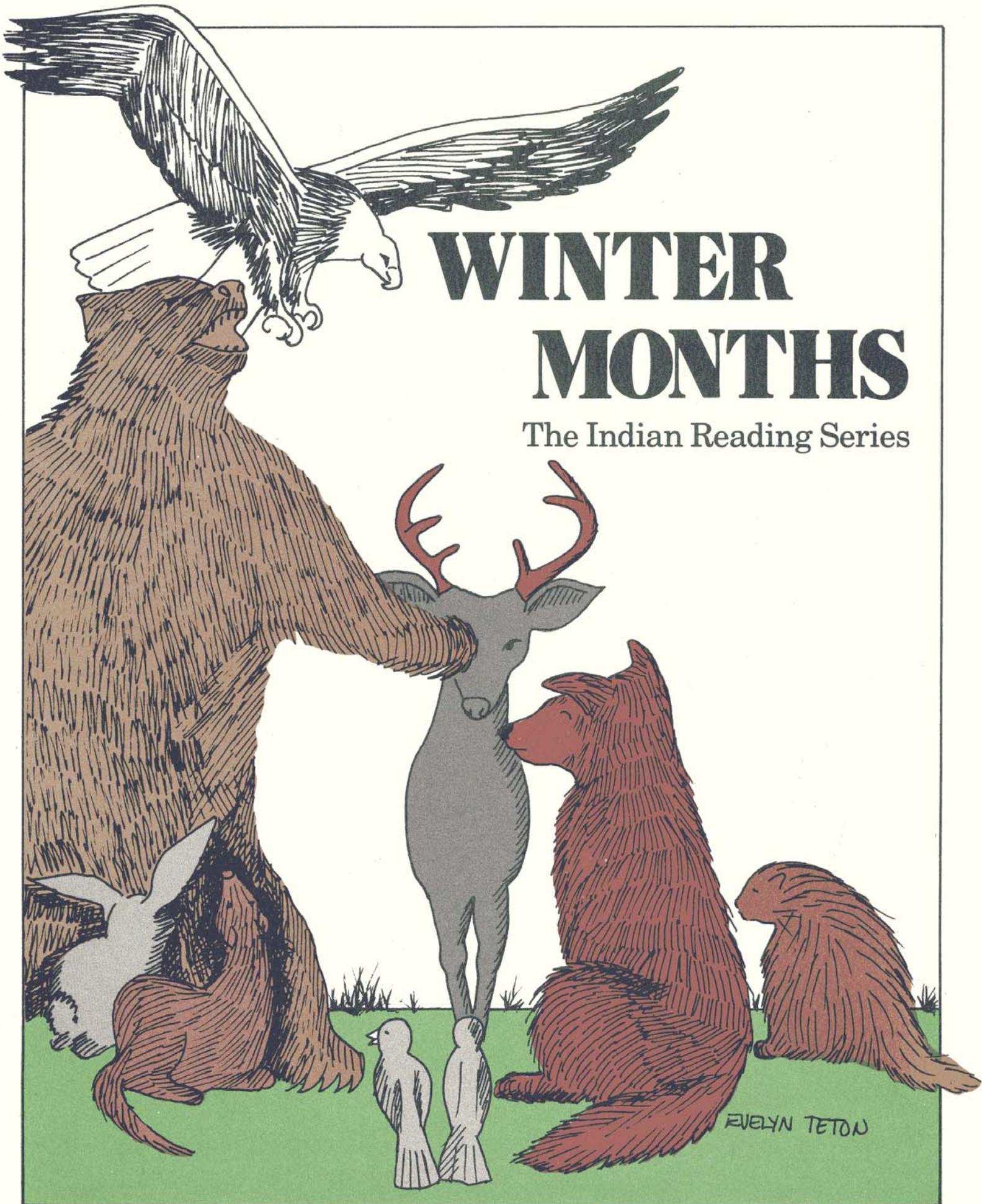


WINTER MONTHS

The Indian Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Winter Months

Series V

By members of the Fort Hall Reservation Committee

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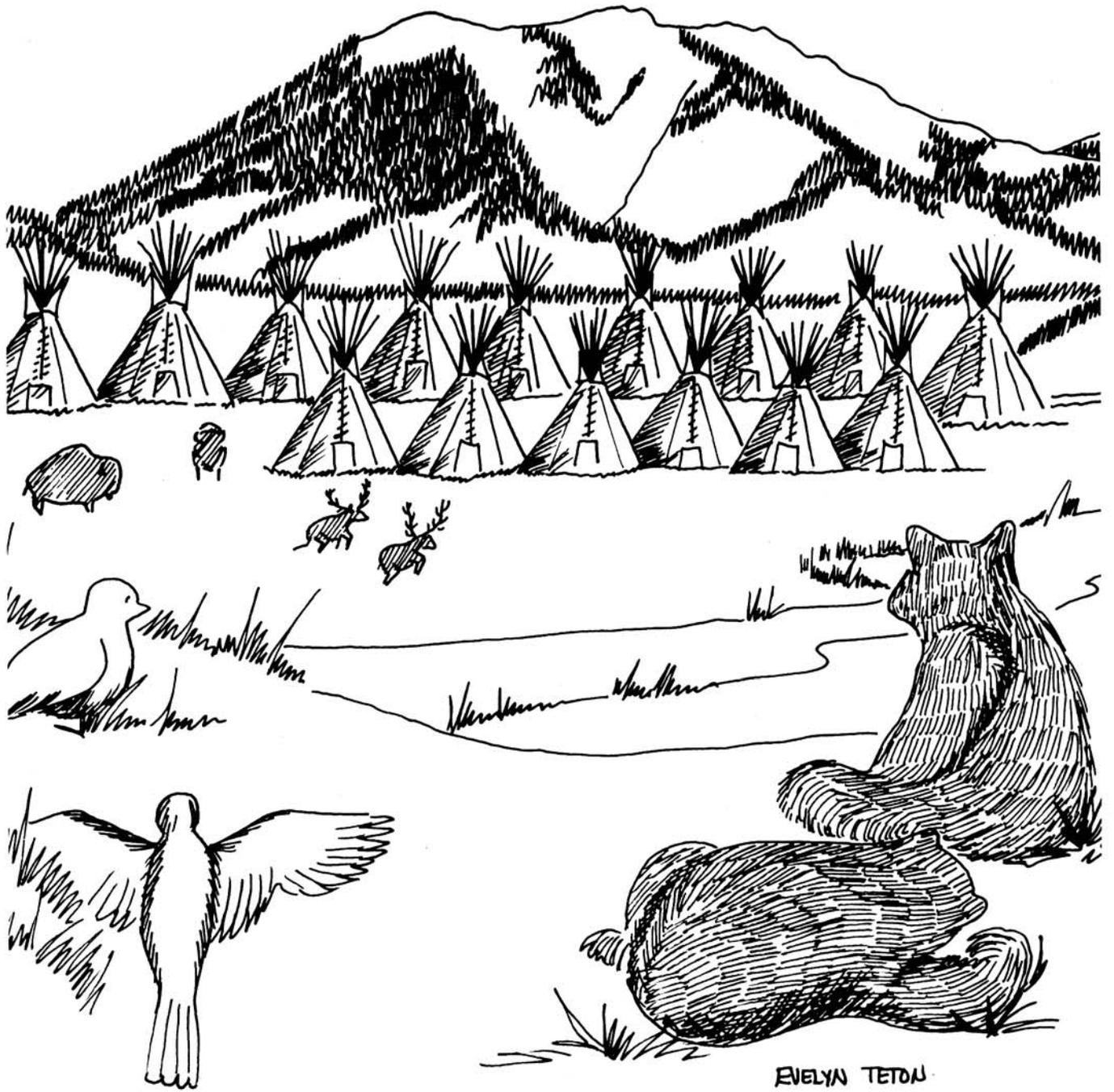
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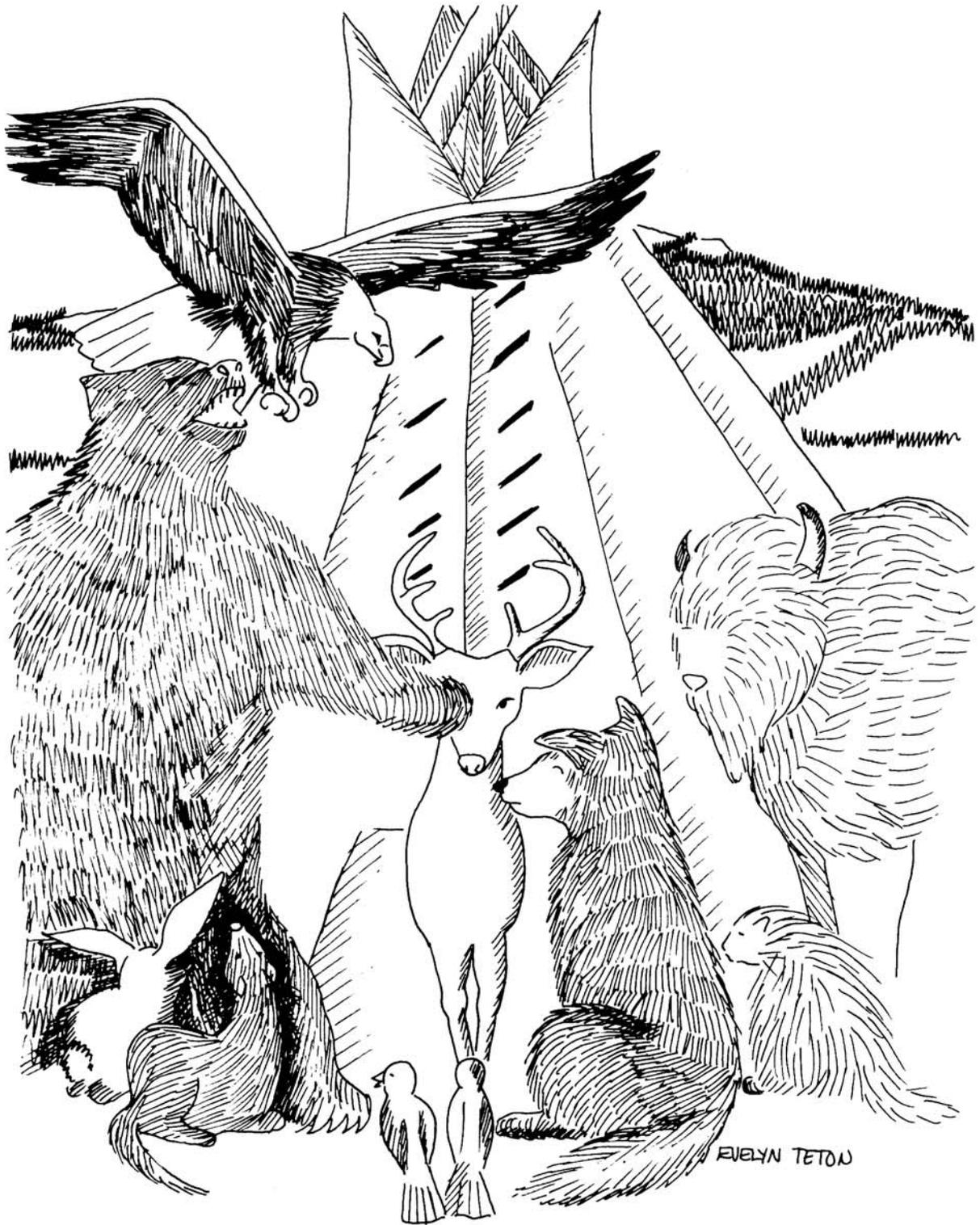
