

NEW WORDS:

celebration
bury
complaining

DO WHAT YOU ARE TOLD

Stories From Burns

Developed by the Burns-Paiute Tribe

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plateau Region

STORY TYPE(S): Indian Values

Summary:

Though Coyote was warned by his brother Esha not to watch him fighting, Coyote peeked anyway, causing Esha to be killed. Feeling guilty, Coyote took one of Esha's bones and carried it with him everywhere. One morning a voice told Coyote to build a fire and to his surprise his brother Esha returned to life. Coyote was so happy to see him alive that he did everything Esha wanted without complaining.

It is not often in life that people get a second chance to show appreciation. Too often friends, family and environment are taken for granted.

There are consequences for bad behavior but people can learn from another's mistakes. Coyote did not listen to what he was told and lost his own brother. Esha probably had the power to return to life at any time but waited longer to teach Coyote the lesson of doing what he was told to do.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Discuss times when directions seemed pointless but if not followed could lead to real misfortune. Ask students if they remember a time when they may have disobeyed warnings. Did negative things result? How did they feel about themselves when this happened? Did anyone have a happy ending?



2. Ask students to draw pictures of the main events in this story. Drawings should be placed on the same size paper or on a paper roll. Build a box for a TV. Cut out a window through which the drawings may be seen. Air the production of this story. A tape could be made to narrate the story.



3. Take turns role playing the battle scene and Coyote's remorse at the death of his brother. Role play also the return of Esha.

Student Activity Card(s):
See Walk a Mile Activity Card (19A-19B).