Podcast: Little Yarns

Episode Title: Story in Adnyamathanha

Duration: 7’ 56”

[ABC Podcast sting – This is an ABC Podcast]

[Little Yarns opening music building under Rudi’s voice]

**Rudi:** Yaama, Rudi ngaya. Hi, I’m Rudi. Gaba nginda? How are you? Today we’re heading to the red deserts and rocky mountains of Adnyamathanha Country in South Australia. We’re going to visit my maliyaa, my friend, Clayton and he’s going to share a very special word with us. It’s a word that doesn’t have just one meaning in English. It’s the Adnyamathanha word for story, legend and history…

[Little Yarns opening theme song]

[sounds of birds and wind]

**Clayton:** Nangga, Rudi!Nangga, yukarti aphina, I’m Clayton!

**Kid 1**: Hello, Clayton

**Kid 2**: Hi, Clayton

**Clayton:** Welcome back to Adnyamathanha Country

**Rudi**: It’s a beautiful day

**Kid 3**: I can see kangaroos, goannas, bush birds

**Kid 4**: Butterflies!

**Rudi**: Those are so pretty

**Clayton:** On a sunny day like this, you gotta look out for all the reptiles in the desert. They love coming out and lying in the sun.

**Rudi:** What kind of reptiles?

**Clayton:**  We get the sleepy lizard out this way, we call him arlda and the bearded dragon ardnu plus all types of skinks. There’s lots of snakes here too, so it’s always good to watch where you’re walking and give them lots of space if you see one

**Kid 1**: Yeah, leave it alone and it will go away

**Rudi:** We have lots of snakes and lizards on Dharawal Country too. There’s a blue tongue lizard that sometimes comes to live in my backyard. I think she likes to eat the snails

**Clayton:** (laughs) So,Adnyamathanha people have lived in the Flinders ranges for thousands of years. The mountains themselves are half a billion years old

**Kid 1**: Woah that’s ages

**Kid 2**: That’s so long

**Rudi:** Is Adnyamathanha Country all rocky?

**Clayton:** Well, not all of it. The Flinders Ranges start not far from Adelaide, and down there it is a lot greener. Then as you move north-east from Port Augusta, they get rockier and more mountainous. It can be pretty rough terrain, and it’s harsh in summer. But it’s special because it holds our muda

**Kid 3**: Muda?

**Clayton**: That’s the word I want to share with you today - muda

**Kid 1**: Muda

**Rudi**: Muda

**Clayton**: Muda is our history, our Creation stories, and our legends.

**Rudi**: Is muda the Adnyamathanha word for Dreaming?

**Clayton**: Yeah, muda is our stories of how the land was formed, our Creation stories. Some mobs call it Dreaming or Dreamtime, but not all of them. I like to think of them as legends, they’re our stories of how the land was formed, and we learn about laws and rules and morals through our muda. It is our history.

**Kid 1**: Can you tell us some muda now?

**Kid 2**: Yeah!

**Kid 3**: Please?

**Kid 4**: Come on!

**Clayton**: Alright, yukarti aphina, you’re in luck.

**Kids**: Yesss!

**Clayton**: I spoke with my Elders, and they gave me permission to tell you the story, the muda, of how the moon got in the sky. How does that sound?

**Kid 1:** That sounds good

**Kid 2:** Woohoo!

**Clayton:** Alright, cool, have a seat and get comfy.

[rustling sound of someone sitting in dry grass]

**Rudi**: This is gonna be good

[jaunty music starts]

**Clayton**: One day, a man named Vira Vurlka was walking with his two nephews along a gum creek. They called him ngamarna – uncle. They came across a big gum tree and the boys said,“Ngarmarna! There are a lot of big witchetty in this tree here. Get some out for us.” Witchetty are grubs we eat. Now, a lot of people say witchetty grub, but in Adnyamathanha witchetty actually means grub. So you can just say witchetty

**Kid 1**: What do they taste like?

**Clayton**: When they’re cooked, they taste like scrambled eggs

**Kid 2**: Oh, yum!

**Clayton**: So, ngamarna climbed up the tree from the ground. Moving along the branch of the gum tree, pulling out witchetty aphina as he went. The two boys were down below, eating the witchetty as he threw them down. Every time they sucked one, they drew in air

(big inhale)

[music transitions to inquisitive track]

And then they blew it out their mouths

(big exhale)

This made the gum tree grow higher and higher!

“What are you up two fellas up to?” ngamarna called down.

“Noooothing!” the boys replied.

Again and again, they blew.

[more exhales and sound of tree growing and twisting higher]

By now, the sky was right on top of the gum tree.

The two boys called out, “Ngamarna! The sky! It’s touching that high branch!”

All Vira Vurlka could reply was, “Nimba vapardla warndaku” – look at my head up here!

He was giddy from being up so high!

“Ngamarna!” the boys called. “Try to touch the sky!”

They stood down below, watching as he climbed higher and higher. Vira Vurlka reached out and touched the sky. As soon as he did this, the two boys pulled down the gumtree from under him.

**Kid 1:** (gasps)

**Clayton:** Their old uncle Ngamarna was so angry. He wandered around the sky very upset.

“Uncle”, they called up to him. “You must climb up and shine! Then you must become smaller and smaller and slowly die. Then you will become a new moon!”

“Nimba vapardla warnda” was all he replied.

“Climb up and shine, and then come down”

 “Nimba vapardla warnda” he says as he climbs up and up becoming the full moon.

**Kid 1**: Woah

[music ends, nature sounds resume]

**Clayton**: So, kids, if you look into the sky at night, you can see Vira Vulka climbing up and up to become a full moon or climbing down to become the new moon. And that’s the muda of how the moon got in the sky

**Rudi:** What a great story, Clayton

**Kid 1**: Super cool and interesting

**Kid 2**: Those boys are very mean

**Kid 3**: Thanks for telling us the muda

**Clayton**: No worries and thanks for visiting. I’ll see you again soon.

**Kid 1:** Bye, Clayton

**Kid 2:** Bye Clayton!

**Rudi**: Yalu

[Little Yarns theme song]

**Rudi**: I love the Adnyamathanha story of how the moon got in the sky. Creation stories are a really special part of culture because they help us learn lots of things. Sometimes about the land, water and sky. Sometimes about how to look after ourselves and each other. Sometimes both!

**Kid 1**: It’s a super good way to learn stuff by telling it in a story

**Rudi**: Can you remember the word Clayton shared with us today?

**Kids**: Muda!

**Kid 3**: That means history

**Kid 3**: Stories

**Kid 1**: It means legends

**Rudi:** Yep, muda is the word for Adnyamathanha stories, legends and history. I can’t wait for our next little yarn. Catch ya then. Yalu!

[Little Yarns closing theme song]

**Rudi:** This Little Yarn was recorded on the Kaurna, Gadigal, Wangal, Bidjigal, Bundjalung and Larrakia Nations; featuring the sounds of Adnyamathanha Country, with original music by Bunuba producer Vincent Goodyer. Thanks to our guest Clayton Cruse and to all the deadly kids on today's episode. Our producer is Soumia Bella, senior producer is Emma Gibbs and our engineer is Nathan Turnbull. Little Yarns is an ABC Kids listen podcast. For more great podcasts to play, music to move, and stories and soundtracks for sleep, download the ABC Kids listen app, free from your app store.