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A long time ago when animals and birds were people, many different kinds lived together in a large village. This was the time when the earth was first formed and there were no seasons.



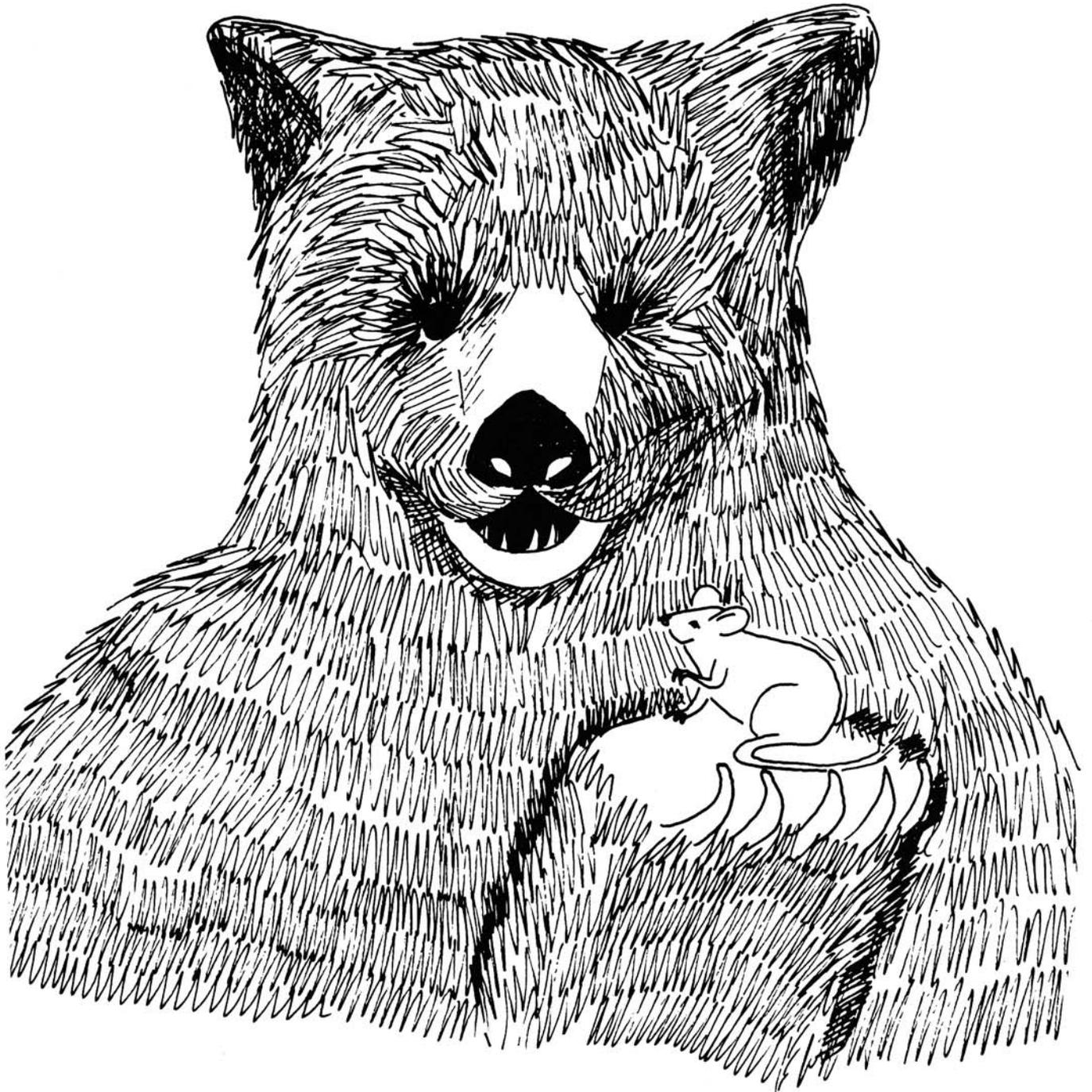
The people in the village were undecided about the length of the seasons. They were especially concerned about the length of the winter season.



