

Coyote the Trickster

The Indian Reading Series

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 His Big Brother Wolf

Coyote and the Two Sisters

Coyote and the Cougar

How Coyote Tricked Porcupine

Nosy Coyote

Level IV Book 13

Developed by the Burns Paiute Reservation

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Coyote and His Big Brother Wolf

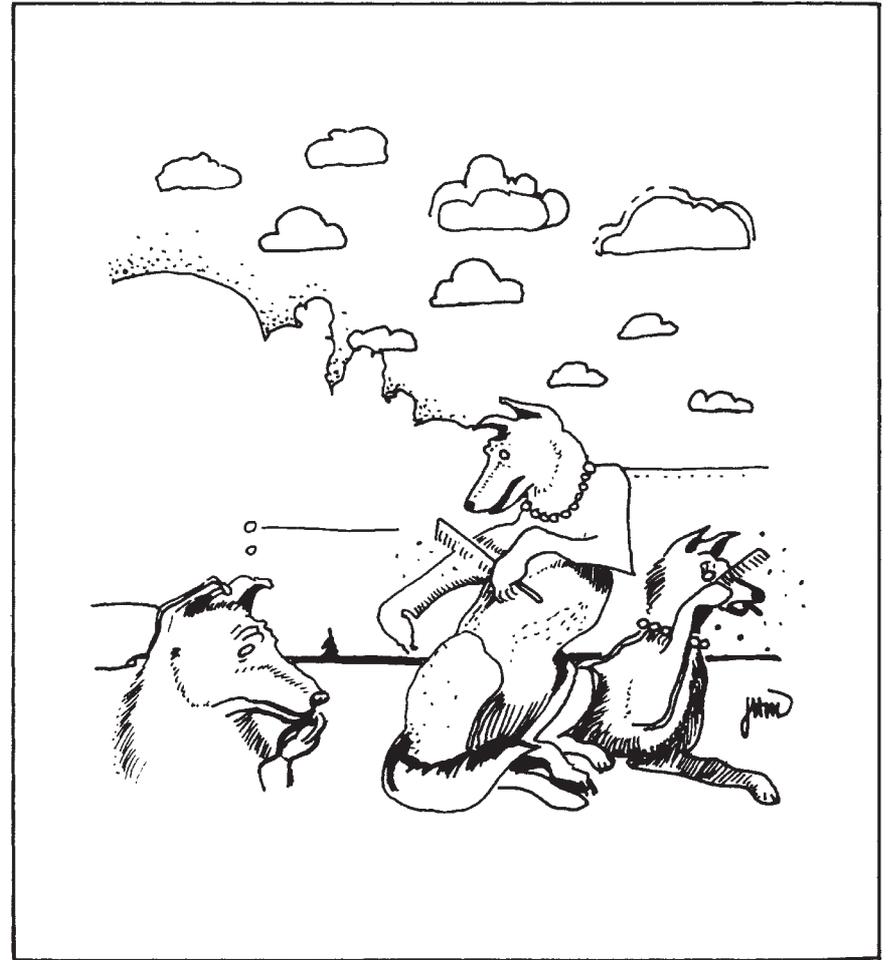
Coyote and his big brother Wolf were walking along a trail in the woods. Wolf told Coyote, "Don't wander off because we have a long way to go." Soon Coyote said, "I want to visit our aunts."

Wolf told him, "If you visit our aunts, they will not share their food which is sometimes wild carrots. Instead they will comb their fur out and offer you their fleas." Coyote did not believe him.



“I am going to visit them anyway,” said Coyote. As soon as he got there, his aunts started to comb their fur out. Coyote remembered what his big brother Wolf had said about them, so he left.

They continued on their journey and this time Coyote wanted to visit his grandfather. Wolf told him, “Grandfather has many Indian costumes but he never gives anything to anyone.”

