

## NEW WORDS:

yearn  
flirt

# COYOTE GETS LOVESICK

## Salish Coyote Stories

Developed by the Salish (Flathead) Cultural Committee  
of the Confederated Salish/Kootenai Tribes

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plateau Region

STORY TYPE(S): Indian Values

### Summary:

Following the directions from Camp Robber, Coyote journeyed to see a beautiful woman. Upon seeing how very beautiful she was Coyote decided to stay to see her again and again for many days. Finally, his waiting without food or water killed him. His friend, Camp Robber, revived him saying that “man will no longer die from love-sickness.”

Not only does this story point out how foolish and unreasonable people can behave when in love but also suggests that even a good thing taken to excess can be dangerous. Moderation is a key word. It is easy to overdo things, especially those things which give us pleasure. One **can** get too much of a good thing.

### Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Discuss emotions and the effects which they have on individuals when emotions are carried to extremes. Who usually gets hurt? What happens when someone gets too angry, too sad, too silly, etc.?

Even jokes can be carried too far. What happens when someone eats too much or sleeps too much or drinks too much?



2. Have students role play an instance when someone may have eaten too much or drank too much.



3. Using puppets have students tell a story about a time when you got very angry or silly or ate too much or carried a joke too far. How did you feel and why? What happened? How do you think others felt?



4. In your group discuss the following: Compare this story to Moosehide Robe Woman. Was Moosehide Robe Woman's love like Coyote's?

How are they different? Was Coyote concerned about what kind of a person the woman was or how she acted toward other people? What did Coyote really know about the woman besides the fact that she was beautiful?

What do the following sentences mean?

Beauty is only skin deep.

You shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

**Student Activity Card(s):**

**See Writing Script Card (13A-13B) and  
Puppets and Stuff Card (20A-20B).**