It was decided that the leaders would have a meeting and vote on the length of the cold months. The meeting was to be held in the largest tepee.

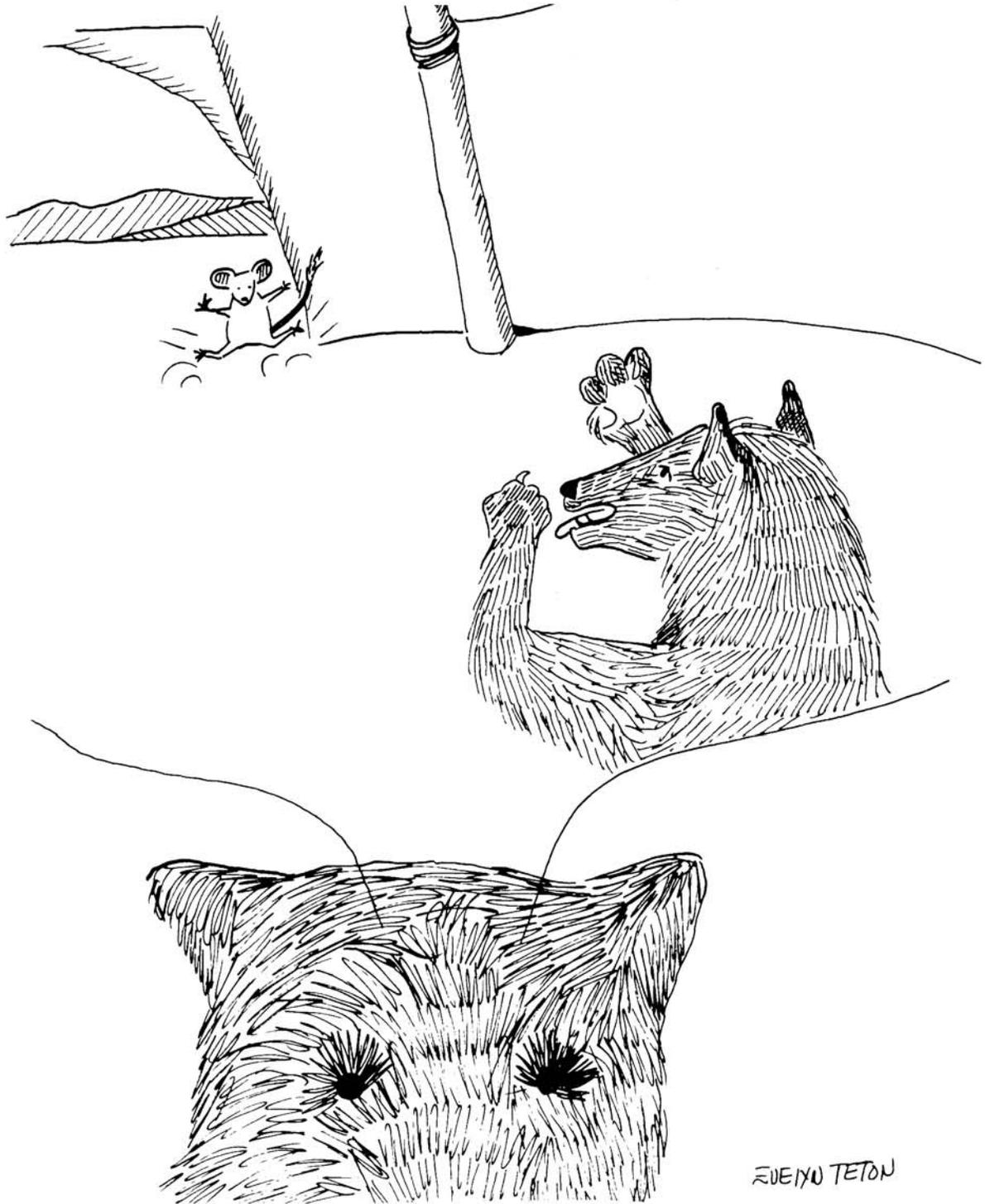


All the leaders except Coyote agreed winter should last three months.