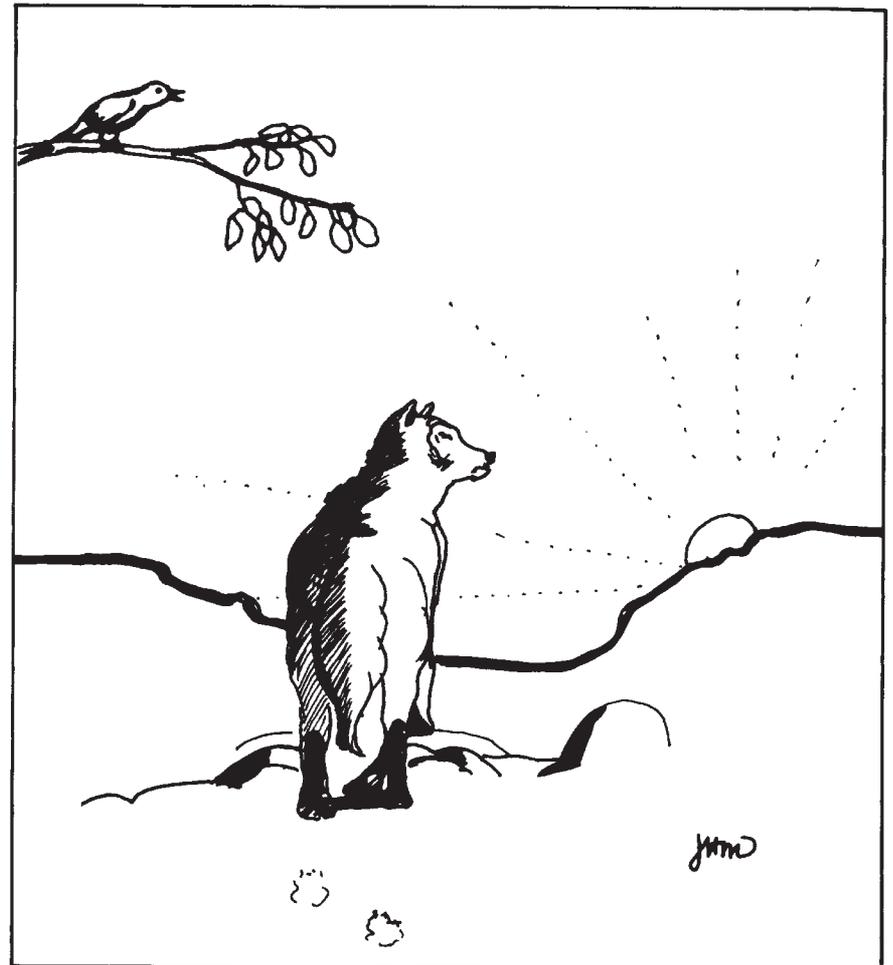


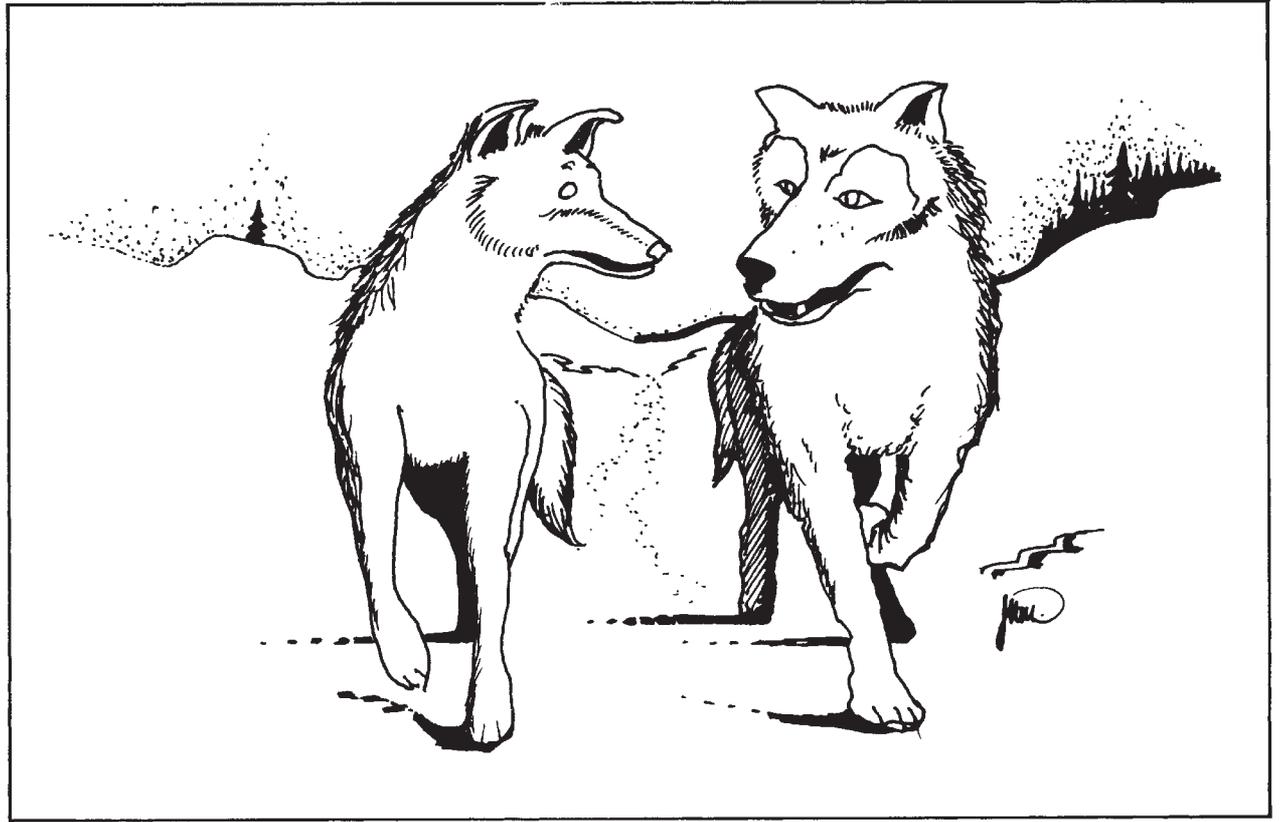
Grandfather (on his father's side) had a big round stomach and had a habit of laying across the doorway.

Coyote went inside Grandfather's house and sat down. While he was sitting down, he was looking at all the colorful costumes that were hanging on the walls. He silently picked the one he wanted and grabbed it and ran for the door. He tried to jump over Grandfather but he hit his stomach and bounced back. Grandfather rolled on top of him and would not move.



A meadowlark was singing in a tree. Coyote thought the meadowlark was mocking him, but the bird was trying to tell him how to get out from under Grandfather. The meadowlark told Coyote, "Poke Grandfather in his stomach with your little finger." Coyote did what the meadowlark told him to do and tore a hole in his stomach which killed Grandfather. Coyote was covered with awful green stuff.





Coyote escaped and caught up with his brother. Wolf asked, "What took you so long? What is that stuff all over you. Coyote told him what had happened during his visit.

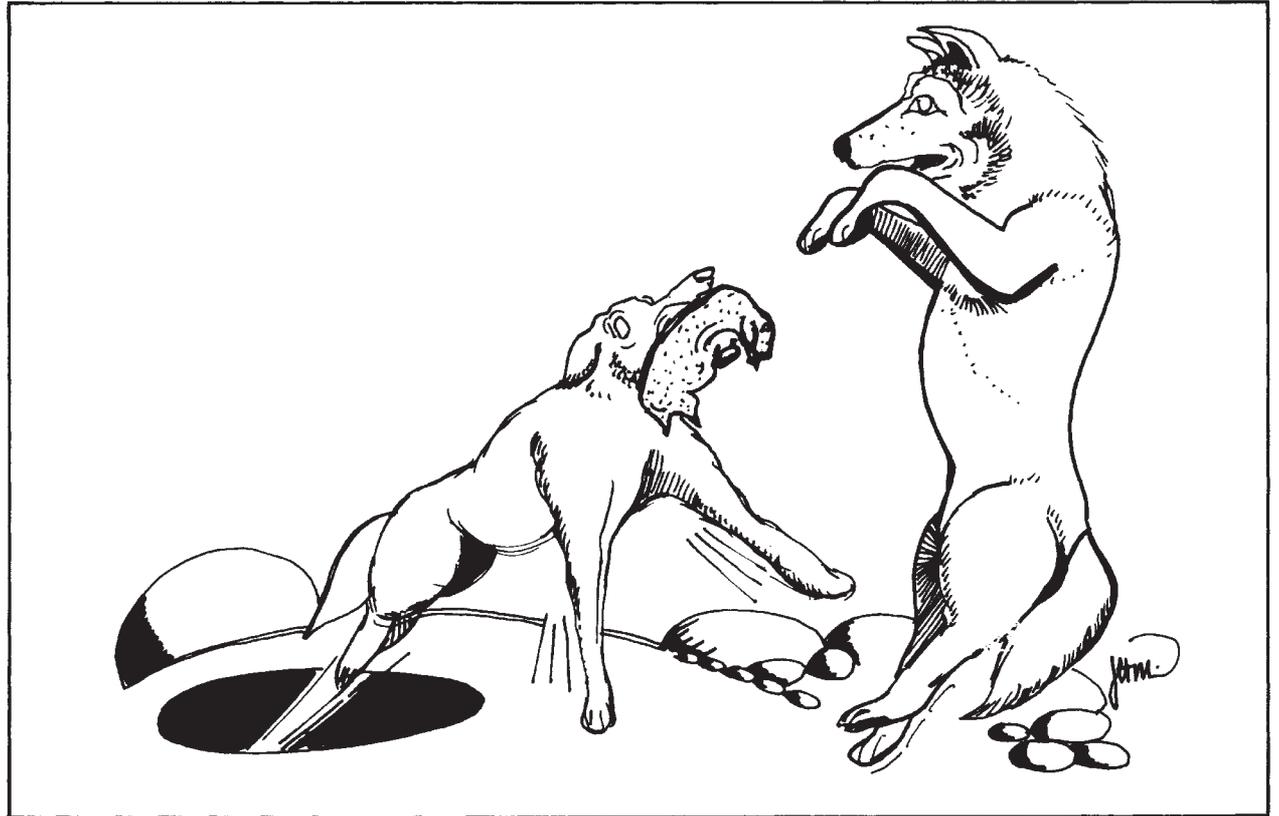
They continued walking. There was smoke in the distance. It was coming from his other Grandfather's camp.

Coyote said, "I am going to go see Grandfather." Wolf tried to warn Coyote, "Grandfather tries to trick people into a hole and cover them with rocks."



Coyote went over to where Grandfather was digging for a groundhog in the rocks.

While Grandfather was bending over, Coyote tickled him in the back. Grandfather turned to see who was doing it. When he saw who had been tickling him, he asked Coyote, "Will you go into the hole to get the groundhog which I have been having trouble getting out?" Coyote quickly crawled into the hole, and Grandfather covered him up with rocks and left him.

