Zhaxi's Slingshot

Zhaxi is fifteen. He herds sheep on the mountains. He loves his slingshot. His grandfather made the slingshot. The slingshot is black and white. It is made from yak hair. The slingshot looks like a snake.

Zhaxi wears a colorful sheepskin robe. He ties his slingshot around his waist. His has many friends. They herd and play together. They hold their slingshots. Who is the best shot? They like to shoot at things with their slingshots. They want to know who is the best. Zhaxi always wins.

One summer day the sun is bright. The sky is blue. Zhaxi takes his sheep to a mountain. Then he takes his sheep to a valley. The valley has a lot of fresh green grass. Many beautiful flowers grow there. Some are red, some are yellow, and some are brown. The air in the valley smells very nice. His sheep eat grass. Soon, they are full. The sheep lie down. Zhaxi picks mushrooms. He finds many mushrooms. He puts mushrooms in his robe pouch. He is happy. His mother cooks mushrooms very well. They are very tasty. He comes back to his sheep.

A wolf attacks his sheep. The sheep are afraid. He runs to his sheep. He is angry. The wolf is biting the sheep. The wolf wants to kill the sheep. Zhaxi picks up a round stone. He puts it in his slingshot. He shoots it at the wolf. The wolf does not run away. Zhaxi shoots the wolf three times. The wolf cries loudly. Now, the wolf is afraid. Its mouth is bloody. The wolf runs away.

Other boys hear this. They are surprised. Some boys are jealous. They want to compete with Zhaxi. Zhaxi’s grandfather is happy. Many people know his grandson. They say, ”Zhaxi is a good boy."

Zhaxi’s grandfather says, "Zhaxi! I will make you a new slingshot!"

Zhaxi says, "Thank you Grandfather!"

Winter comes. It is cold. There is a lot of snow. Zhaxi’s ewes give birth. Now he has many lambs. He herds his sheep to a warm valley. He does this every day. The lambs lie in the sunshine. Zhaxi’s lambs grow quickly. Zhaxi is happy. He thinks, "I want to have one hundred lambs every year. Then my family will be rich."

It is noon. Zhaxi is hungry. He leaves his sheep on the mountain. He goes home. He eats lunch. He eats bread and mutton. He drinks milk tea. Then he walks to the mountain. His sheep are very afraid. They are crying. They are running here and there. A big...
eagle is flying up into the sky. It is holding a small lamb. The lamb's mother looks at the eagle. She is crying. The lamb looks at its mother. It is crying, too. Zhaxi puts a stone in his slingshot. He shoots the eagle. The stone hits the eagle’s wing. The eagle and the lamb fall. The lamb is crying. The lamb is hurt but it does not die. The eagle flies into the sky.

Other boys are surprised. They want to compete with Zhaxi. Zhaxi’s grandfather makes a new slingshot. He gives it to Zhaxi. Zhaxi says, "Thank you, Grandfather."

Zhaxi goes to the mountain. He burns incense. He prays. He asks the mountain deity to help him win.

Many people come to the grassland. The boys stand behind a line. They shoot at a big white stone. Each boy shoots three times. Some boys do not hit the stone. Some boys hit the stone one time. Zhaxi shoots. He hits the stone three times. He is very strong. The big white stone breaks. Zhaxi is the winner. Everyone is surprised. The village chief calls Zhaxi. He says his name loudly. He holds a beautiful sheepskin robe. He gives Zhaxi the robe. Everyone claps. Many people say, "Good!" Zhaxi and his family go home. Zhaxi’s mother and grandmother cook. The family has a nice supper. They are all proud of Zhaxi.
around his waist
attacks
behind a line
best shot
big white stone
biting
breaks (v)
brown
burns incense
claps
compete with
cooks
deity
eagle
eats
ewes
finds
fresh green grass
give birth
grandmother
grassland
herds (n)
herds (v)
holds
incense
jealous
lambs
leaves
mountain
mutton
noon
picks mushrooms
prays
proud of
robe pouch
round stone
sheepskin
sheepskin robe
shoots
slingshot
soon
summer
sunshine
surprises
tasty
thinks
village chief
wears
wing
wins
winter comes
wolf
yak
Write answers to these questions.

