Ocean-Going "Fishing" Canoe

Written by Maria Parker Pascua, Makah
Illustrated by Tyrone H. Stewart
ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Maria Parker Pascua-Makah
A language specialist for the Makah Culture and Research Center, Maria Parker Pascua is also a cultural arts teacher at Neah Bay High School. Previously, she taught elementary level Makah language classes and was a 1st and 3rd grade homeroom teacher.

Tyrone Stewart
Mr. Stewart is a former editor/publisher of American Indian Crafts and Culture Magazine. He collaborated with Frederick Dockstader and Barton Wright to create essays for The Year of the Hopi: Paintings and Photographs by Joseph Mora, 1904-06 for the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition service. He assisted in the development of the Study Guide of the Dakota Collection for the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of Natural History. Mr. Stewart is an artist, illustrator, writer and award-winning graphic artist and architectural designer. His Canadian roots include the founders of Quebec City and Chippewa-Cree ancestry.
"I think we should eat.
Let's eat our yummy treat. Mmmm."
Yum-yum . . . Would you like some?
"Where will we go?" I said.

"Ask the steersman," Mom said.

"Now what shall we do?" Dad says.
Now the fish: Clean it. Fillet it.  
Boil, smoke, or bake it.

"Where will the canoe go?" I said to the steersman. "Get in," says he to me. "Let's go!"  
"We are going away from here," said the steersman. "We are going over there."
"See that mountain?"

Now the canoe: Pull it up.
Cover it up . . . until we go again.
"Thank you, Dad!!"

"Let's turn here."

Paddle, pull, paddle, go!
"See the big rock?"

"Thank you, Chief Above. Thank you, canoe. Thank you, fish."
"It took us to our fishing place."

"Yes, it did."

"Now we will stop."
"Tell me," said the steersman, "where did this canoe go?"

"We will bait the hooks."
Sing a paddle song as we go:
"Alta nasyka hyak klatawa, hoo, hoo, hoo."
'Now we are going fast.' (Chinook jargon)
Wait and wait.
Bite. Bite! Bite!

"Pull up your fish."