

Coyote and Crane

Developed by Members of the Klamath, Modoc and Paiute Committee

Geographical Area: Plateau Region

Vocabulary:	crawfish	refused	degrading
	vowed	impressed	shunned
	Klamath	wocus	apaws

Reading Motivators: Discuss Coyote and his role as a trickster. Give examples of his good and bad character from previous stories.

Have students locate the Klamath Tribe on the map (near Chiloquin, Oregon). Give a brief background on the tribe.

Discussion Topics:

How did Coyote manage to trick his friends?

Have students describe what Coyote valued in friendship. Compare these qualities to the ones students have identified for good friends.

Discuss the personalities of all the story characters.

Discuss prejudices and speculate on how they are formed. After examples, discuss positive or negative implications of prejudice. What is a bias and how does it differ from prejudice?

Follow-up Activities:

1. Have students find other Coyote stories and compare how Coyote acts in those stories to this one. What can be said about Coyote's character in general?
2. If students are unfamiliar with crawfish, have them research information and make reports.
3. Using the script, have students role play the story with masks (see Art Activities).

Coyote and Crane

<i>Narrator</i>	<i>Beaver</i>
<i>Crane</i>	<i>Fox</i>
<i>Coyote</i>	<i>Raccoon</i>
<i>Bear</i>	<i>Squirrel</i>

Narrator: A long, long time ago when all animals were like people there lived Coyote. To the Indians and animals Coyote was a trickster. He was always getting more than his share of anything and everything. (*Enter Coyote*)

It seems some of the other animals would invite Coyote over to lunch or dinner, and before Coyote left, the host was sorry for even inviting him. (*Enter Beaver, Fox, Bear, Squirrel and Raccoon*)

Beaver: Good morning, Coyote.

Fox: Hi, Coyote! How have you been?

Squirrel: Hi!

Bear: Hello, Coyote.

Coyote: Oh, hello. I've been all right. Say, **you** sure look good, Raccoon. Must be doing pretty good, eh?!

Raccoon: Oh, nice you should notice. Thanks! I **have** been feeling well lately. Caught quite a bit of fish the other day. (*Pause*) Say how would you like to come over to dinner and share some?

Coyote: Oh, I wouldn't want to be a bother . . .

Raccoon: Nonsense! I've also got fresh berries and eel!

Coyote: You don't say! Well, why not. Sure, I'll be there.

Narrator: So, Coyote had tricked Raccoon into fixing him dinner. When Coyote showed up the other animals were already seated quietly, waiting. The table was spread with the fresh fish, berries and eel Raccoon had promised.

Without even saying hello, Coyote went straight for the food and began eating. (*Coyote eats and eats, grabbing food from others and reaching across the table, making loud slurping noises.*) Raccoon was sorry she had invited Coyote at all. (*Animals shake their heads in disgust.*)

Narrator: Well, that was how Coyote was. On the other hand, there was old Crane. (*Enter Crane with walking cane*) Crane was not a bit like Coyote. Crane was always eager to do things for others.

Crane: Say, Coyote, why don't you come over to my place for dinner tonight. We'll have crawfish.

Coyote: Who *me*? Eat with you?! Hah! I don't even like crawfish! I have "far better friends" and far better things to do, Crane -sorry!

Narrator: Coyote considered Crane's friendship degrading. He already had friends such as Squirrel, Bear, Raccoon, Beaver, Fox and others. To Coyote these animals were rich and important. Poor old Crane didn't even rate compared to the others.

However, Crane never stopped trying to win Coyote's friendship.

Crane: Oh, we meet again, Coyote. How would you like to come to dinner tonight? I have plenty of fresh fish to share.

Coyote: No! I don't want to eat with you! I've already made plans for dinner, Crane. (*Coyote exits*)

Crane: I wonder why Coyote hates me so? I don't see why he has to be so rude. I doubt he even cares if he hurts someone's feelings.

(*Sits down to think*) That old Coyote uses everybody, even his so-called "far better" friends. They just sit around and do nothing while he robs them.

(*Getting Angry*) That old Coyote! He's not even worth my friendship. I'm not so sure about some of the other animals either. They allowed this to happen. I'll get that old Coyote!

Narrator: That night Crane went over to Coyote's house. Crane waited outside until he thought Coyote was asleep. He slipped inside. Once inside he found Coyote sleeping on the floor of his den. Crane began poking Coyote with a stick and tossing small stones (*use cotton balls*) at him to see if he would waken easily. Coyote did not move. Seeing this, Crane took his knife and carved a section off of Coyote's rump. Having completed this without waking Coyote, Crane left with his prize.

The next day Crane went looking for coyote.

Crane: Say, Coyote! How about a steak dinner tonight at my house?

Coyote: Well, I don't . . .

Crane: *(Interrupts)* And bring all your friends. You're all invited.

Coyote: *(Looks at friends for approval)* All right. We'll be over this evening, so cook plenty!

Crane: *(Smiling)* I'll be ready. Oh, and don't forget your friends!

Narrator: Crane went home and immediately set to his cooking. Later, Coyote and his friends arrived and each smelled the meat cooking.

Raccoon: Crane must be a good cook!

Fox: It sure smells good.

Bear: I wonder what we're having beside steak. I'm starved.

Squirrel: Me too! I hope it's ready.

Beaver: Let's eat! I can hardly stand it.

Coyote: Well, Mr. Crane, that has to be the best roast I've ever smelled!

Crane: Wait until you taste it!

Narrator: All sat down to the best dinner ever served in the village. Coyote especially was impressed.

Coyote: Mr. Crane, all this time I thought of you as a nobody. But now I can see that I was wrong. I think we may be the best of friends. By the way, where did you ever find steak so delicious as this?

Crane: *(Looks at Coyote and starts to laugh)* I have been watching you steal from everyone else, Coyote. You have lied your way into their homes. You have tricked them into believing good things about you. But, *(still laughing)* this time the trick is on you! That delicious steak you have been eating is your own rump.

Narrator: Hearing this, Coyote became very sick and all of his "far better" friends began to laugh at him. *(Animals laugh as they exit)*

(Coyote is alone, looking lonely) From that day on, Coyote has been shunned by his animal friends and everyone else. Even today he is considered to be a crook by farmers. Coyote has made quite a name for himself which has lasted throughout history.