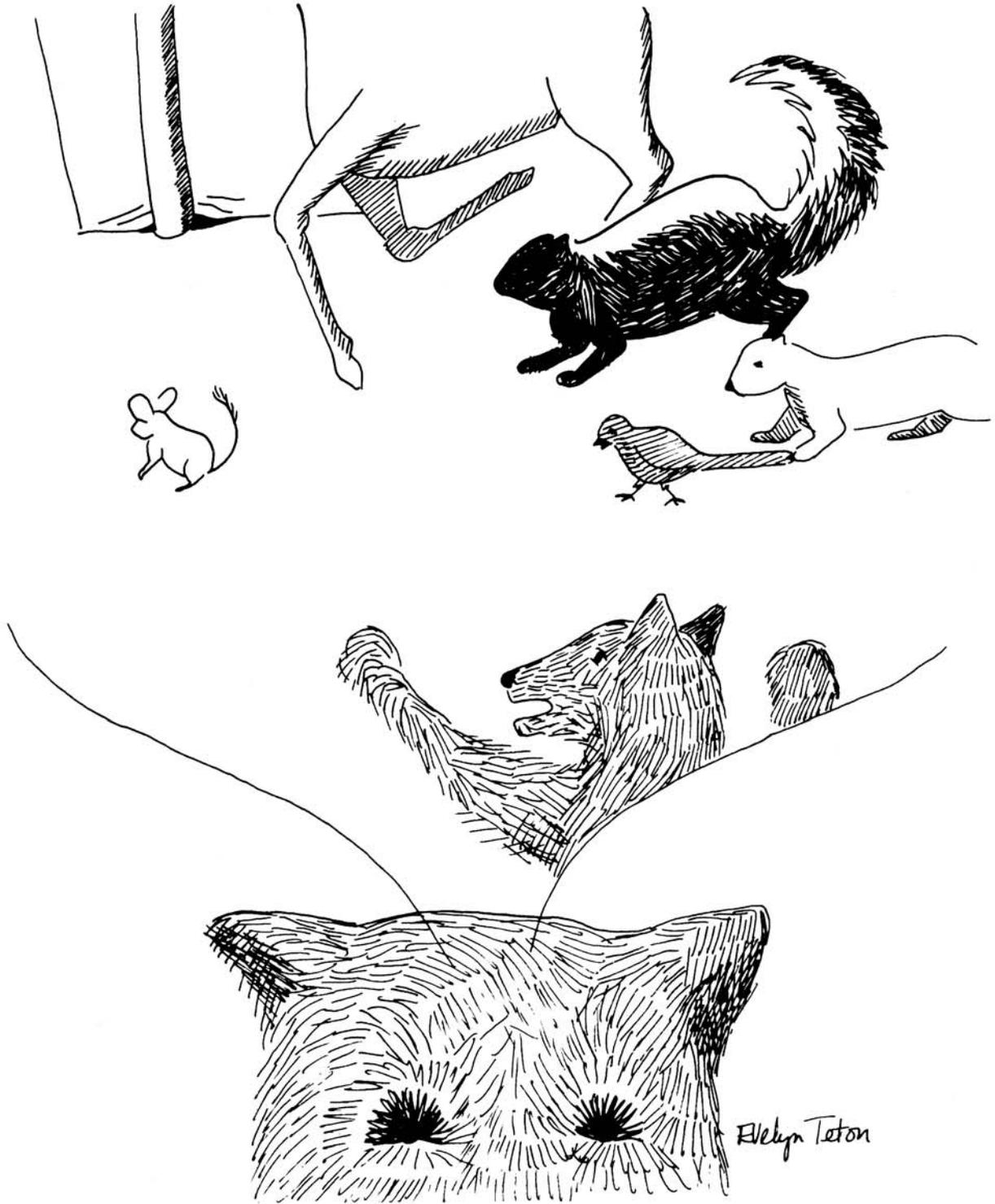


EVELYN TETON

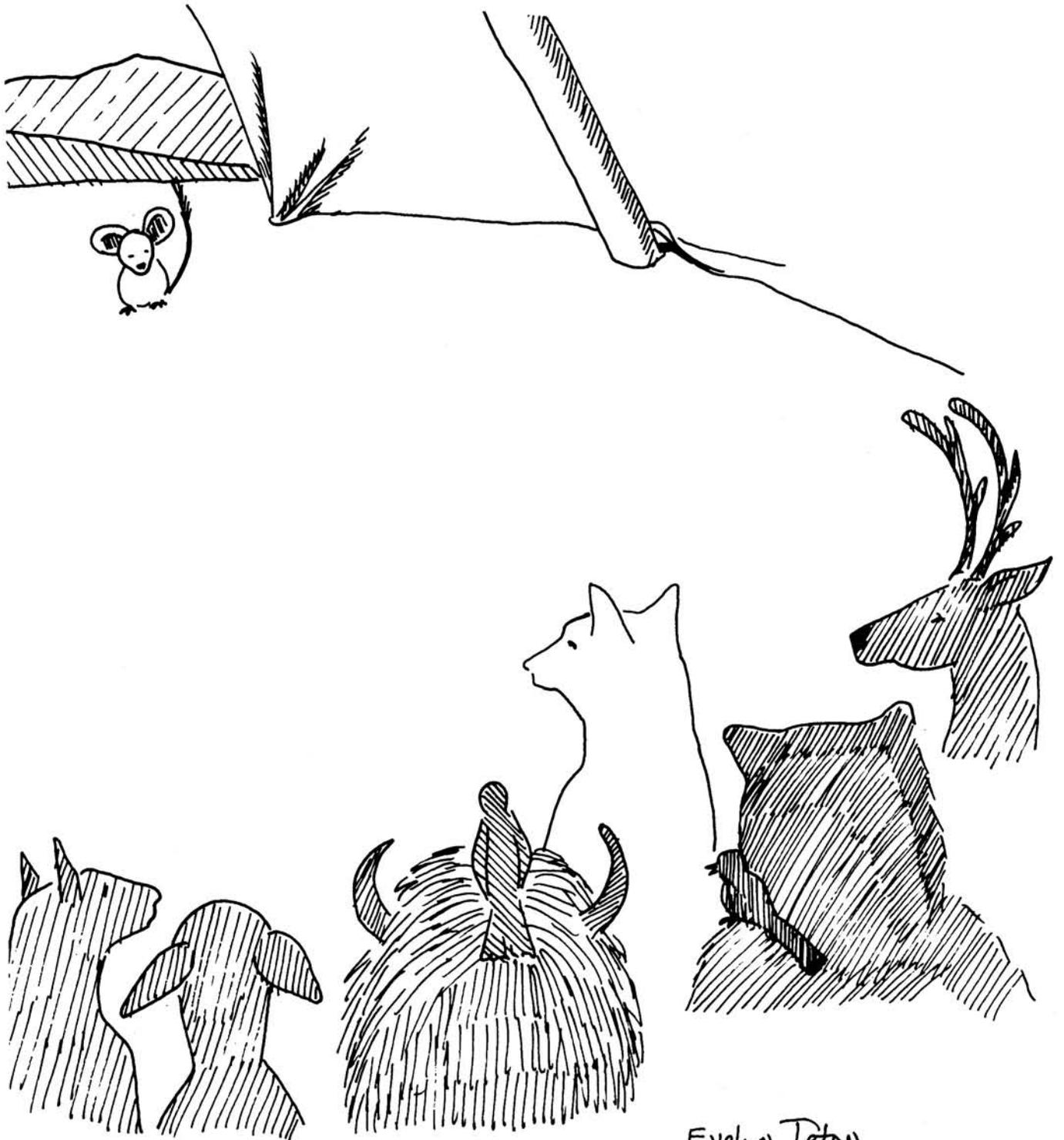
This worried the leaders because they thought Coyote's vote would make winter last longer. They tried desperately to think of a way to block Coyote's vote. One of the elders said, "My brother Woe-bee-bah-noh-ch (Jumping Mouse) can block Coyote's vote."