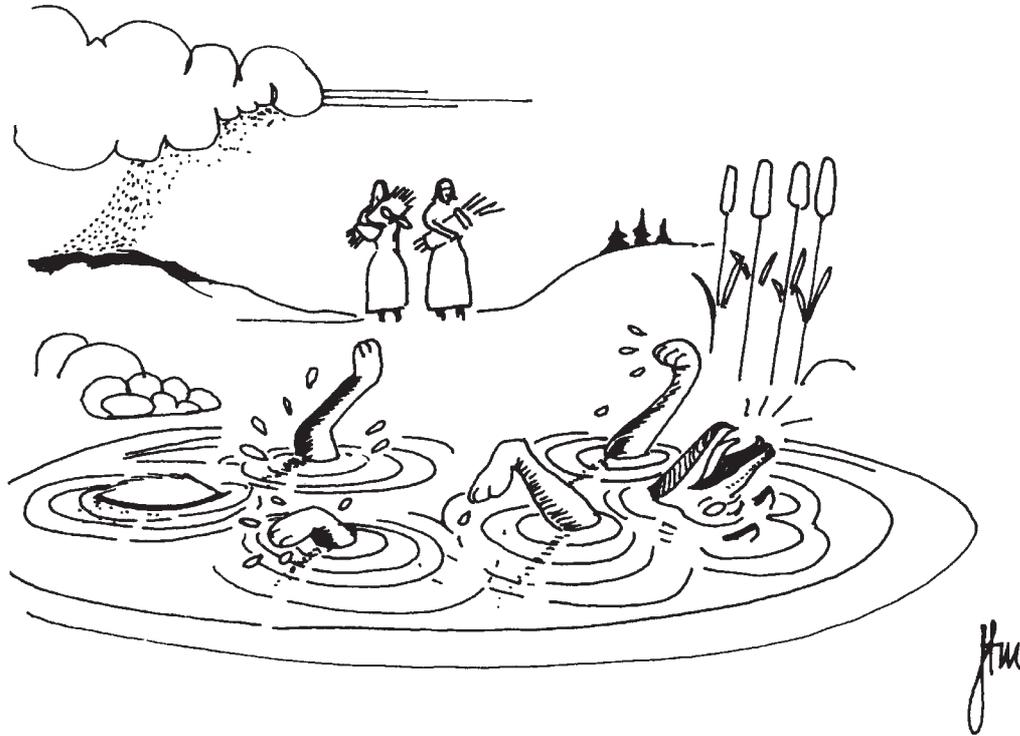


Wolf kept walking. After awhile he became worried about his brother and turned back to look for him.

While Wolf was walking back, he said to himself, "I suppose he got into trouble again."

When Wolf got to the rockpile, he kicked a rock and out popped Coyote carrying a big groundhog. This time the trick was on Grandfather.

Coyote and the Two Sisters



Coyote was traveling along when two girls caught Coyote's eye. He dropped the pack from his back and decided to play a game with them.

He went up stream and jumped in the water. He started crying like a baby as he was floating down the stream.

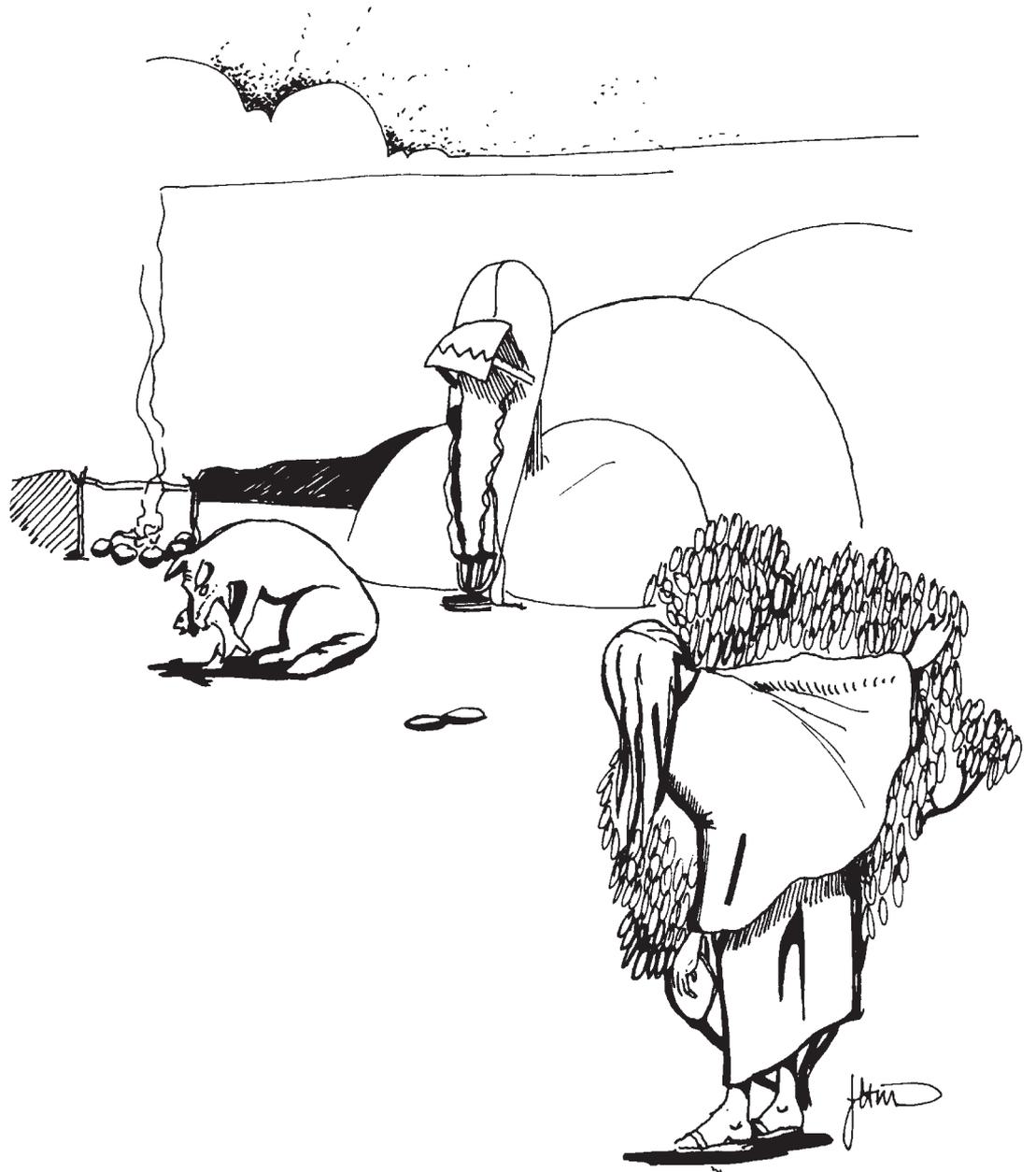
The two sisters heard him crying and pulled him out of the water and dried him off. They returned to camp and treated him like a baby. He even slept with them at night.

In the mornings they would go fishing. After they would leave Coyote untied the cradleboard to let himself out so he could get into mischief.



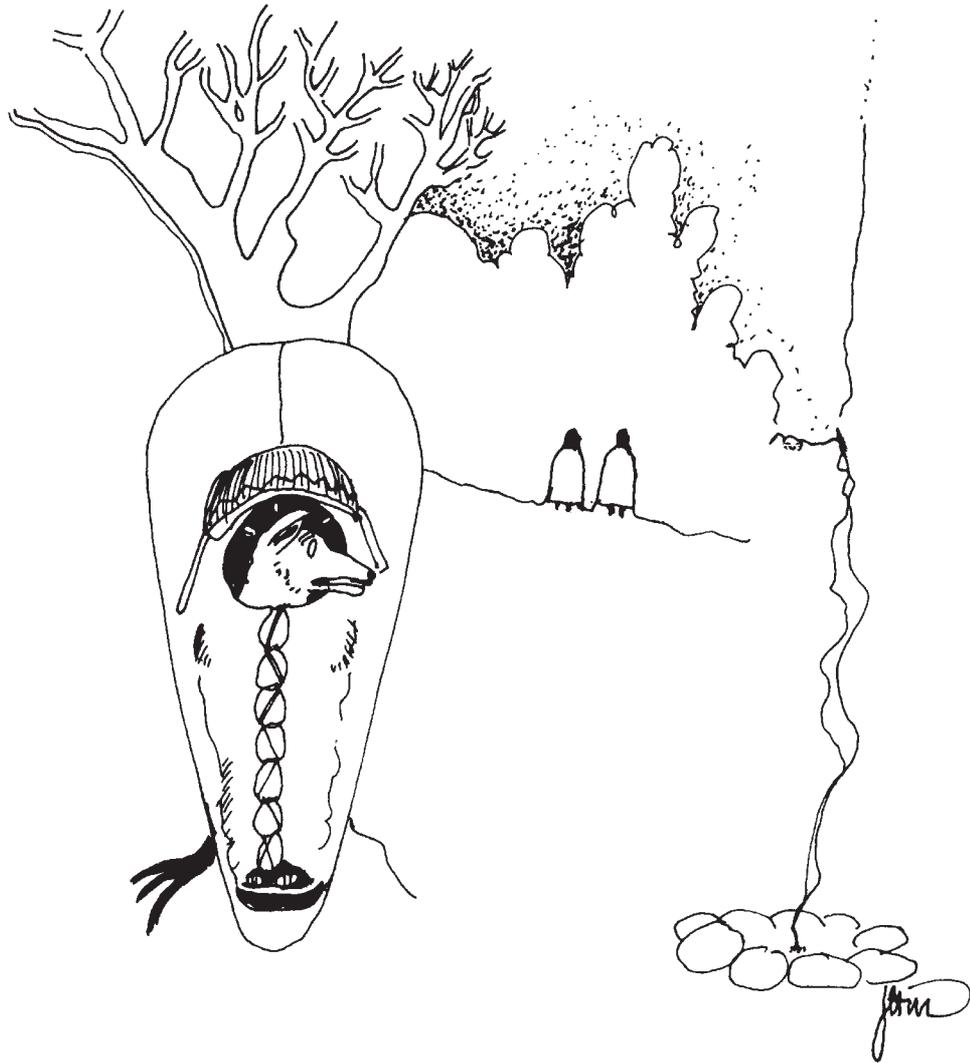
The sisters would use a spring to hold their fish in and old Coyote would let the fish out back into the stream.

