

"The Broken-hearted Maiden"

GENRE: Legend

FOLK GROUP: St. Louis Region

TYPICAL CONTEXT: This story is mainly told to friends and/or family just visiting the park for the first time. For example, when I visited St. Louis over Winter Break, Lynn took me to Creve Coeur Park and specifically pointed out the sign and the waterfall.

SUMMARY: Before Lynn mentioned the story behind the meaning of Creve Coeur, she had to call her sister Jill to remind her of the details. Basically, it is a popular story known throughout the area. Other than the tale being carved in a sign, it is passed on verbally.

LYNN: Well, the part of town I'm from is called Chesterfield and right outside of Chesterfield is Creve Coeur. And Creve Coeur is, means "broken heart" in French, and...

STACEY: Is there a story behind that?

LYNN: Well, this so-called, this Indian princess called Sacajewea fell in love with this White man and he was an explorer, and they wanted to get married and they were really in love and stuff, but her dad wouldn't let them get married because he was White and she was an Indian, and she was really broken-hearted and real upset, so she went to the top of this waterfall and she stood up on the waterfall, and she jumped and she killed herself, and that's how, that's how they came up with the name broke, Creve Coeur because

of broken-hearted, and there's this park in St. Louis or in Creve Coeur called Creve Coeur Park and there's this big waterfall and everything, and there's this big sign that says, you know, the meaning and the story behind it and everything.

"Let's Play All Day"

GENRE: Games

FOLK GROUP: Children

TYPICAL CONTEXT: The following is an example of the many games Lynn played as a child. These activities were performed during the daytime only.

SUMMARY: During Lynn's childhood, she grew up in one place and became especially close friends with one family. They would play games together common to American lifestyle. The 8:00 p.m. curfew is a perfect example of Lynn's behavior at that age which reflected her obedience and respect for her parents.

LYNN: Well, I remember some friends of mine, they lived across the street, and I must've been like first or second grade, and this family, they had eight kids and the youngest girl was my age, and the oldest was, was maybe fifteen or sixteen, and we used to go out and play "kick the can" at night, and we always had to be home at 8:00 p.m., we used to play "kick the can" and then we used to play golf in their backyard, just stuff like that.

STACEY: Why'd you have to be home at 8:00 p.m.?

LYNN: Oh, because I was only in second grade and that was my bedtime...(laugh)

"Baba Knows All"

GENRE: Influential Person

FOLK GROUP: Family

TYPICAL CONTEXT: Whenever the question of who played an important role model in your life is asked, without hesitation, Lynn replies, "Baba." Lynn talks about her grandmother often.

SUMMARY: Throughout Lynn's life her grandmother has been the most influential person for her concerning relationships. Baba reflects on her past romance and passes on to Lynn her interpretation of love. She expresses the true emotion that is felt and the unimportance of material objects. Lynn understands and respects her grandmother's opinion which has rubbed off on her attitudes toward men.

LYNN: Well, my grandmother is really special to me. We call her Baba. It's Yiddish for grandmother. She's, she's really taught me a lot about like relationships and stuff like that, relationships with my family and my parents and early relationships with guys, and she used to tell me all the time that when she was, she was a nurse during World War II, during that time she was seeing a guy who um was in the war, and he used to send her pantyhose and roses, and which doesn't seem like much now, but during the war that was real hard to come by. And she always like tells me stuff like how important, you know, giving and doing is rather than, you know, how much money he has or what kind

of car he drives, and just how important love is and if he really loves you, you can tell just by the little things he does for you and um...

STACEY: So um how do you think that affects you today about how her feelings were towards men and now your feelings towards men?

LYNN: Doesn't make me so picky. I mean, I'm not gonna go out and say, "God, that dri-, guy drives a Corvette, or he drives a SAAB." I think it's more important what he does for me and how happy he makes me, and I think that my Baba kind of rubbed off on me in that.

"Burning Lies"

GENRE: Rhyme

FOLK GROUP: Children

TYPICAL CONTEXT: Lynn often relates this story when someone tells her about a recent experience of how they got caught fibbing. She always follows it up by stating, "I never lie anymore."

SUMMARY: One time or another in a person's life they are caught in the act of a white lie. In Lynn's case, it was during her childhood where a conflict arose between two other parties that were "enemies." Although she laughs now looking back on the situation, it was quite an emotional time for her as she states: "...it hurt my feelings...."

LYNN: Well, I remember this one time there was this other girl that lived down the street. Her name was Diane. And Susan, the girls house I used to play at, she didn't like Diane. So, me uh I always had to say, "Well, I don't like Diane, either," but I really did, and one day I went to Diane's house and Susan saw me, and she came up to me and said, "God, I didn't think you liked Diane," and she started singing this little song and she (laugh) said: "Liar, liar, pants on fire hanging from a telephone wire," and it hurt my feelings and she did that for like a week.

STACEY: Really?

LYNN: Because, she really thought that I was a liar because I didn't like her.