Dictionary Words / Kalkalilh

1. Cedar - Xpay : Those shrubby trees outside our home are Rocky Mountain Junipers, or Red Cedars. The colour of the bark is beautiful and the wood is strong for carving. I've used this wood for making so many things around the house. We also use the large cedars to sleek canoes that glide through the water for racing.
2. Bed - yaywes : A bed is a place for rest and contemplation. I know young children don’t stay asleep for very long, especially Lily and Thomas.
3. Breeze - Spahim: Kookum and I love the mild summers in these Rocky Mountains. You can feel the soft breeze at night, like a caress from nature. Can you hear it through the curtains? If you listen close enough, you can hear the wind talking to you.
4. Breakfast - ilhen ti natlh : The first meal of the day is an important one. If children want to be big and strong, they should never skip breakfast. I’ve only skipped it once, when I was reading a really good book and forgot the time.
5. Radio - kwaxwa7 ti Kwekeleylstn : This is an old radio that my father gave me long ago. I know kids prefer television, but I think there’s an old charm in closing our eyes and listening to the world around us. Maybe Lily and Thomas will get what I mean when they’re older, and their heads are less filled with Saturday morning cartoons.
6. Potlatch - tl'enk: Potlatches are very important. Not just because of the food! There would be many reasons to hold a potlatch. Chiefs used to host potlatches to display their wealth. We believe the richer you are, the more you give to your community. They are also a part of celebration for weddings and naming ceremonies. We still hold potlatches today even though they were once illegal!
7. House - Lam' : A house is more than a place of shelter, it’s where we call home. Kookum and I built this house together. It wasn’t easy, I tell you. But whenever I got tired and frustrated, she would make her candied salmon and everything would be good again.
8. Forest - Tsek tsek : A forest is a beautiful place covered in trees, and the home to many animals. It provided for our ancestors as it provides for us now. Children shouldn’t go into the forest alone at night, because there are many spirits and creatures that call the darkness their home. You don't want to meet them.
9. salmon - Schayilhen : Sometimes Kookum jokes that I married her for her candied salmon. She wouldn’t tell me her secret recipe otherwise! These fish are born in freshwater but live as adults in the ocean. When they’re ready to have children, they journey home to where they were born.
10. Basket - Siten : Kalkalilh carries her giant wicker basket every where she goes, enough to fit many children. But baskets can come in all shapes and sizes and not just for carrying children.
11. Children - Men men : It’s been a long time since I’ve been a child, but I remember that children have always been very curious. I think that curiosity helps them grow, but it can also get them in trouble when they don’t listen to their Elders.
12. Help - Chawat : It’s important to help others whenever possible I love to help others, especially when it comes to helping Kookum eat all that bannock. It’s a hard task, but someone needs to do it.
13. Rocks - Smenmant : If you ask elders in your community, they can tell you different stories. Some rocks are sacred. Some rocks are spirits. In Squamish there is a large mountain that is said to be a longhouse and host many spirits. Even rocks you have to respect.
14. Skulls - Shewshawk : It might surprise Lily and Thomas to know that even the skulls of animals have their uses. When we hunt an animal, we give thanks to their spirit and make sure no part is wasted. Kookum fashions the hides into clothing and I use the bones to make knives and arrow shafts.
15. dance - kwiyilsh : Dances are usually joyous, except when Kalkalilh is involved. All Indigenous people have their customary dance, many of which revolve around singing and dancing. Dancing usually tells a story which is passed down from generation to generation. Kookum learnt to dance from her Cree family while I learnt to dance from my Coast Salish family. Thomas and Lily are lucky because they get to learn both Cree and Coast Salish dances.
16. Fire- Yiyulh : Long ago, before refrigerators were invented, our people had to find a way to preserve meat. Fire was not only used for cooking salmon, but also to preserve it by smoking the fish.
17. Mosquito - Kwenimach : Kookum always gets bitten by mosquitoes in the summer, but they usually don’t bite me, I don’t think they’re fond of old, leathery skin! Children should be careful when they come out at night. They’re mostly pests, but they can be dangerous because they can make people sick.
18. Parents - Elhtach : Sometimes parents seem like they have too many rules, but they only want what’s best for their children. I hope Thomas and Lily agree that the children should have listened to the older boy. They could have been safe at home, listening to bedtime stories.
19. Promise - timashi : When someone gives their word to another, that would be making a promise. Promises are about building trust.
20. Kisses - mukwutsin : Why do we give kisses? To remind each other of our love. Thomas wrinkles his face but I know he doesn’t sleep well without a goodnight kiss from Kookum.
21. Outside - Atsk : The outdoors is rejuvenating and provides us with life. Kookum and I love when Lily and Thomas visit in the summer time. They need to go out more to grow big and tall, like that sapling outside our home.
22. Sleep - Itut : I believe that dreams are connected to our spirit and give us guidance. Lily doesn’t seem to be sleeping well lately, so I will ask Kookum to make a dreamcatcher from the willow tree. The dreamcatcher will protect her from bad dreams and only let the good ones through.
23. Morning - Kwakwayel : I like going for walks just as the sun breaks and the morning dew is still on the grass. Hunters have to get up early before the sun rises to get their food but I just hunt for Kookums bannock for my walk.
24. Salmon Smoke Cure (candy) - Skey : Candied salmon is a tasty treat that is smoked with a sweetener like maple syrup or honey. There are many ways to eat salmon but I think this may be my favourite.
25. Jam - Sxwusum : Jam is one way we can enjoy berries year round, especially soapberries. Lily and Thomas would find soapberries too sour otherwise, if it wasn’t sweetened enough for their little taste buds.

(Longhouse) : The longhouse is where we go for our ceremonies. We have naming ceremonies, weddings and memorials. We celebrate each one with dances and song. You can't bring cameras into longhouses and it's an honor if someone asks you to join them.