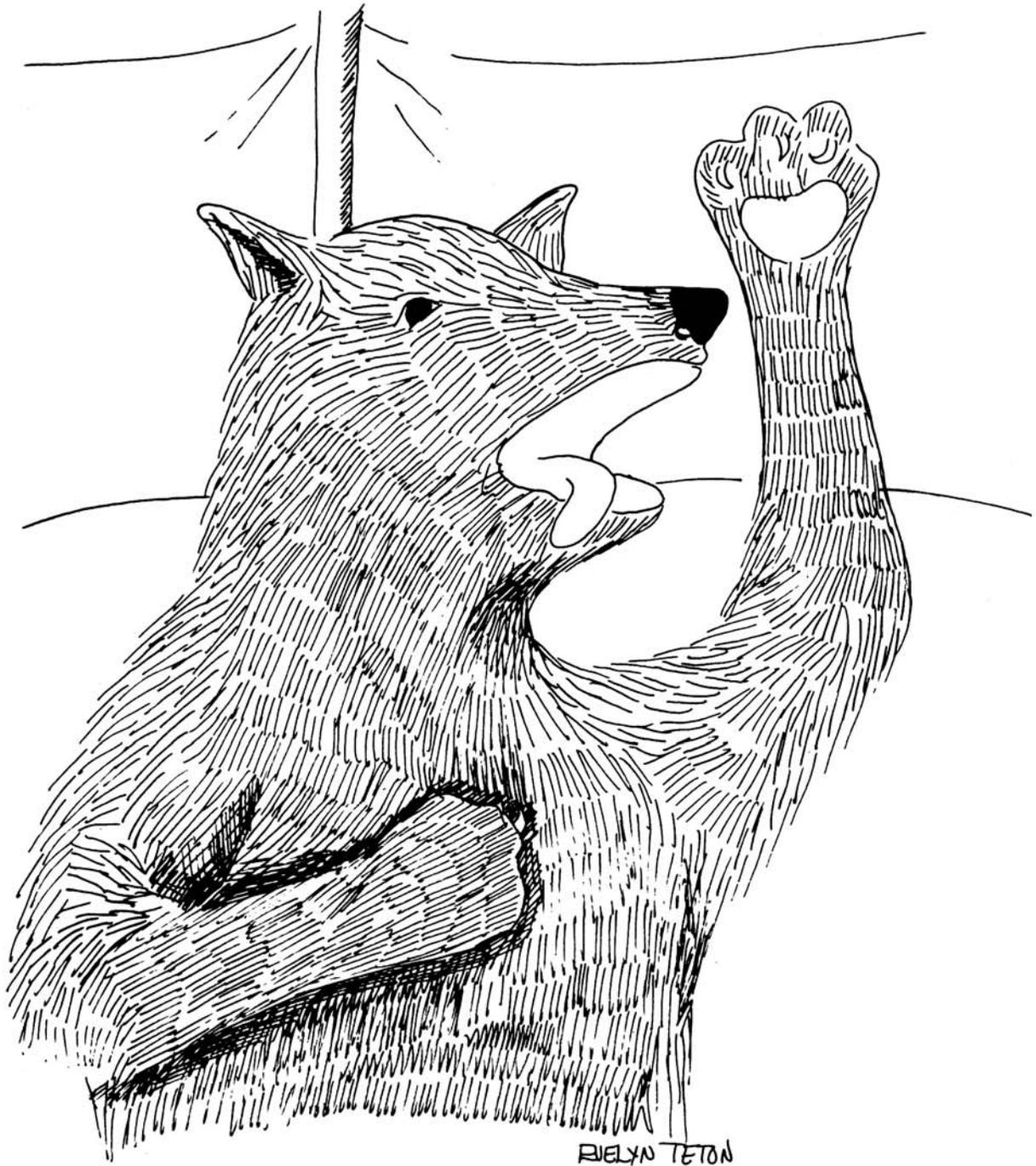
A plan was formed. Jumping Mouse was to sit next to the doorway. As soon as Coyote started counting the Spring months, Jumping Mouse was to jump up and say, "We only want three months of Winter."



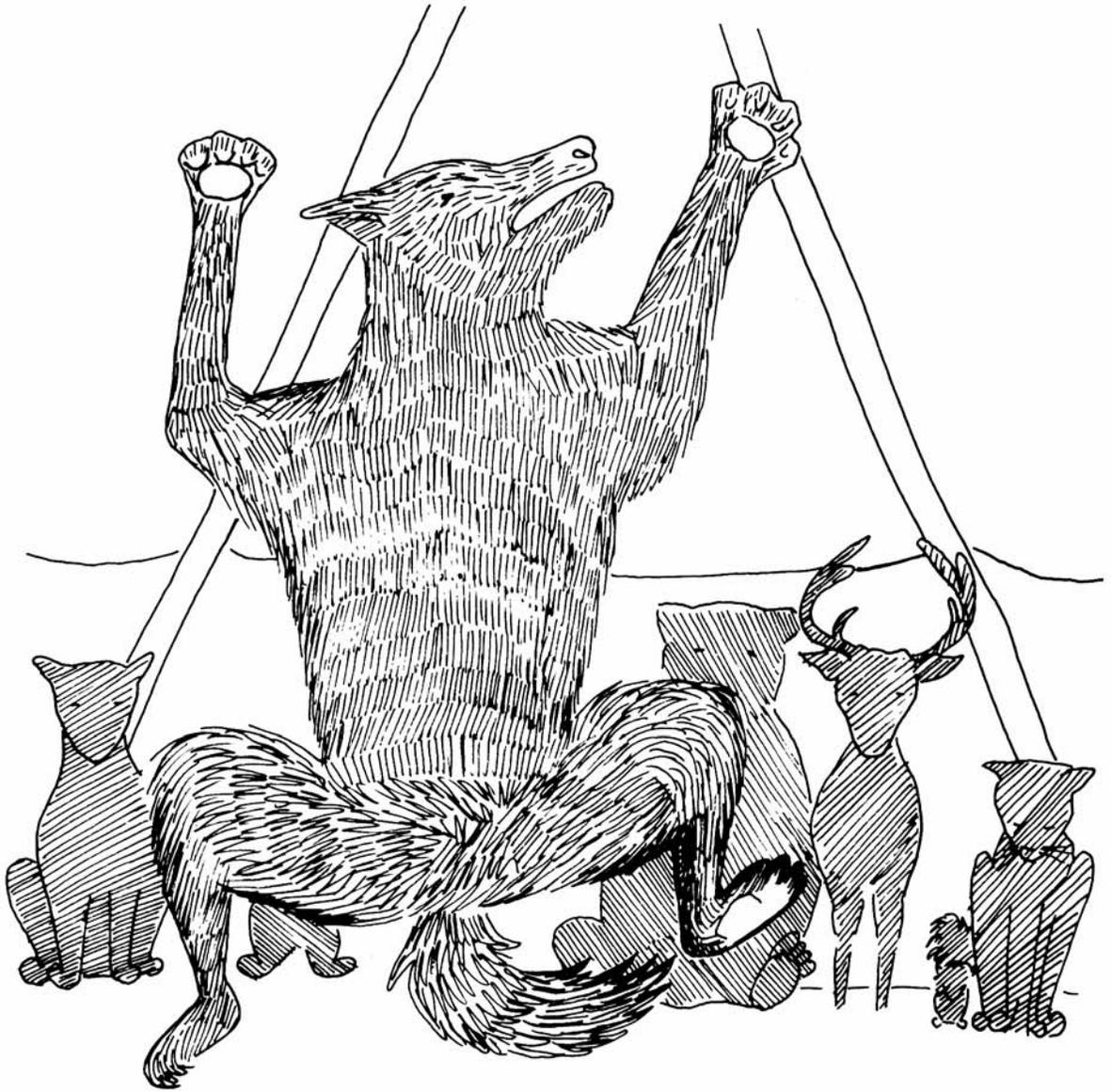
Then Jumping Mouse was to walk out and everyone was to follow him. This was the only way they knew to outsmart that tricky old Coyote.



