

# COYOTE AND THE STARS

The Indian Reading Series



Level I Book 1

***THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest*** is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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**THE INDIAN READING SERIES:  
Stories and Legends of the Northwest**

## **Coyote and the Stars** Level I Book 1

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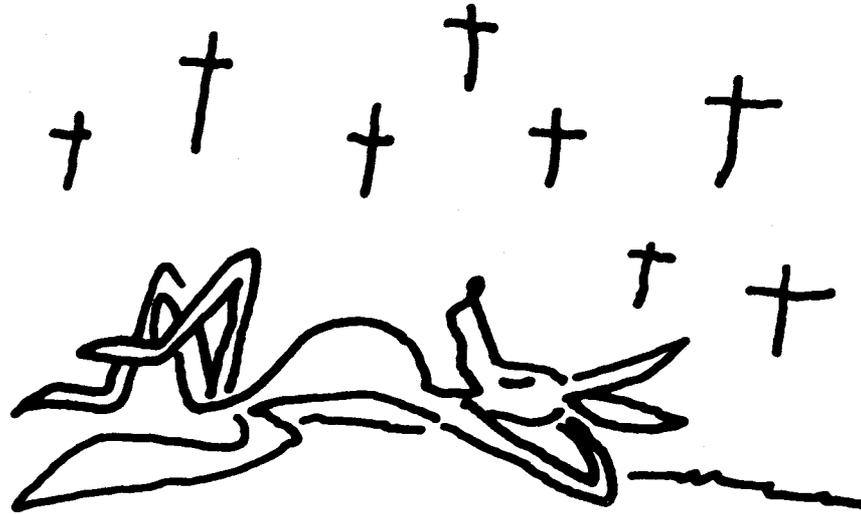
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One night Coyote was lying on his back  
singing a dancing song.  
As he looked up into the sky,  
he noticed the stars were twinkling brilliantly.  
Never had they been so brilliant.





Coyote remembered that long ago  
someone had told him that all stars  
were beautiful Indian girls.  
Coyote thought he would like to go up  
to see the girls.  
So he went through the woods asking  
how he could go up into the heavens.





The Spider said that she could weave  
a long rope.  
And the Giant Redwood Tree said he could  
bend down to earth and throw Coyote  
up into the sky.  
And this is what they did.





When Coyote got to the heavens,  
the girls weren't twinkling at all.  
They were dancing.  
Coyote was so overcome at the sight  
of so many beautiful Indian girls  
he just stood and stared.





The girls were dressed in white buckskin  
trimmed with beads, porcupine quills and shells.  
When Coyote came to himself,  
he rushed up to them and said,  
“I would like to join you in your dance.”





The Stars answered, "You couldn't dance with us  
because we dance day and night, year after year,  
forever and ever.

We never stop!"

"But," said Coyote, "surely if any girl can do that,  
I, a big brave, could also dance forever!"

But the Stars said, "No."





Coyote begged and pleaded and teased  
until the girls said that he might join them.  
So Coyote joined hands with the Stars  
and danced all over the heavens  
He was fine the first night.





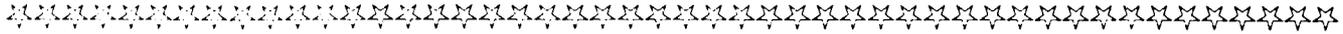
But the next night, Coyote got tired.  
He didn't want the girls to know he was tired  
so asked, "May I stop to get a drink?  
I am very, very thirsty."





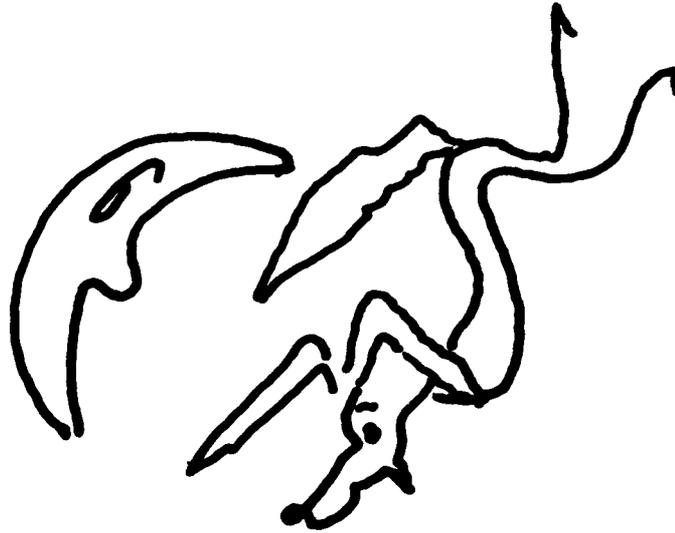
The Stars answered, "No, we told you  
to dance on and on, forever and ever."  
They danced on and Coyote  
began to get more tired.  
His back was aching and his legs were aching.  
So he called out,  
"May I stop to get a bite to eat?  
I am very, very hungry."





