10. **Hi noulunuvilh, bouduroush** .
then s/he picks it up with hands wild potato; Brodiaea root
[Reichard notes: “Repeat sentences 5 to 9 several times.”]
He picked up an Indian potato.

11. **Hi vighi'n** .
then it is divided
[Reichard notes: “Repeat sentences 5 to 9 several times.”]
Then they divided it.

12. **Rrak Shou'r Lhugilh hi voudi'wuluvilh, hisgu'nuvoumilh** .
Southwest-Young-Man then s/he enjoys eating it s/he gives him/her a piece
[Reichard notes: “Repeat sentences 5 to 9 several times.”]
Southwest-Young-Man ate it and enjoyed it, then he gave Mole a piece.

13. Rrak Shou’r Lhugilh **hi** **yililh,** **“Shou** **diqutgulughoulilhit,** **rradutgurray.”**
Rrak Shurru Lhughilh **hi** **yililh,** **“Shou** **diqutgulughalilhit,** **rradutgula’.**
Southwest-Young-Man then s/he says I wish it would fall down a big one
Then Southwest-Young-Man said, “I wish a big one would fall down.”

14. We’n Hushurreni’milh **lhe** **ga** **da’lilh** **.**
We’n Hushurrenuwilh **lhu** **ga** **dalilh**
Mole finally negative s/he speaks
Mole never spoke.

15. “Diqutgulou’!”
“Diqutgulou’!”
(big one) roll down!
“Big one fall down!” [said Southwest-Young-Man].

16. Juwa **we’n gas** **twulh** **.**
that’s when sky then, at that time s/he/it falls down
Jouwa **wi gas** **tuwulh** **we’n .**
that’s when ? then, at that time s/he/it falls down sky
That’s when the sky fell.

17. Gish **husgunuvilh** **.**
Dish **(h)usgunuwilh**
in vain s/he holds up a piece with hands
[Mole] tried in vain to hold up a piece.

18. Houwe’sanu’l shaw **hi** **rraqlhayurr** **.¹³**
We’sanu’l shaw **hi** **rruqlhayurr**
his/her hand(s) sideways then it is/they are pushed
His hands were pushed sideways.

13. “This is said to be the origin of the peculiar shape of the front paws of moles.”