When he heard them coming up the trail, he would get back into the cradleboard and tie himself up again.



He did this for several days.
One day the sisters got wise to
him. They tied him tightly in the
cradleboard and left him there all
alone.

Coyote tried to use his tricks
to play games but he got fooled
instead.



Coyote and the Cougar

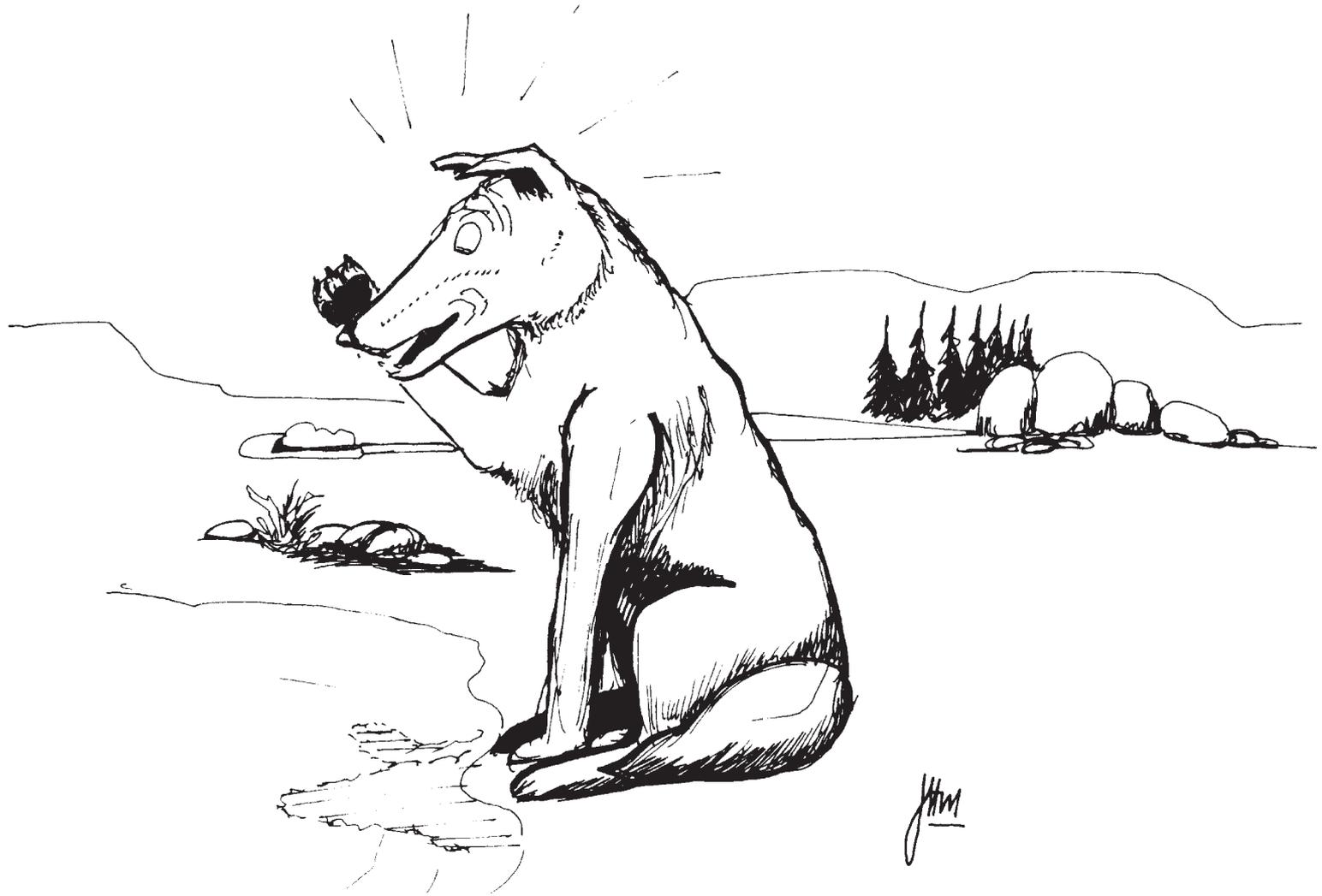


Coyote was walking along the river. He became tired and stopped to take a nap.

