

Coyote and Tick

The Indian people long ago lived very close to nature. They lived in huts made of tule reeds and slept on mattresses made of fir boughs. They covered themselves with clothing and blankets made of animal hides. The people observed the winds, the sun, and the moon. They watched how these things affected all life here on earth. They also watched the birds and animals, noticing how they lived, learning many things from them. The insects were another part of life the Indians had to live with. In watching them, they learned which ones were poisonous and which ones were edible.

Tick was an insect the Indians always had to be careful of, for he always was the first insect to come out in the Spring. Many stories were told about him. This is the story my father told me.

Long ago when the Indian people and the animals could talk to each other, there lived a Tick. Tick lived in a nice big tepee, and had built a very fine sweat house beside the river.

Tick was very good to everyone. So, the Great Spirit blessed him with a nice place to live and plenty of deer meat, eels and all good things to eat. Tick was so good, he shared all that he had.



Coyote was walking along through the sagebrush one day, hunting for a rabbit to eat. Coyote was very hungry. He had not eaten for two days. "I think I will visit Tick," said Coyote to himself. "Maybe he will give me some dried deer meat."

As Coyote came upon Tick's camp, he could smell the stew simmering over the fire. Tick heard Coyote coming through the sagebrush and called to him, "Coyote! I'm so glad to see you! Come and have some lunch with me!"

Coyote went into the tepee and Tick gave Coyote a very large bowl of stew. Coyote was so hungry, he ate two bowls of stew and then licked the pot clean.

"Please, take some of my dried deer meat home with you, Coyote," said Tick.

After they finished their meal, Tick invited Coyote to a sweat bath in his nice sweat house. "It will make you feel better after all the hunting you have been doing," said Tick, being very polite. Tick built a fire to heat the rocks. As they were sitting inside the sweat house, Coyote noticed the sweat house melted the fat on the deer ribs, making the fat drip and sizzle deliciously along the roof.

Coyote could not let that nice, tasty fat go to waste. He went from one place to the other, opening his mouth and catching the dripping fat.

The second day Tick asked Coyote, "Please stay and sweat with me again." "I would be glad to," said Coyote greedily. He was thinking of the sizzling fat dripping in the sweat house. The third day, as Coyote was sitting in the sweat house, Coyote became even more greedy and was thinking of a plan to take Tick's camp and food away from him.

Tick got up from his seat in the sweat house and picked up a bucket. He went outside to get some water to pour on the hot rocks for more steam.

