Welcome to the Green Land

## Introduction to be read to students

Alki Beach is a busy place on a warm summer day. Many activities are happening all at once: chidren are splashing in the water, people are cheering a volleyball game near the water’s edge, cars are cruising by and kids on roller blades are weaving among the walkers

Right in the middle of all this activity is a place that is very special to our city. Close to the water’s edge is the place where the first settlers came ashore from a big sailing ship. As they stepped onto the beach, they were greeted by Chief Seattle, leader of the Duwamish and Suquamish people. He was surrounded by his people. The sun wasn’t shining that day. It was a cold, rainy November day in 1851.

The Duwamish and Suquamish people lived here long before the settlers arrived. The forests gave them the cedar for their canoes and long houses. The water provided the salmon they ate. The Duwamish and Suquamish welcomed the settlers.

Standing on the deck of the ship in the cold rain, young Louisa and her sister saw the big forests along the shore, but no cabin to keep them dry. Louisa was the oldest daughter of Arthur Denny. She and her family traveled by covered wagon from Illinois, across the wide prairie, over the Rocky Mountains, to the Columbia River. Then they went by ship down the river to the Pacific Ocean and into Puget Sound. Young Louisa’s aunt was aboard too. Her name was also Louisa, and when she married Arthur’s brother David Denny, she became the first bride of the newly settled city of Seattle. David was a brave young man who had come ahead of the rest in order to help scout out the area. He earned the respect and friendship of Chief Seattle.

On the shore near where Chief Seattle stood, a young Duwamish boy named C’ayə stood with his brother. His name was special. C’ayə was the name for seal in his Duwamish language. He was given this name because he loved to make the sound of barking seals while in his cedar canoe on the inland water. When he is older, he will be given a name of one of his honored ancestors. He had learned a great deal from his elders about hunting, fishing and gathering foot.

C’ayə’s name has an unusual spelling. The way to pronounce it is not difficult. C’ayə is a three syllable word with a pause between each syllable. For the first syllable, say the /**ts**/ making the sound with the back of the throat. The second syllable is the long **/i**/ sound as in the word **like.** For the third syllable, say the short /**u**/ sound as in the word **mud**.

Now the play is ready to begin. Louisa and her sister talk to one another as they wander from their home, to the beach, to the nearby lumber mill and the general store. C’ayə and his brother talk to one another as they prepare to hunt the forest, fish the inland water and observe the steady arrival of new settlers that come to their homeland.