

Plains Pictorial Art: Narrative Style

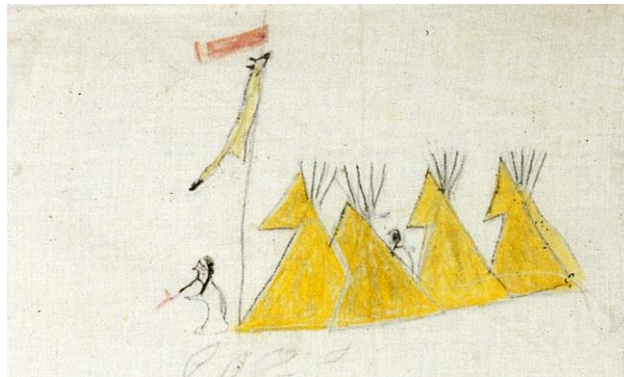
## *His Fight's Horse Raiding Story and Key*

Recommended for Grades 5-12

All images are details from painted muslin by His Fight (Hunkpapa Lakota) depicting a horse raid against the Apsáalooke (Crow), ca. 1880. South Dakota or North Dakota. National Museum of the American Indian, (6/7932).

### Scene 1:

A young man named His Fight is sitting outside of his tipi. He is smoking a pipe and thinking about a horse raid. Can you see his wolf skin hanging from the pole? Since His Fight wears the wolf skin throughout the painting, it identifies him as the main person in the story. Do you see him wearing it in each scene?



### Scene 2:



His Fight takes down his wolf skin and wears it on his back. He asks his friends to come with him. They are wearing their heavy coats, called capotes. This means the story happened in the winter. They travel on

foot over rolling hills. Why do you think His Fight is in front? He is the one wearing blue leggings.

### Scene 3:

Finally they come to the Apsáalooke (Crow) village. His Fight gets out his spyglass to look at the village. He is waiting until everyone is inside their tipi. Where do you think he got the spyglass? What do you think His Fight might be thinking?



### Scene 4:

Everyone in the Apsáalooke village is inside their tipis. Do you see the Apsáalooke men sitting inside the tipis? They have hair that stands up in front. Although His Fight cannot see the Apsáalooke men in their tipis, he shows us they are there by providing a view inside the tipis. He cuts the horse's tethers, or, ropes, outside the tipis. The most prized horses were tied next to the tipis, so he had to be very quiet. His Fight was also very brave to take some of the most prized possessions of the Apsáalooke people!



**Scene 5:**

Quickly he leads the horses out of the Apsáalooke village. Can you see the horse hoof-prints? What do you notice about them? These hoof-prints show that he took many horses.



**Scene 6:**



His Fight and his friends ride safely back to their Hunkpapa Lakota village with seventy horses! How do you think His Fight's family felt when he arrived home?



Painted muslin by His Fight (Hunkpapa Lakota) depicting a horse raid against the Apsálooke (Crow), ca. 1880. South Dakota or North Dakota. National Museum of the American Indian. (6/7932)

## Key to Images and Symbols

Wolf skin

This wolf skin shows that

His Fight is the main character, because he wears it throughout the whole story. Sometimes men carried special items like this with them for protection.

Can you find His Fight wearing the wolf skin in the different scenes of the painting?



Rolling hills

These show that His Fight traveled a great distance to the Apsáalooke village.



## Rawhide container

These are bags made from untanned animal hide that can be carried or attached to a horse. They could carry a variety of items, including food, clothing, and personal items, depending on the size and shape of the bag. Where is a rawhide container in the painting to the right?



Oglala Lakota parfleche, ca. 1890,  
National Museum of the American Indian.  
(16/8494)



### Man's trade cloth leggings

Compare the trade cloth leggings in the photograph below to His Fight's painting. What are the differences? Similarities?



Oglala Lakota man's leggings, ca, 1905–1910.  
National Museum of the American Indian.  
(23/2563)



Spyglass, or telescope, a trade item



Confederate spyglass, ca. 1862. National Museum of American History. (88.739.1)





Plenty Coups, an  
Apsáalooke leader

In the 1800s, Apsáalooke  
men wore their hair in a  
special style. Do you  
see how it is brushed up  
in the front?



Plenty Coups (Apsáalooke) in  
traditional clothing,

ca. 1880.

National Museum of the American  
Indian.

(PO1490)

Man in blue shirt inside tipi

Look at his hair and  
compare this painting with  
the picture above.

Is he a Lakota or  
Apsáalooke man?



Horse hoofprints

These horse hoofprints  
show that there were many  
horses. When the  
hoofprints are directly  
behind the horse, it shows  
the movement of the horse.