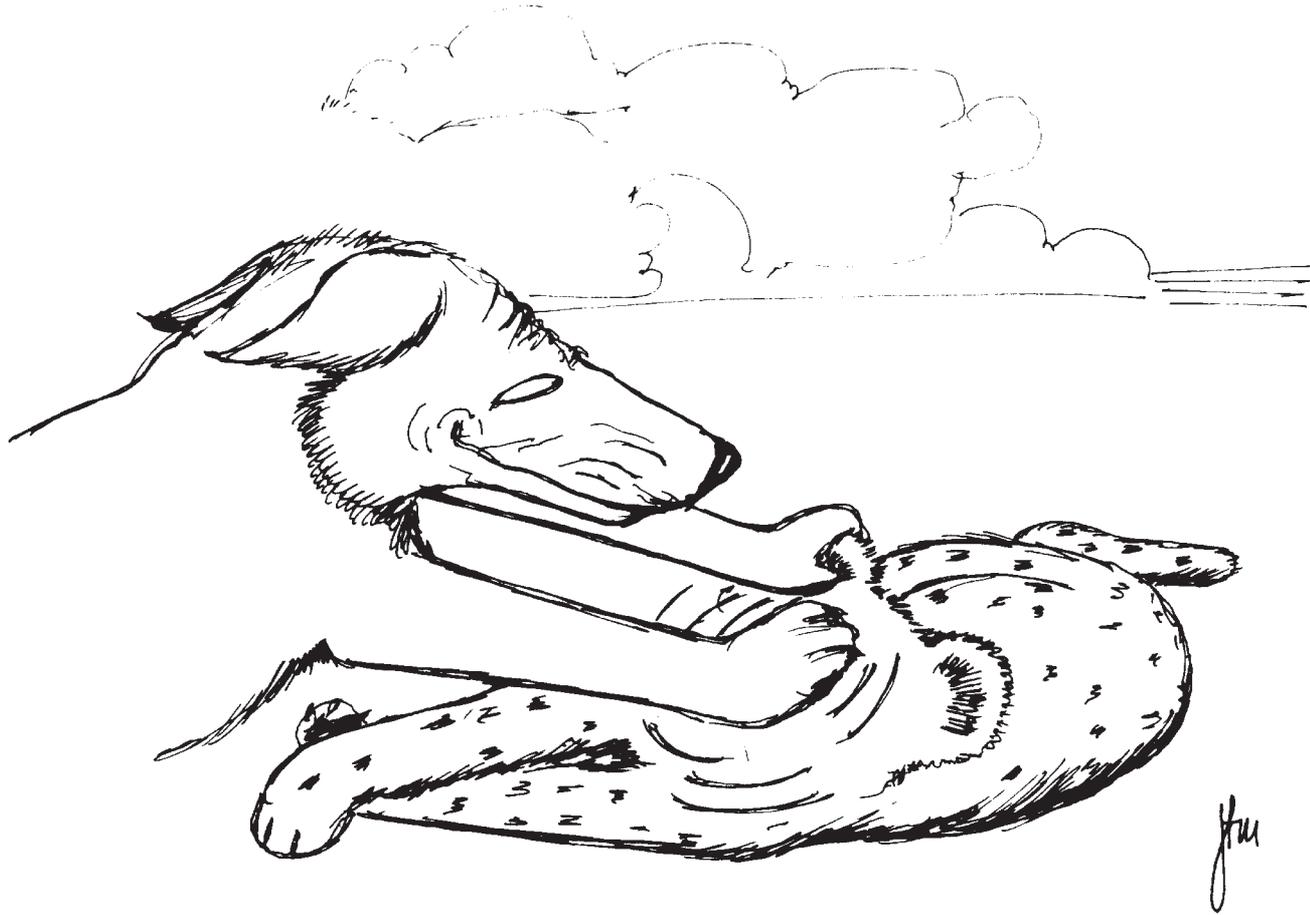


Cougar was walking along the same trail and saw Coyote sleeping. He stopped in front of the sleeping Coyote and said to himself, "This is how you should look." As he was shaping his nose into a long point he said, "This will make it easier to smell the gophers." After he shaped his nose, he went on his way. That's why Coyote has a sharp nose today.

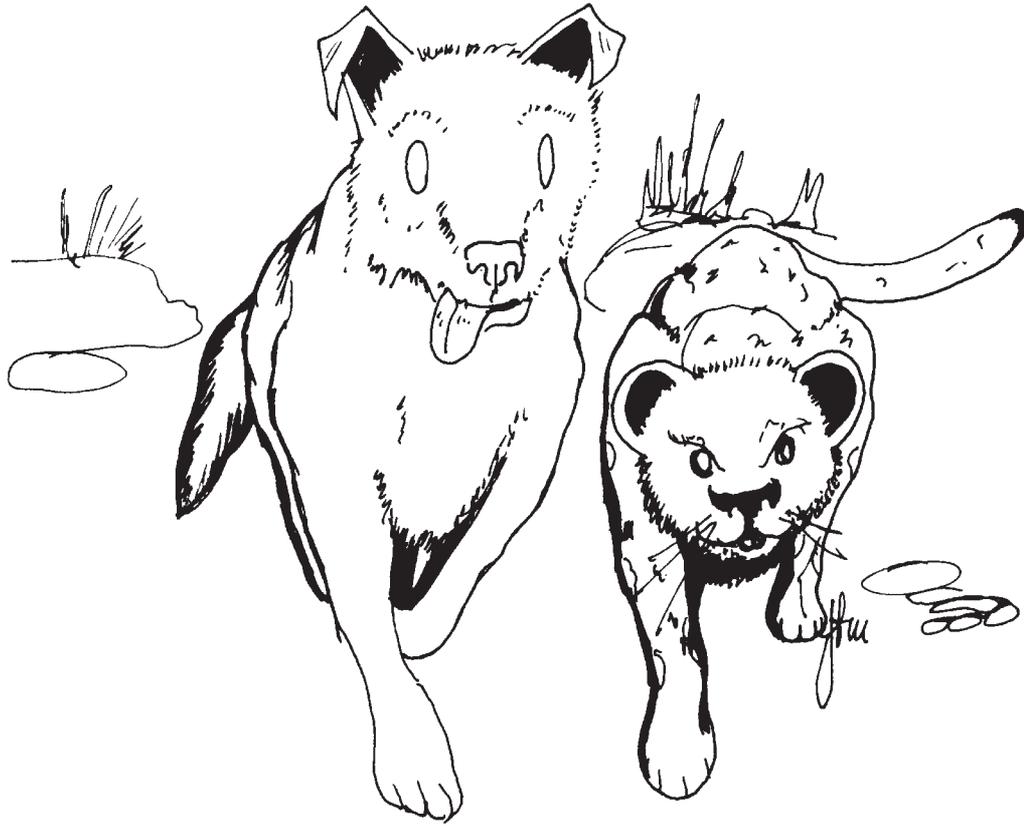
Soon Cougar became very tired and decided to lay down and take a nap.



Coyote woke up and was thirsty. He went to the river to get a drink and saw his reflection in the water. He noticed that his nose was shaped differently and became upset. Someone had played a trick on him.



He continued on down the trail and came upon Cougar who was sleeping. He decided to play a trick on him and shaped his nose round and flat. As he was shaping his nose, he told Cougar, "This is how you should look when you are hunting along the rimrock." This is why the cougar has a nose that is round and flat today.



Soon Cougar woke up and joined Coyote. They continued their walk together for awhile.

They parted along the trail. Coyote went hunting for gophers and Cougar went up the rimrock to hunt.



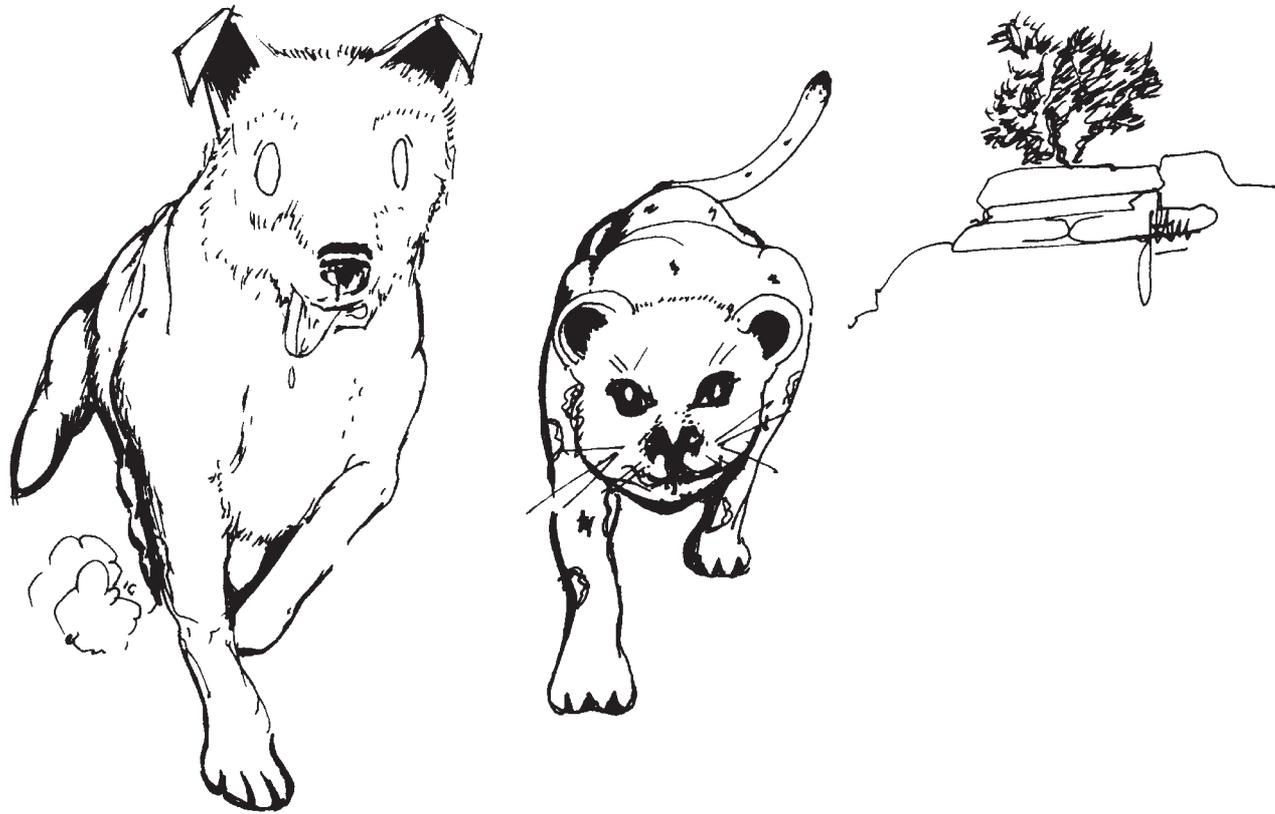
Coyote went on walking when something spooked him. He hid in the tall grass. He then realized that Cougar was out to kill him. They were trying to kill each other.



