

Lake Melville School, North West River

presents

"TRAVERSPINE GORILLA"

CAST

Grampa  
Gramma  
Grandchildren

3 Girls

Pa  
2 Boys

Hunters

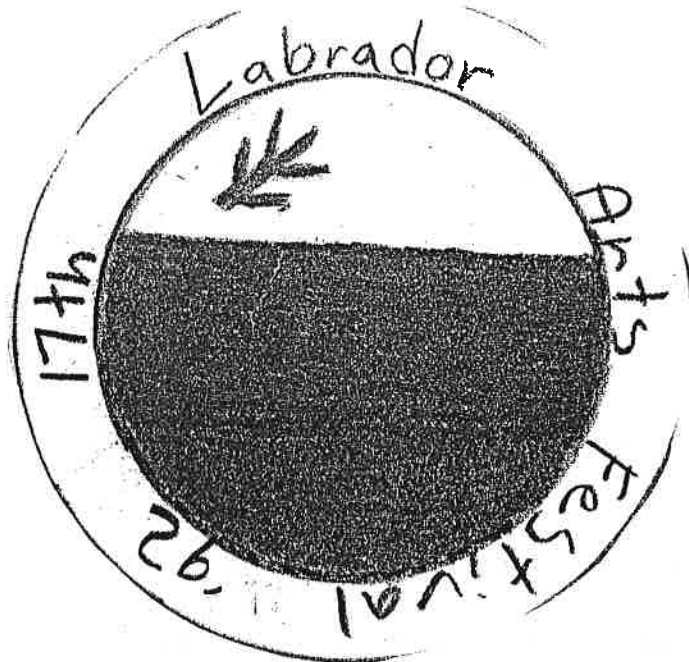
2 Women

Lumberjacks

Alicia Chaulk  
Jennifer McLean  
Brenda Saunders  
Stacey Montague  
Kerri-Lynn Blake  
Misty O'Dell  
Marsha Michelin  
Kevin Ginn  
Cody Powell  
Shannon O'Dell  
Tyler Powell  
Jonathan Michelin  
Kerri-Lynn Blake  
Shannon O'Dell  
Chandal Butt  
Krista Montague  
Tyler Powell  
Cody Powell  
Jonathan Michelin

TEACHER ADVISOR

Wendy Allen



Oliver Engram  
Our Lady Queen of Peace  
Happy Valley - Goose Bay

## "TRAVERSPINE GORILLA"

Scene Opens: With Grandma and Grandpa sitting down on stage left. Rest of the stage is in darkness. Grandma knits and Grandpa reads a newspaper. Two small children come in dressed for bed. They sit down in front of their grandparents.

1st. Girl: Grandpa, Grandma, tell us a bedtime story.

Grandma: What do you want to hear? "Little Red Riding Hood" or "Three Little Pigs".

2nd. Girl: No, tell us a story about the old days. Something that happened when you were little.

Grandma: A lot of things happened when we were small. I can't think of anything right off hand.

Grandpa: I know, let's tell them the story of the Traverspine Gorilla. That's a story about something that happened near here a long time ago.

All: "A Gorilla in Northwest River"!

Grandma: Not here, it happened on the Traverspine River where it flows into Grand River. Years ago, Uncle Jo Michelin and his brothers. Robert and Jim from Northwest River had some cabins there. They spent ;their winters there trapping.

2nd. Girl: Tell us the story.

Grandma: Grandpa you better start the story. My memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

Grandpa: As near as I can recall, it must have happened about 80 years ago. Uncle Jo and his brothers were away trapping and some of the children were out playing in an open grassy area.

(lights fade on Grandparents. In the middle of the stage three girls are playing. One is skipping, the other two are playing hopscotch. One stops playing and points to the front.)

1st Girl: Look down there by the trees. Something is moving.

2nd Girl: It looks like a bear.

3rd Girl: No, it's bigger than a bear and its got white fur on top of its head.

2nd Girl: It's got big white teeth and its grinning at us.

All:           It's a gorilla!  
              (They scream and run off stage.)

              (Lights fade and are back on Grandparents.)

Grandpa:       The girls ran home and told the family what they had  
              seen. They described it as a big hairy thing with long  
              arms. It stood about 7 feet tall.

Word soon spread. People came to look and they found strange  
tracks in the area. They measured the footprints and cut out paper  
patterns of the.

The footprint was about 12 inches long and had two big toes. They  
figured that whatever made those prints had to weigh at least 500  
pounds.

Grandma:       I heard that some people didn't believe it was a  
              gorilla. They couldn't tell what it was from the  
              footprints.

(lights on centre stage. One man with a large piece of paper comes  
out and measures the track. He takes the print to the other side  
of the stage [to house], and shows it to two women.)

Man:           It sure is a big footprint. The girls say it looked  
              like a gorilla.

1st. Woman:   That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard. That can't  
              be a gorilla. Anyone can see that's an elephant's  
              footprint.