The meeting went just as expected. Coyote sat in the center of the tepee and Jumping Mouse sat by the door.

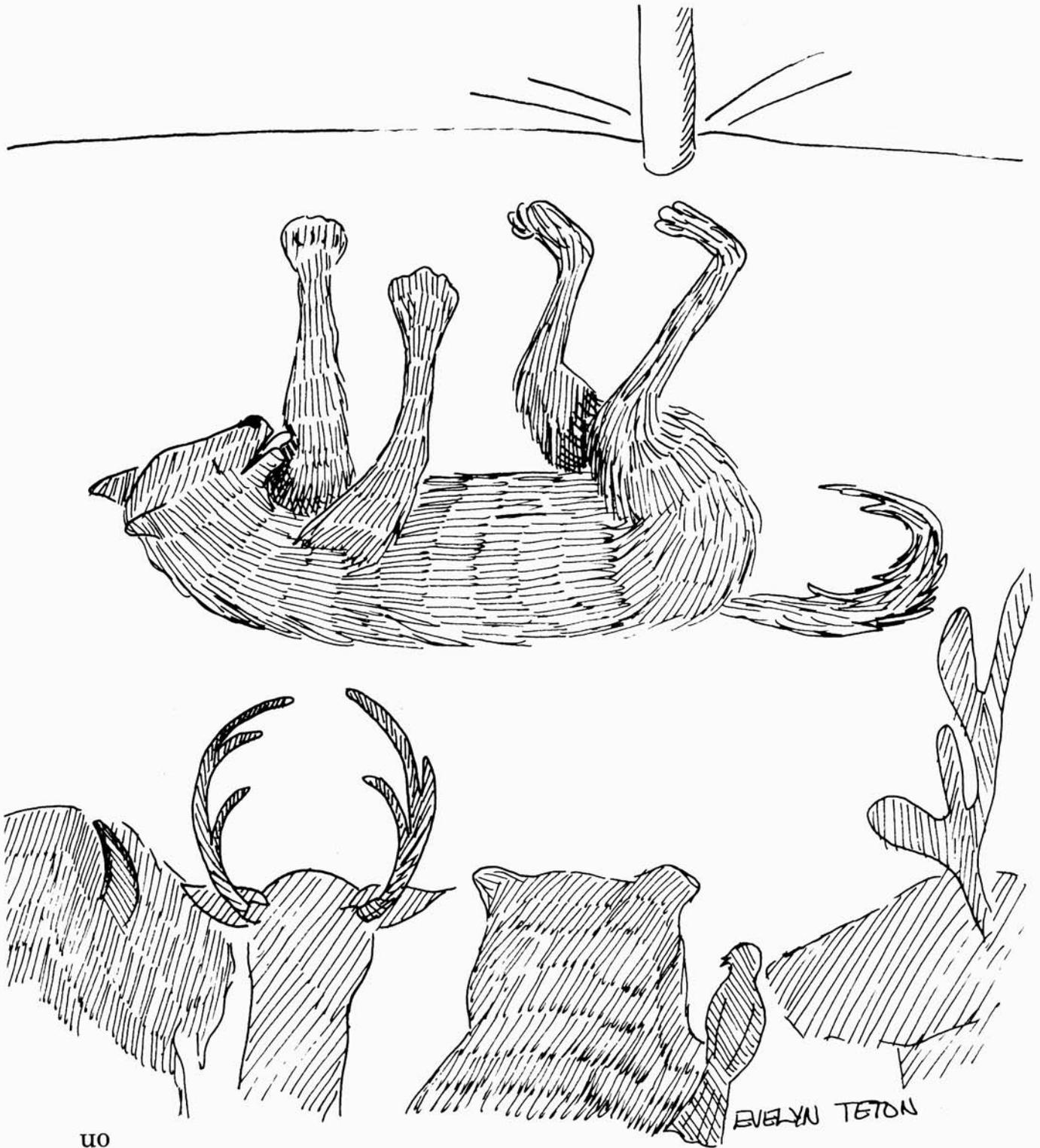


One of the leaders started naming the months in Indian, starting with Fall (November). Coyote just couldn't sit still any longer, so he yelled out in a real loud, excited voice, "Wait a minute. Let me count out the months."