They met again and Coyote said, "Why don't we build a fire and tell stories?" They were both on the ground. Cougar climbed into a tree. Coyote had a plan for him. While Coyote wasn't looking Cougar had taken his fur off, rolled it into a ball, and put it under a tree. Coyote shot the fur with his bow and arrow.



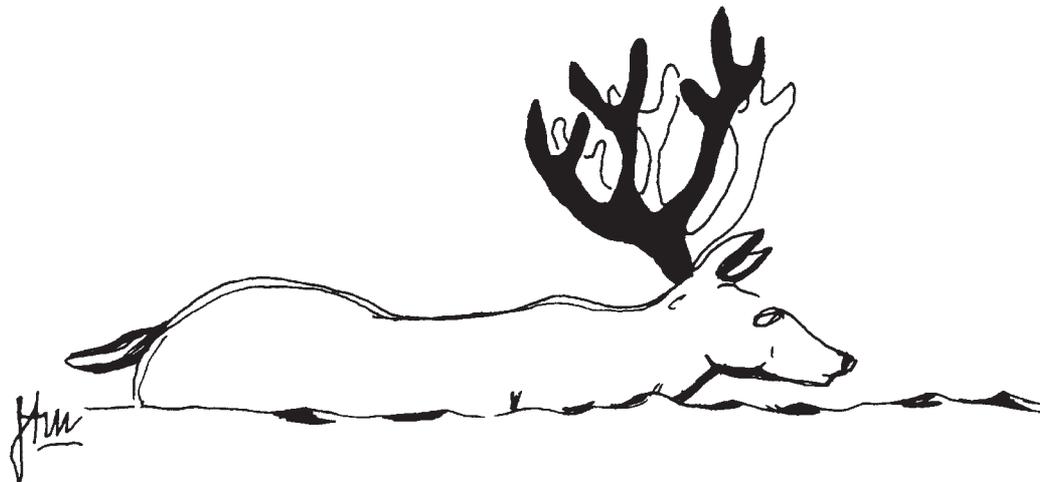
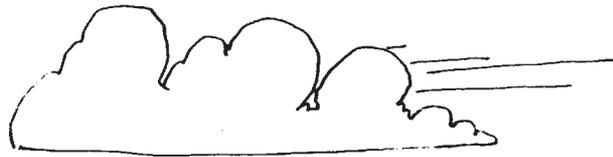
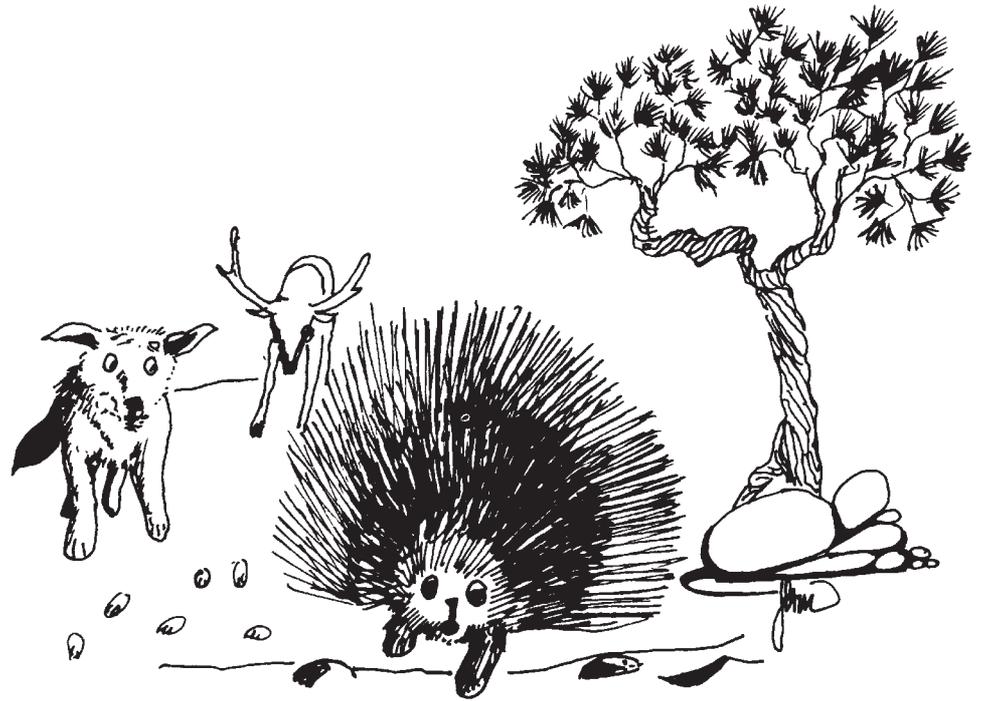
Thinking he had killed Cougar, he began to boil water to cook him. Cougar saw what Coyote had done and was up in the tree laughing at him.



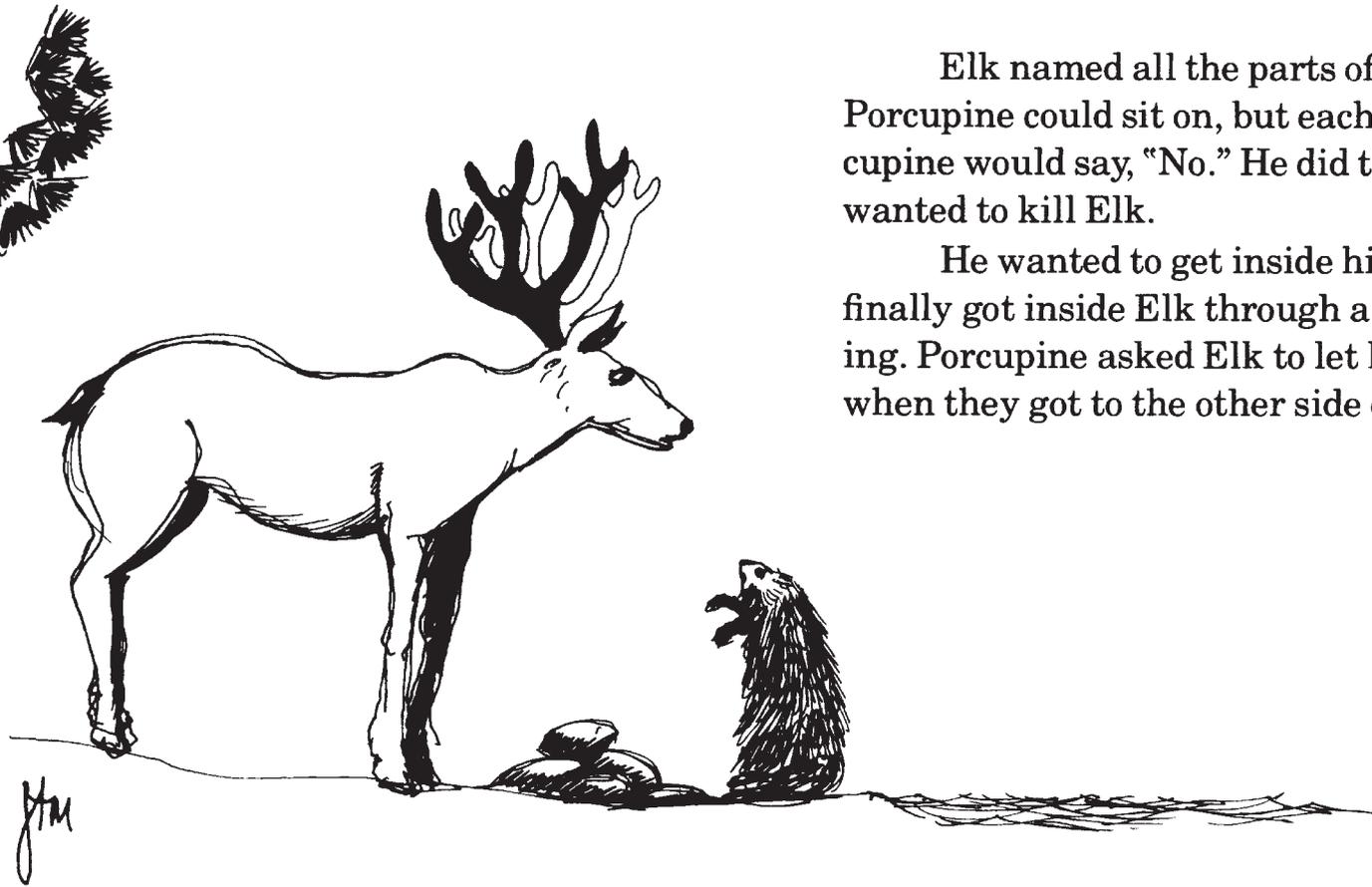
Finally, they realized they could not kill each other and became friends.