2nd. Woman:   Yeah, I've heard that elephants are becoming a real  
              nuisance up Grand River this year. (women laugh)

Man:           You can laugh all you want. There's something out  
              there and I'm going to find out what it is.

              (lights fade to grandparents.)

Grandma:       Some people made fun of the tracks and called the whole  
              thing a joke.

Grandpa:       Most people believed that there was a gorilla. Why,  
              about a dozen people saw the tracks.

Grandma:       They set out bear traps for it but I don't think they  
              knew what they were doing because nothing ever came  
              near those traps.

              (scene fades to forest in the middle of the stage. One  
              person is on stage setting traps. Two other people  
              came on stage.)

1st Son: Look here Pa. I've set out all these traps. This should catch us that gorilla.

Pa: Those are fox traps boy. That gorilla weighs 500 pounds. Your not going to catch something that big in a fox trap.

2nd Son: I told you that wouldn't work. Look, I've got a bear trap. This should work. (holds up trap)

Pa: O.K. Boys. I'll show you how to set a trap. We'll use your ma's raisin buns for bait.  
(he sets trap and stands back to look.)  
There, that's perfect. It will never see the trap.  
come on boys let's go.  
(They walk off. Gorilla comes on, picks up a stick. It strikes up the trap and leaves.)  
(Scene back to grandparents)

Grandma: That's not the way it happened, Grandpa.

Grandpa: Well that's the way I heard it. That creature was clever as well as big. It used to overturn logs and tear up trees. People were so afraid that they never went anywhere without their guns. They organized some pretty big hunting trips to try and catch it.

(Scene fades to centre stage. 4 hunters are walking about.)

1st Hunter: Over here, I found his footprints. If we follow these it should take us right to him.

2nd Hunter: Let's split up and see if we can find some more tracks.

(They creep around stage in two groups. Gorilla follows them.)

3rd Hunter: I think I hear something.

4th Hunter: There's nothing around here. It's just your imagination.

(two groups creep around until they surprise one another. They get frightened and run off. The gorilla is left on stage.)  
(Scene fades to Grandparents.)

Grandpa: Yes, they use to send out hunting parties almost everyday, but they never saw anything. They knew that there was something in the woods. They could hear the bushes move, and they kept seeing these funny tracks everywhere. One day some lumbermen came down from Mud Lake. They sat up all night long on the paths watching.

(scene fades to forest. 4 lumberjacks come on to the stage.)

1st. Lumberjack: Good day, Ma'ma. We're the lumberjacks from Mud Lake. We heard you got some problems with a gorilla down here.

Woman: We've had a gorilla running around here for months now and no one has been able to catch it.

2nd. Lumberjack: Don't worry, miss. We're going to stay up all night and catch that gorilla for you.

Woman: Are you sure? It's going to be a long cold night.

1st. Lumberjack: We're lumberjacks. We don't need sleep.

3rd. Lumberjack: We're used to the cold.

(They walk over to the forest.)

1st. Lumberjack: This looks like a good spot, let's wait here.

(They all sit by a tree. Gradually they yawn and stretch and fall asleep. The Gorilla comes out and dances around them and makes faces at them. Finally it gives up and leaves.)

(Scene fades to grandparents.)

Girl: Did they catch the gorilla, Grandpa?

Grandpa: No, they said they stayed awake all night long and never saw a thing. They said the girls probably made up the whole thing. People might have believed them too, except that one day old Mrs. Michelin saw the gorilla herself. She was at home with the kids when it happened.

(Scene fades to the house. Woman at stove making supper. Two girls at table.)

1st. Girl: I'm hungry when are we going to have supper.

Woman: Just as soon as I finish making this soup.

1st. Girl: (points to window) Look, there is something at the window.

2nd. Girl: It's the gorilla. They scream and hide under the table.

Woman: Gorilla, Gorilla, Gorilla, I'm sick of hearing about that stupid gorilla. I'm going to get rid of that thing for good.

(She grabs the gun and goes outside. The gorilla is hiding behind a tree. She shoots at it. It jumps and runs off.)

(Scene fades to grandparents.)

Grandma: The funny thing is that after that no one ever heard from the gorilla again.

Girl: Do you thing there was a gorilla?

Grandma: Well, I'm not sure, but there were some strange things happening. At night the family used to hear the dogs growling and snarling at something outside. One night something hit the side of the house so hard that it made the whole house shake.

Girls: "That's scary."

Grandpa: Grandma you're going to spook the children. don't be afraid. Whatever it was, it hasn't been seen for years. I don't think there was a gorilla. Some of the old fellows thing it was the devil himself causing all the trouble. I'm inclined to agree with them. After all everyone knows there are no gorillas around here. (Gets up and stretches)

Grandpa: Well kids it's way past your bedtime. I think it's time we all turn in.

(they all walk off stage.)

(Gorilla walks on, looks around and follows them off.)