The Stars said, "You must dance on and on  
and never stop!"  
Before long the Stars were dragging him  
through the heavens.  
Soon one arm came off and then  
the other arm came off.





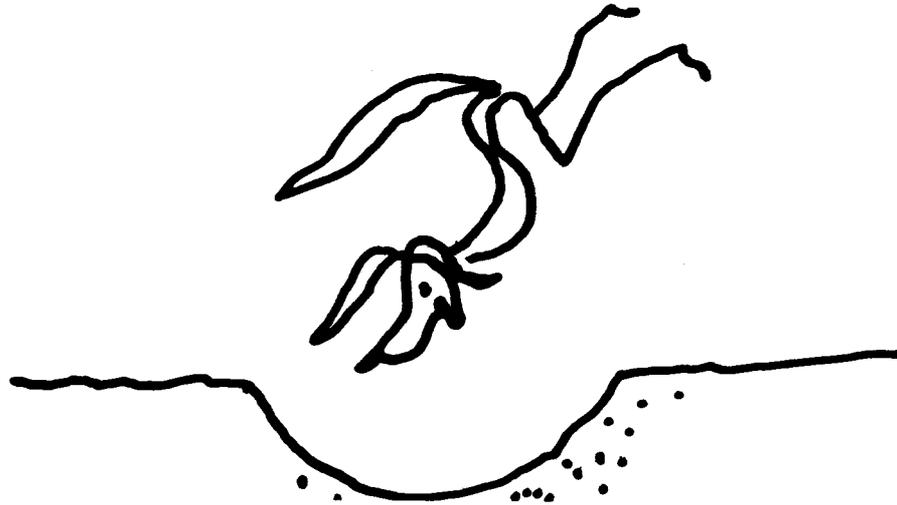
Because Coyote could no longer hold on  
to the Stars, he fell back to Earth.  
As he fell through space, he passed Moon.  
Coyote called out, "Someone help me!"  
But not a sound came from Moon.





When he was nearing Earth,  
he saw Eagle soaring and he called again.  
“Help me, Uncle.  
Please help me fall on a mossy place!”  
But Eagle just whistled and soared away.





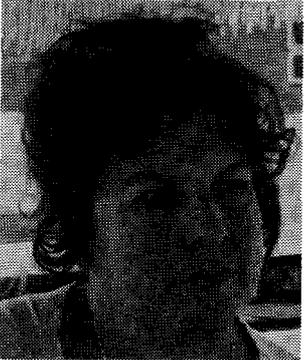
Now in the Klamath region there is  
a great hole in the ground that is  
covered with red dust.  
The Indians say this is where Coyote fell,  
and the red is his blood.





### VERBENA GREENE

Verbena Greene, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, is the mother of eight children. She attended Warm Springs Boarding School until the 11th grade and later earned her G.E.D. She has served as Local Coordinator for the Warm Springs Curriculum Development Committee and was the Tribal Education Program Liaison for more than seven years. She presently is serving as Culture Resource Person for the Tribes, providing classroom cultural instruction (legends, values, songs, etc.) on a consultant basis to schools and community colleges. She enjoys working with young people and is pleased that students are now forming culture clubs and holding powwows in the school environment.



### CAROL ALLISON

Carol Allison has been closely associated with the Warm Springs Tribes for 16 years. She works in several different media, including water colors, cloth painting (shawls, skirts), and cartooning. In addition to writing and illustrating children's books, she has worked with Warm Springs committees writing down tribal history and culture.

Booklets available in the Level I sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use as outlined in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest will appear in the Levels II and III sequence.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <i>Coyote and the Stars</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon               | 11 <i>Birds and People</i><br>Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural<br>Commission                                   |
| 2 <i>How Wild Horses Were Captured</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon      | 12 <i>Chipmunk Meets Old Witch</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon        |
| 3 <i>School</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe  | 13 <i>My Name Is Pop</i><br>Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural<br>Commission                                     |
| 4 <i>Philene and Buttons</i><br>Northern Cheyenne Tribe   | 14 <i>Santa Claus Comes to the Reservation</i><br>Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural<br>Commission               |
| 5 <i>Insects Off to War</i><br>Northern Cheyenne Tribe  | 15 <i>How Cottontail Lost His Fingers</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon |
| 6 <i>Why Bluejay Hops</i><br>Skokomish Tribe  | 16 <i>Friends</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe  |
| 7 <i>Indian Festival</i><br>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the<br>Fort Hall Reservation                                 | 17 <i>How Daylight Came to Be</i><br>Skokomish Tribe  |
| 8 <i>Helpers</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe   | 18 <i>A Little Boy's Big Moment</i><br>Blackfeet Tribe  |
| 9 <i>Far Out, A Rodeo Horse</i><br>Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural<br>Commission                                | 19 <i>Skunk</i><br>Muckleshoot Tribe  |
| 10 <i>Tales of Coyote and Other Legends</i><br>The Confederated Tribes of the<br>Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon | 20 <i>Raven Helps the Indians</i><br>Skokomish Tribe  |

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the *Teacher's Manual*, contact the publisher:

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