How Coyote Tricked Porcupine

Porcupine was trying to cross the river where there were a lot of animals. He wanted somebody to help him across. He asked each of the animals if they could help him. The animals all said, "Na," until it came to Elk. When Porcupine asked Elk, "Can you help me?", Elk answered, "Yes."



Elk went across the swift river to the other side where Porcupine was waiting. Porcupine asked him, "Where should I sit?" "You can sit on my ears," answered Elk. Porcupine said, "But I might fall off when you shake your ears."

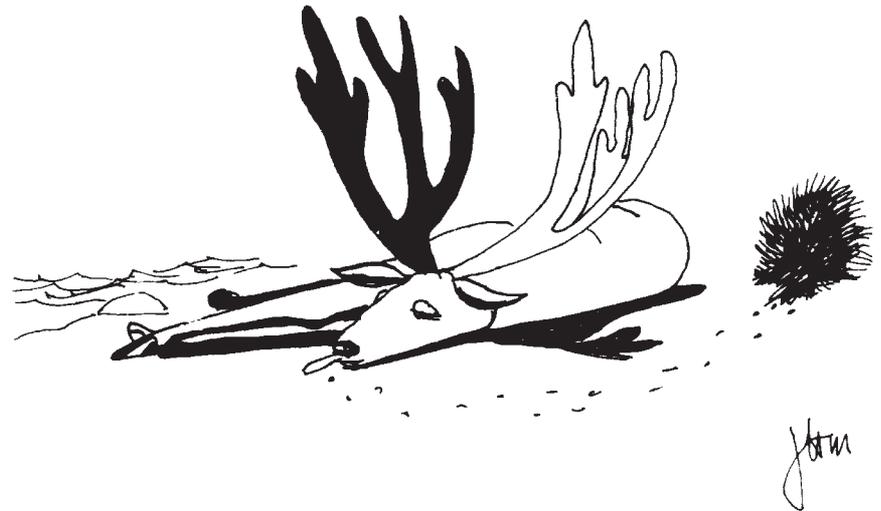


Elk named all the parts of his body that Porcupine could sit on, but each time Porcupine would say, "No." He did this because he wanted to kill Elk.

He wanted to get inside his stomach and finally got inside Elk through a natural opening. Porcupine asked Elk to let him know when they got to the other side of the river.

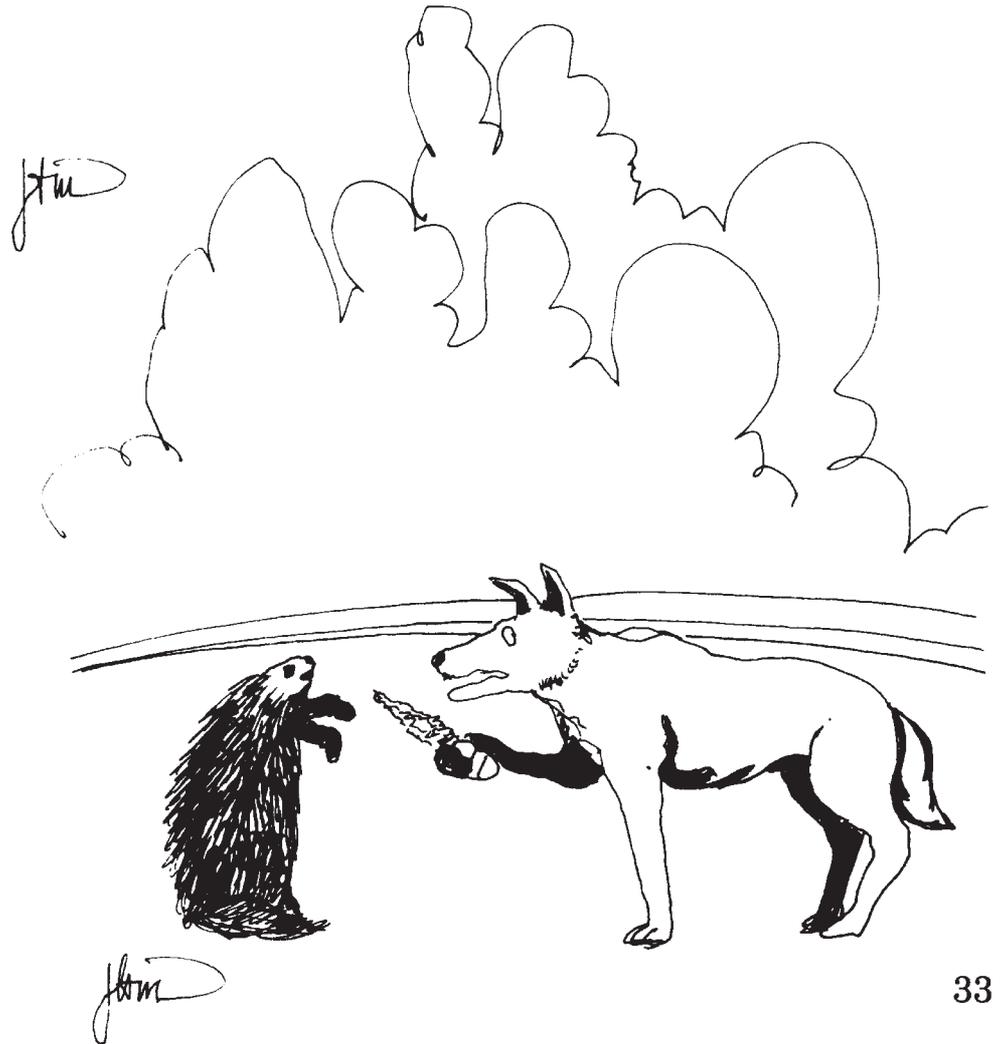
When they reached the other side of the river, Porcupine shook his quills and killed Elk.

After he got out, he dragged the carcass onto the bank. Porcupine started to look for obsidian with which to cut him up.





Coyote spied Porcupine looking for obsidian along the river and saw him talking to himself. Coyote asked Porcupine, "What are you talking about?"



