



Coyote Arranges the Seasons

The Indian Reading Series

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and legends of the Northwest

Coyote Arranges the Seasons

Level V Book 12

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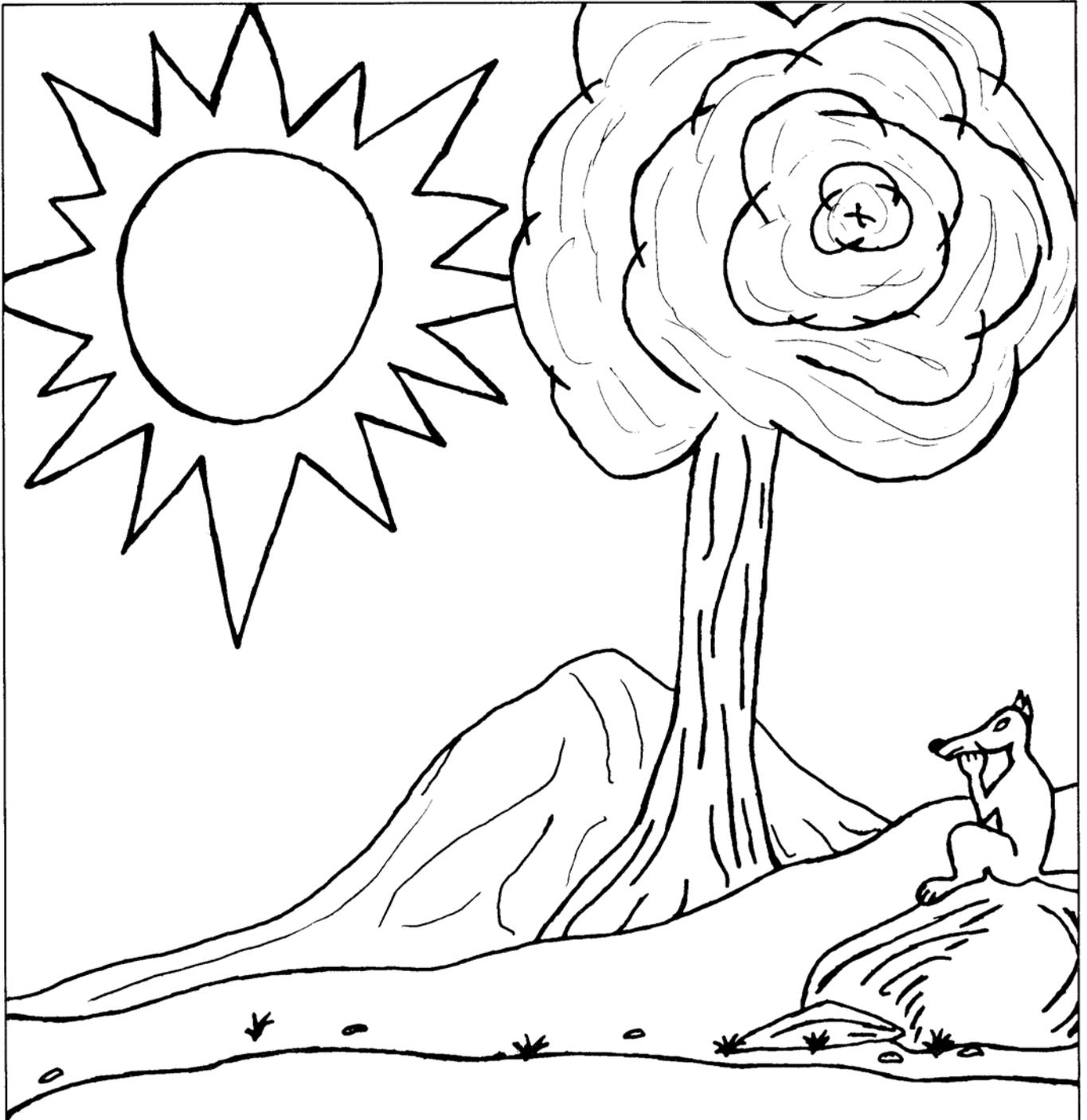
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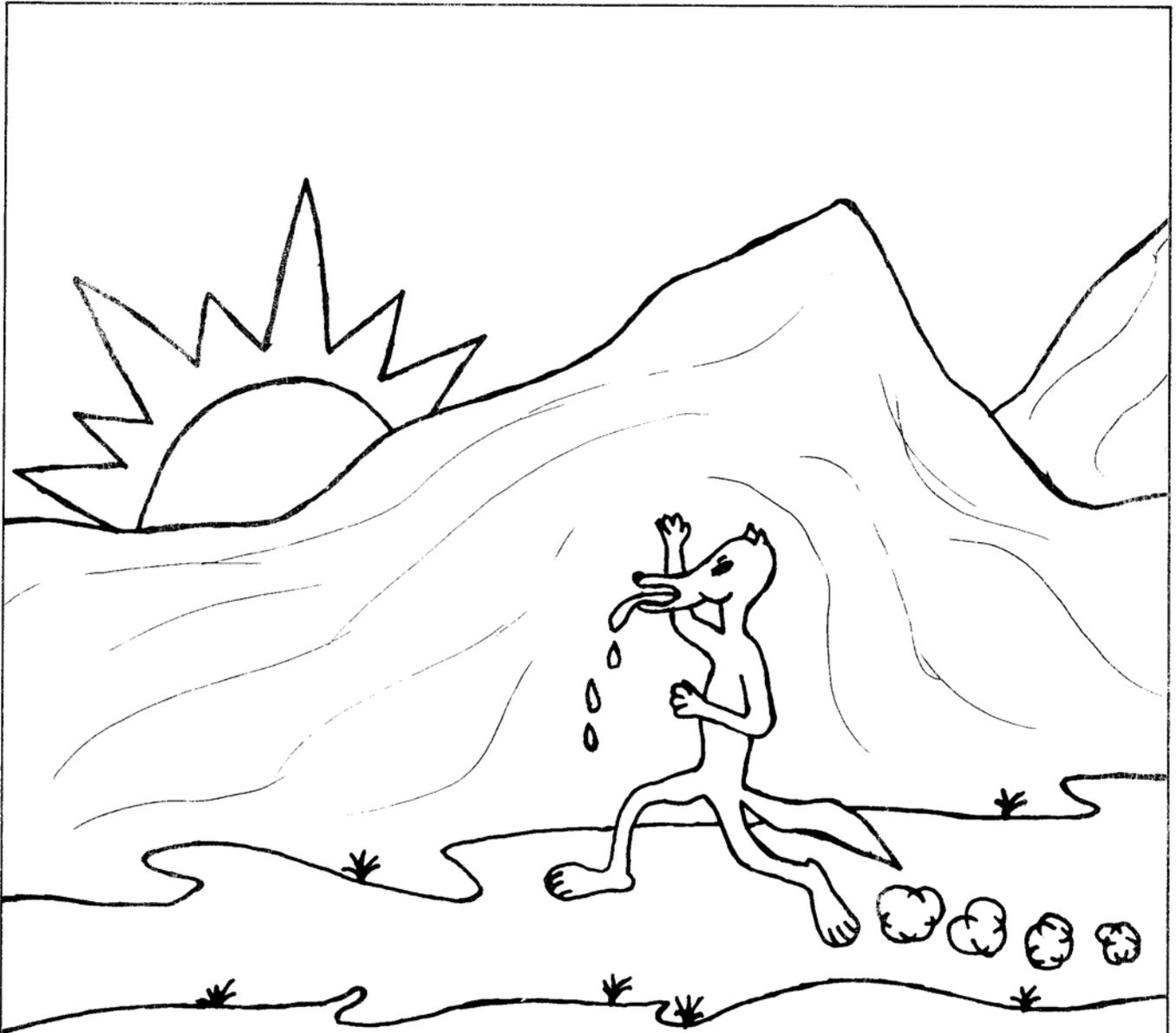
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In early times the sun was hot. Often it scorched the earth and people were uncomfortable. "I could be a better sun." Coyote thought to himself. "I will take the sun's place."



So Coyote tried to catch the sun. He traveled west to seize it but when he got there, the sun dropped out of sight. Coyote traveled east to meet the sun but when he got there, it was high over his head. He made a boat and traveled east by water but when he got there, the sun was in the middle of the sky.