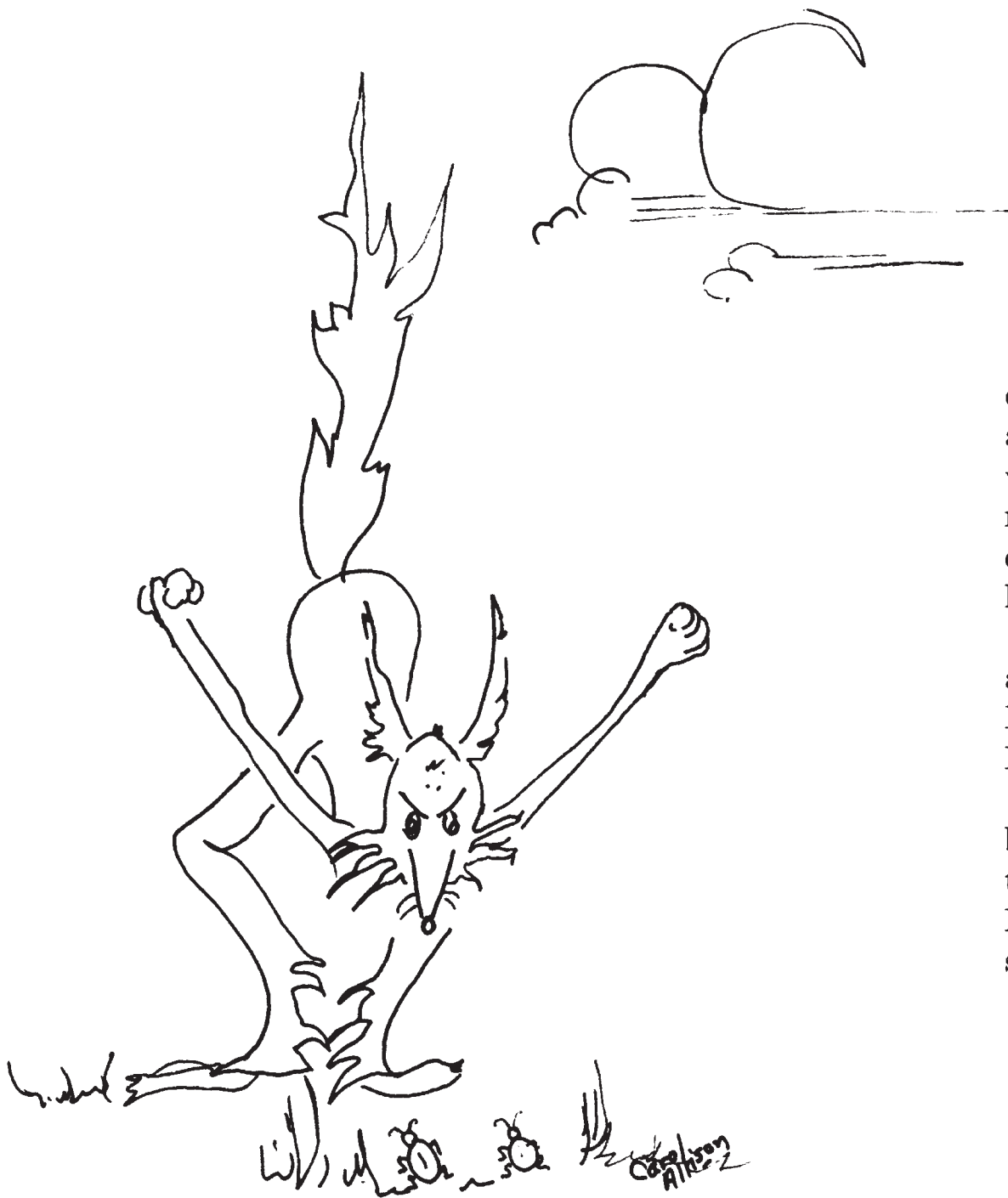


While Coyote watched Tick, he got an idea. Coyote stood inside the door waiting for Tick to come back with the water. Just as Tick stepped inside, Coyote jumped right on top of poor Tick, and flattened him. Tick didn't know what happened to him. Because he was a good Tick, the Great Spirit always took care of him.

Tick called out to his sweat house, "Run away! Run away!" Tick grabbed onto the sweat house so Coyote could not catch them.

Coyote was so angry he called Tick names. Tick called out once more and ordered his whole camp to run away. "Take the sweat house and the big tepee and all the deer meat." The whole camp ran away. It knocked Coyote end over end. Some time later, after being knocked out, he came to.





Coyote was so angry, he called for Tick's brother and sister and demanded them to tell him what happened because he didn't remember. Brother and sister Tick didn't want to tell Coyote because his anger frightened them.

Coyote growled very loud and threatened, "I will call upon Rain to come if you don't tell me. Rain will wash you all away!"

Brother and Sister Tick begged him not to call on Rain and they told Coyote what happened. But, as usual, Coyote just answered, "That's what I thought."



VERBENA GREENE



CAROL ALLISON

Booklets available in the Level IV sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the Planned Sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
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2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
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3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
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6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
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7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
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8. *Fort Hall Stories*
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9. *The Bear Teepee*
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10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
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12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
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13. *Coyote the Trickster*
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14. *Running Free*
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15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
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16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
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20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
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