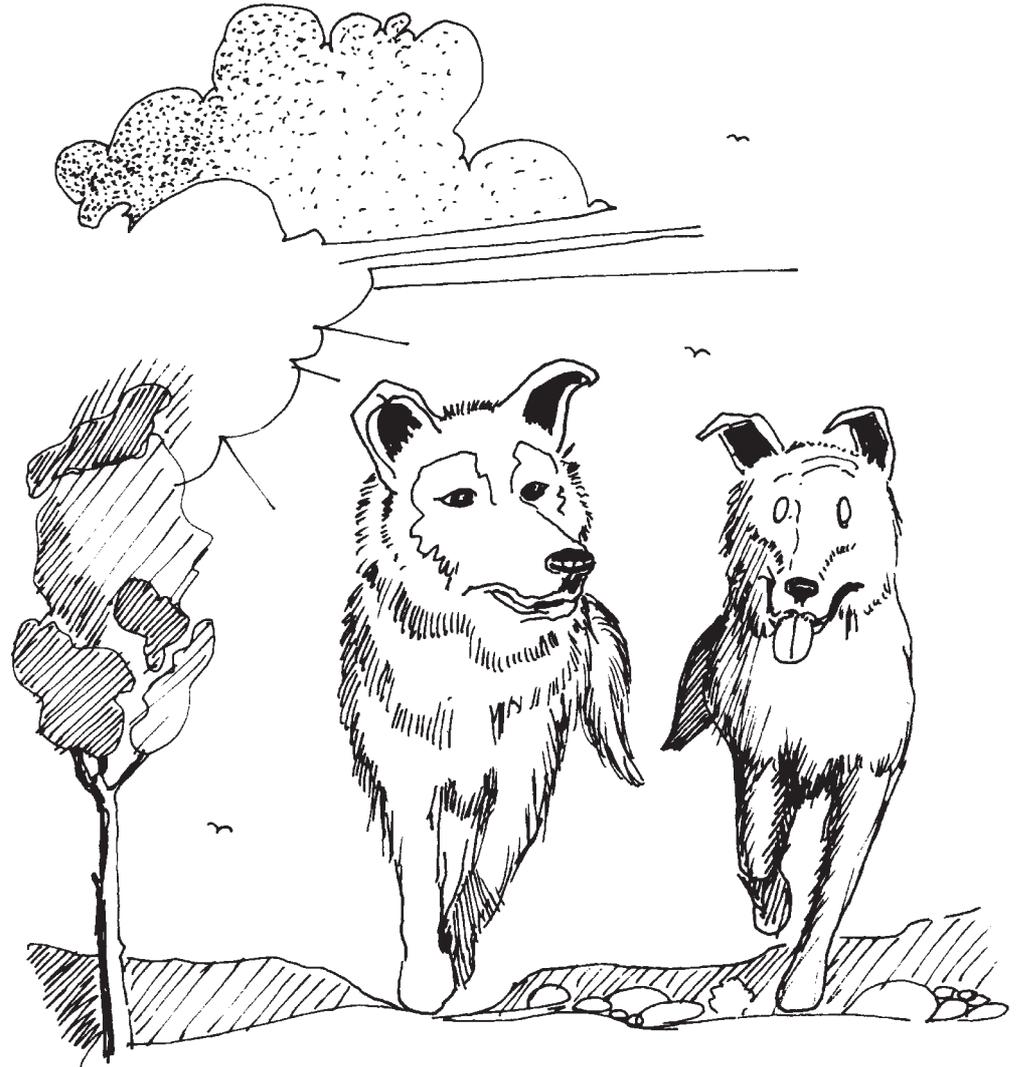
Porcupine tried to pretend that he wasn't talking about anything. But Coyote had already overheard him talking about looking for some sharp obsidian to cut up Elk. He asked Porcupine, "Do you need a knife?" and offered his knife to Porcupine.



When they got to Elk, Coyote had a plan. He would wait until after they cut up Elk. He asked Porcupine if he wanted to make a deal. The deal was, whoever jumped over Elk the farthest would win all the meat. Porcupine tried to run as fast as he could but didn't quite make it and bounced back. Coyote ran and jumped over Elk, so he won.

Nosy Coyote

Wolf and Coyote went hunting. Everyday they would camp at a nice spring. Wolf would say to the camp, "I would like for you to be set up at another spring with good water."



Jim

Each time, their camp would be set up before they got there. Coyote could not figure it out. He wondered who was always setting these camps up.



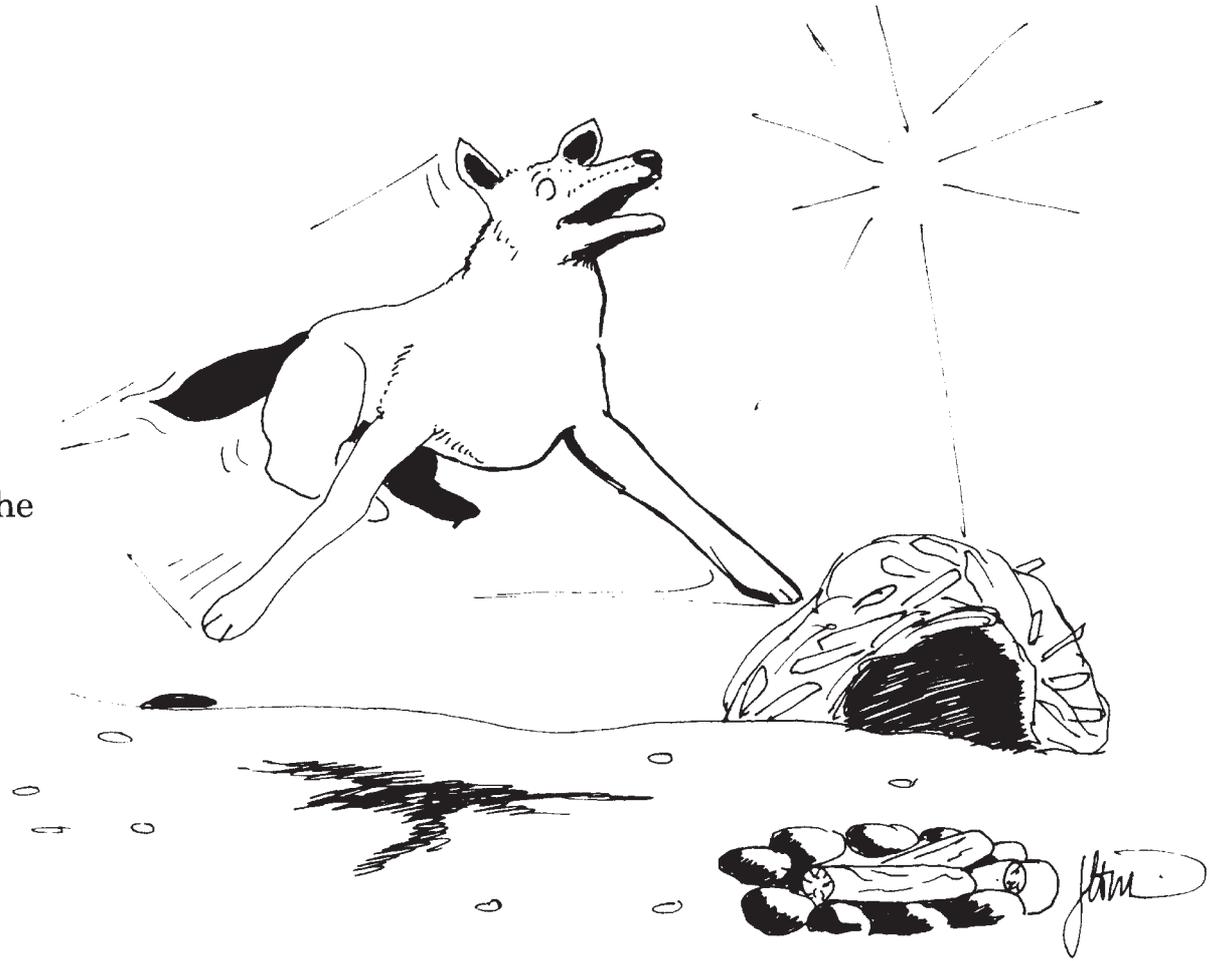
Later, he told his brother Wolf, "Why don't you go along the other side of the water and I'll follow this trail." He wanted to see who was always putting up and taking down the camp each time.



He went and hid behind some bushes to watch. Soon a pretty Indian girl came along and started to take the camp down and pack it up.



Coyote ran as fast as he could toward the girl but she disappeared. Coyote looked for the girl but no girl could be found.



He tried to say in a loud voice to the camp, "Can you go set up by that nice cool spring?" He ran over to that certain spring but there wasn't any camp set up.

He went back to the old camp and it was still set up. Not a thing was taken down.

Coyote had spoiled everything by being nosy.





RUTH ADAMS

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
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
Reservation
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
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
9. *The Bear Teepee*
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
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
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



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