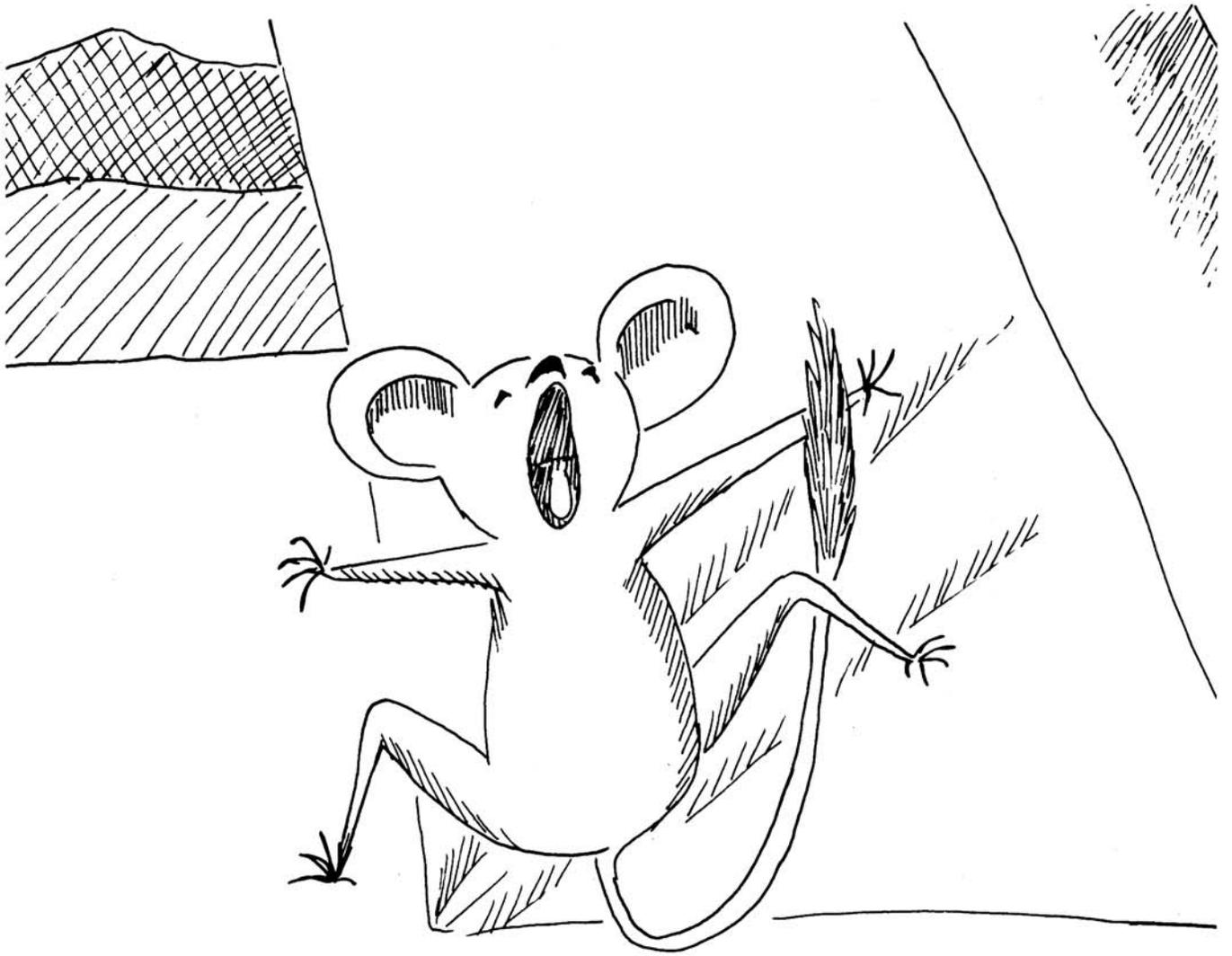
RUBY TETON

Coyote immediately held up his hands and starting counting on his fingers.



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When he had run out of fingers he laid down, sticking his feet in the air, so he could count on his toes.