1 Who is fifteen?____________________________________

2 How old are you?__________________________________

3 Are you fifteen?___________________________________

4 Is Zhaxi fifteen?___________________________________

5 Where does Zhaxi herd sheep?_________________________

6 Do you herd sheep?________________________________

7 What does Zhaxi herd?______________________________

8 Who made Zhaxi's slingshot?__________________________

9 What is black and white?_____________________________

10 Is Zhaxi's slingshot red?____________________________

11 What looks like a snake?____________________________

12 Do you like snakes? _______________________________

13 What do you tie around your waist?___________________

14 What does Zhaxi tie around his waist?_________________

15 Do you have many friends?____________________________

16 How many friends does Zhaxi have?___________________

17 Who always win?_________________________________

18 Do you have a slingshot?____________________________
19 What is blue?

20 What is bright?

21 What color are the beautiful flowers?

22 Do you like flowers? Why?

23 What does Zhaxi put in his robe pouch?

24 Who cooks mushrooms very well?

25 Do you cook mushrooms?

26 What are very tasty?

27 What attacks Zhaxi's sheep?

28 Why are the sheep very afraid?

29 Do you like wolves? Why?

30 What is bloody?

31 Why is the wolf's mouth bloody?

32 What does Zhaxi shoot three times?

33 Why does the wolf run away?

34 Who are jealous?

35 Why are the boys jealous?

36 When are you jealous?
37 Who will make Zhaxi a new slingshot?___________________
38 What give birth?_________________________________
39 Who has many lambs?_____________________________
40 When will Zhaxi’s family be rich?____________________
41 Why does Zhaxi want many lambs?__________________
42 What does Zhaxi eat for lunch?______________________
43 What do you eat for lunch?__________________________
44 What did you eat for lunch yesterday?_________________
45 What is holding a small lamb?_______________________
46 What does the lamb’s mother cry?___________________
47 Why does Zhaxi burn incense?_______________________
48 Who does Zhaxi ask to help him?____________________
49 Why is everyone surprised?________________________
50 Who gives Zhaxi a new robe? Why?_________________
51 Who are all proud of Zhaxi?________________________
52 Did you like this story? Why?______________________
1 Zhaxi are fifteen.
2 He herd sheep on the mountains.
3 He loves her slingshot.
4 His grandmother made the slingshot.
5 The slingshot is green and white.
6 It is made from lamb hair.
7 The slingshot looks like a yak.
8 Zhaxi wears a colorful sheepskin hat.
9 He ties his slingshot around his head.
10 His has now friends.

Put these words in the blanks below to make correct sentences.

always  blue  hold  shoot  takes
best  herd  know  sun  valley

1 They __________ and play together.
2 They __________ their slingshots.
3 Who is the __________ shot?
4 They like to ________ at things their slingshots.
5 They want to __________ who is the best.
6 Zhaxi__________ wins.
7 One summer day the ________ is bright.
8 The sky is __________.
9 Zhaxi__________ his sheep to a mountain.
10 Then he takes his sheep to a ________.
The valley **has** a lot of fresh green grass. Many beautiful **flowers** grow there. Some are red, some are yellow, and some **is** brown. The air in the valley smells very **nice**. His sheep **eat** grass. Soon, they **is** full. The sheep lie down. Zhaxi **picks** mushrooms. He finds **many** mushrooms. He puts mushrooms in his **robe**. He **are** happy. His mother **cooks** mushrooms very well. They **are** very tasty. He comes back to his sheep.

Put the words in brackets [] in the correct order. Write each sentence correctly.

1 A [wolf attacks sheep his].

2 The [afraid sheep are].

3 He [runs sheep to his].

4 He [angry is].

5 The [wolf biting is sheep the].
6 The wolf [sheep wants to the kill].

7 Zhaxi[picks up stone round]

Put these words in the blanks to make correct sentences.

boys grandfather he
they his my
Zhaxi boy family
Zhaxi's you

Other__________ hear this.__________are surprised. Some__________are jealous.

__________want to compete with ____________.

__________is happy. Many people know__________grandson. ____________say, "____________is a good__________.

______________ says, "__________! I will make__________a new slingshot!"

______________ says, "Thank _____ ____________ !"

Winter comes. It is cold. There is a lot of snow.__________ewes give birth. Now______________has many lambs.

_____________herds ______________sheep to a warm valley.
does this every day. The lambs lie in the sunshine.

lambs grow quickly. is happy.

thinks, "I want to have one hundred lambs every year. Then 

will be rich."

Put these sentences in the correct order. Which one is first, second, third, and so on.  

A big eagle is flying up into the sky.  
He eats bread and mutton.  
He goes home.  
He leaves his sheep on the mountain.  
He shoots the eagle.  
It is holding a small lamb.  
It is noon.  
The eagle and the lamb fall.  
The eagle flies into the sky.  
The stone hits the eagle’s wing.  
Zhaxi is hungry.  
Zhaxi puts a stone in his slingshot.  

Put these sentences in the correct order. Which one is first, second, third, and so on.  

Everyone is surprised.  
He asks the mountain deity to help him win.  
He burns incense and prays.  
He hits the stone three times.  
Many people come to the grassland.  
The big white stone breaks.  
The boys stand behind a line.  
The family has a nice supper.
The village chief gives Zhaxia new robe.

They are all proud of Zhaxi.

They shoot at a big white stone.

Zhaxi and his family go home.

Zhaxi goes to the mountain.

Zhaxi is the winner.

Zhaxi shoots.

Zhaxi’s mother and grandmother cook.

Look at the pictures. Write four sentences about each picture.²

Illustrations by Btsun thar bkra shis. ཡེ་ཐོན་ཕྲོད་ལམ་ལྷུན་ཐུབ་ཞེས་གཞི་ཡོང་བཞིན་