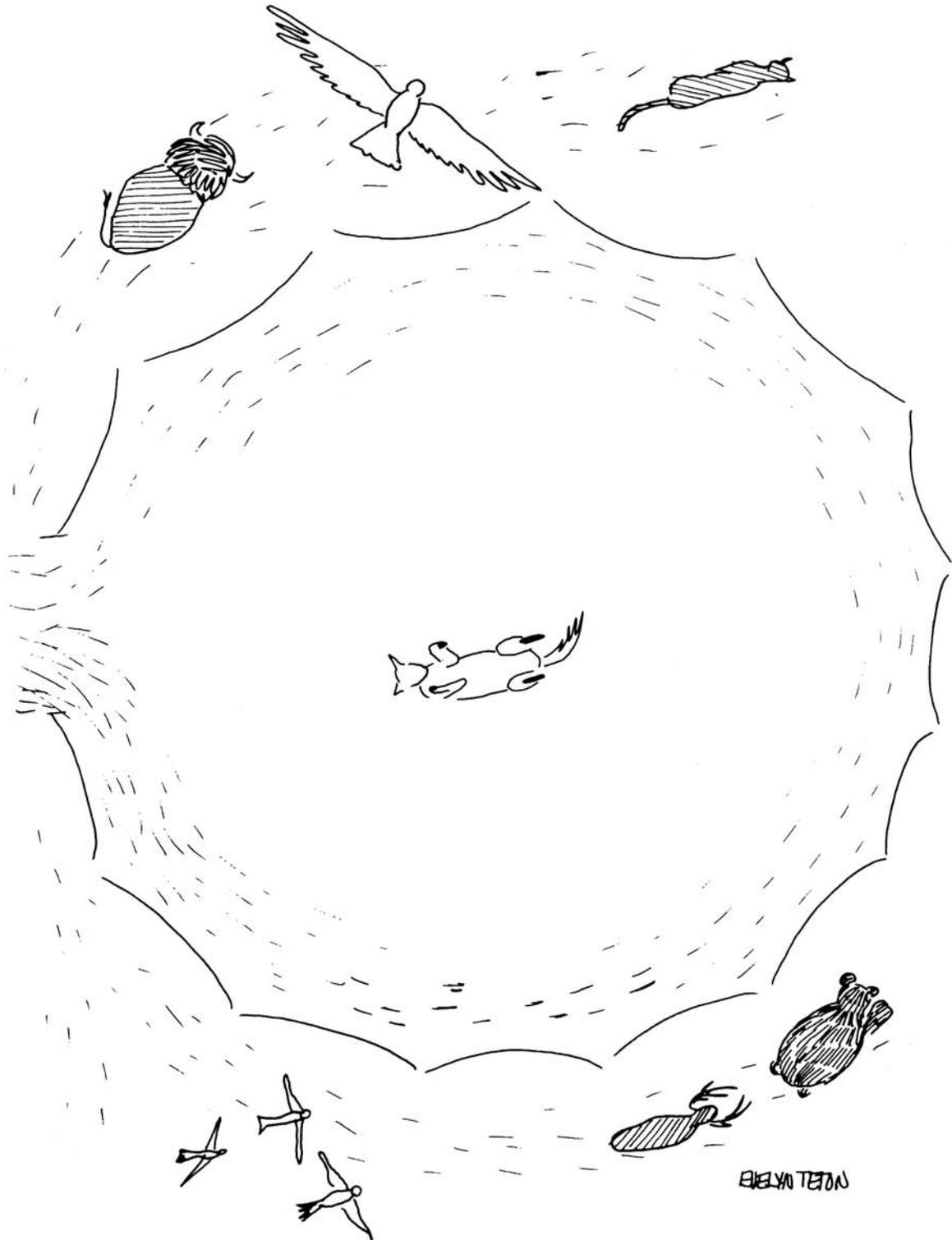


EVELYN TETON

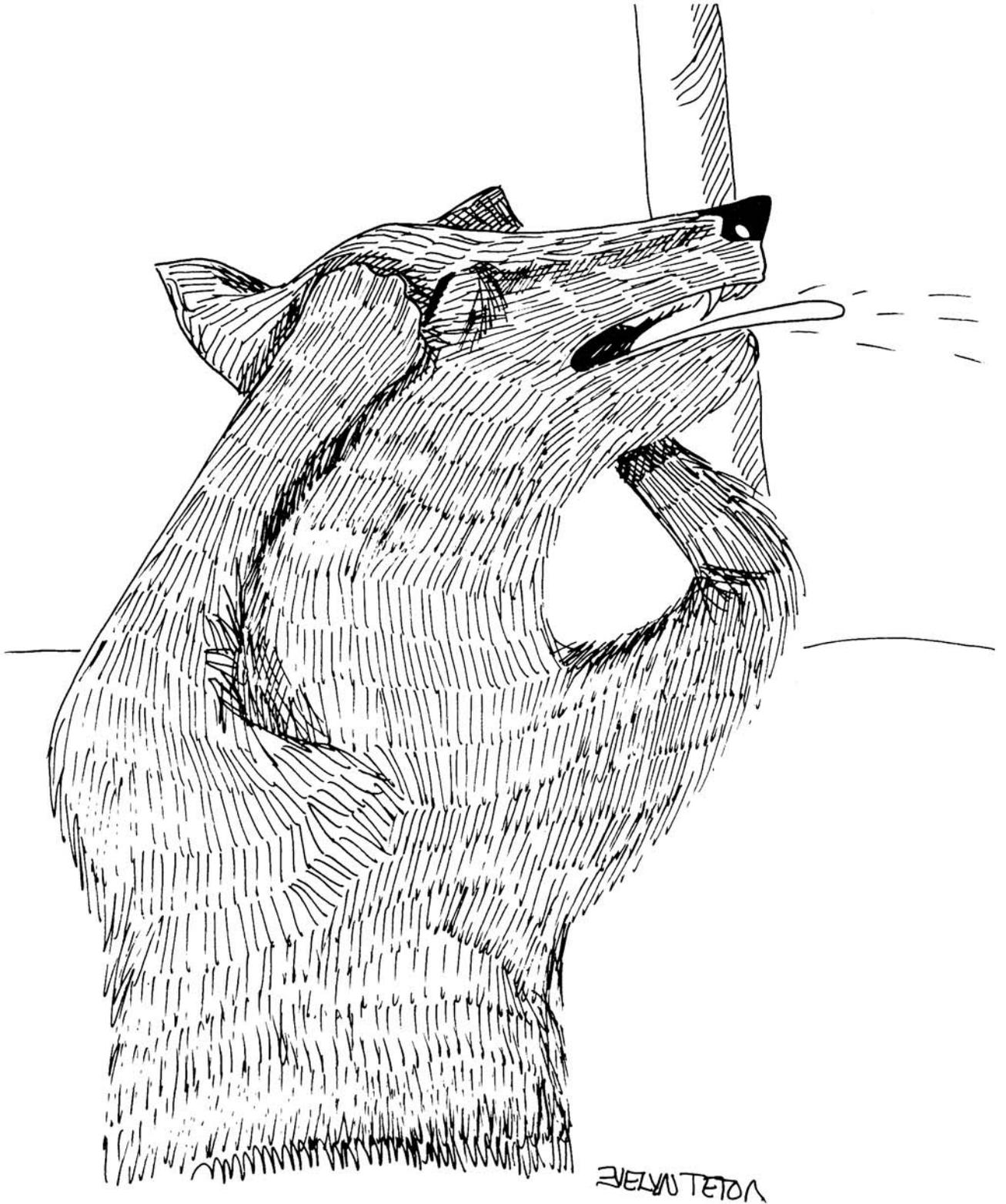
When Coyote got to Spring, the signal word, Jumping Mouse jumped up.

Jumping Mouse hollered out, "That's it! That's it! We will have three months of winter."

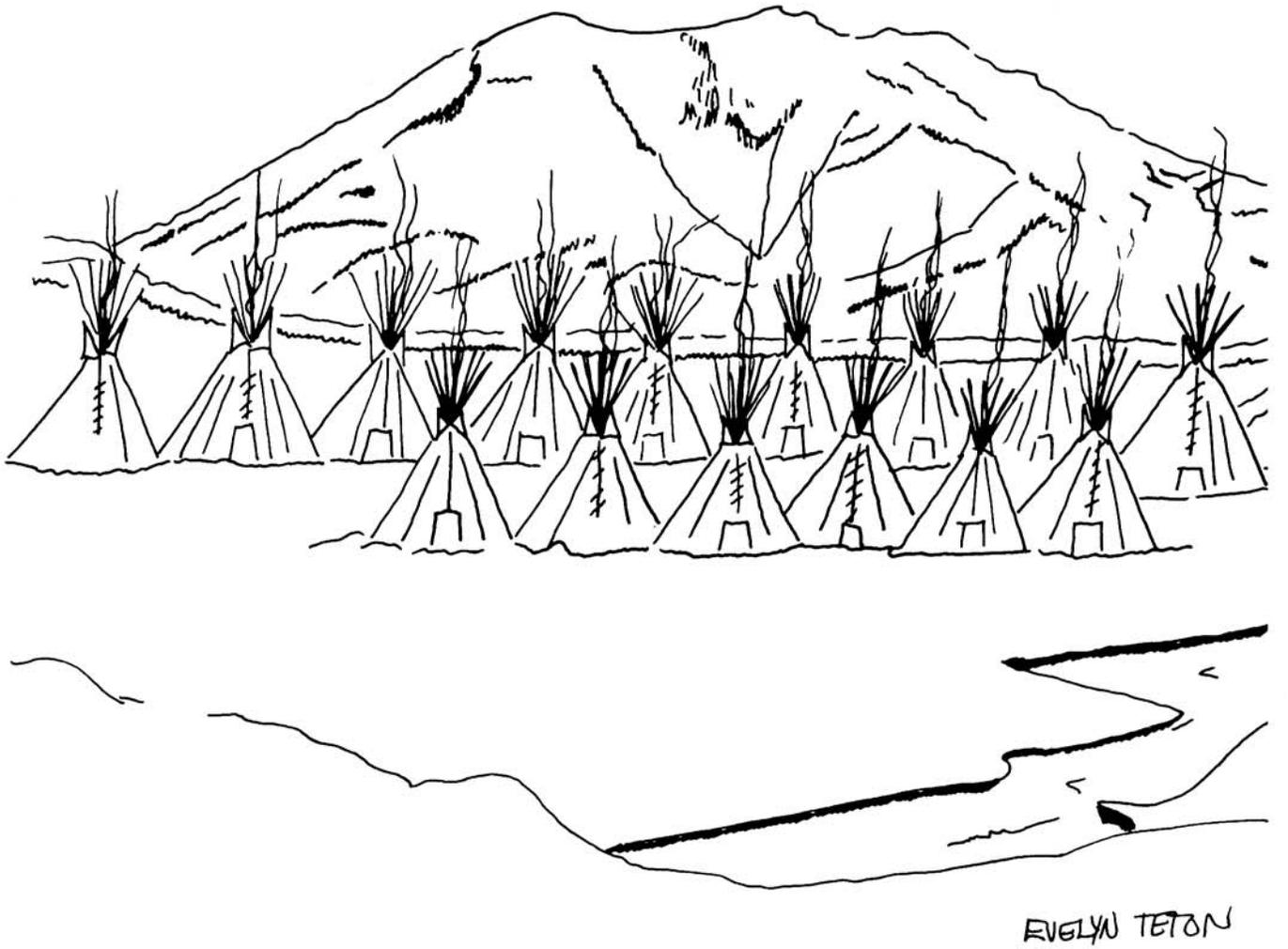
After saying that Jumping Mouse walked out of the tepee just as planned and the others followed him.



This left poor old Coyote on his back with all fours in the air, right in the middle of that huge tepee.



He was so surprised all he could do was sputter.



That is how the people won the vote to have only three months of cold Winter.

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 Tepee*
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. *Tepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



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