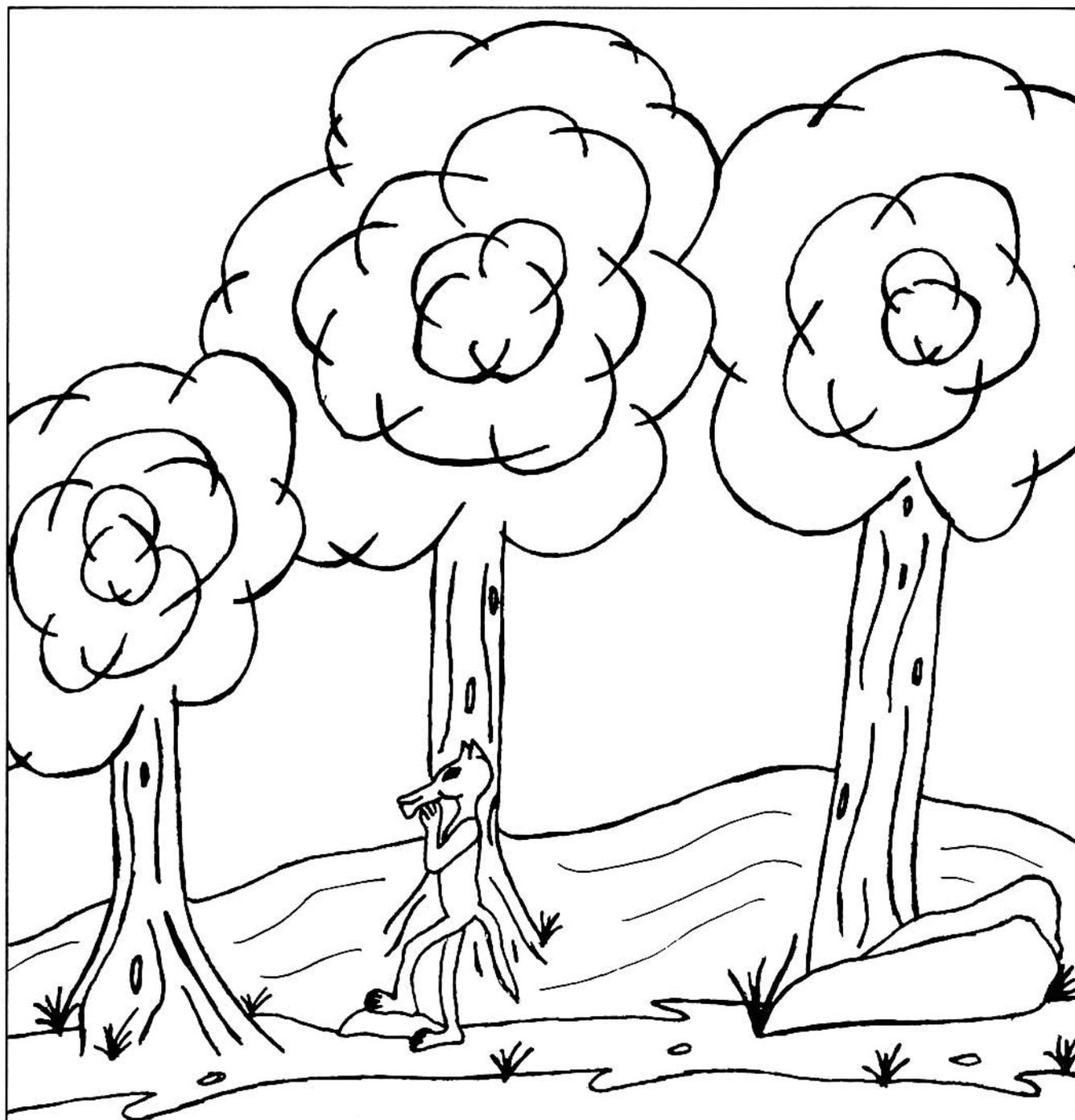


At last, Coyote went to Frog with his problem. "Help me get hold of the sun," Coyote said.

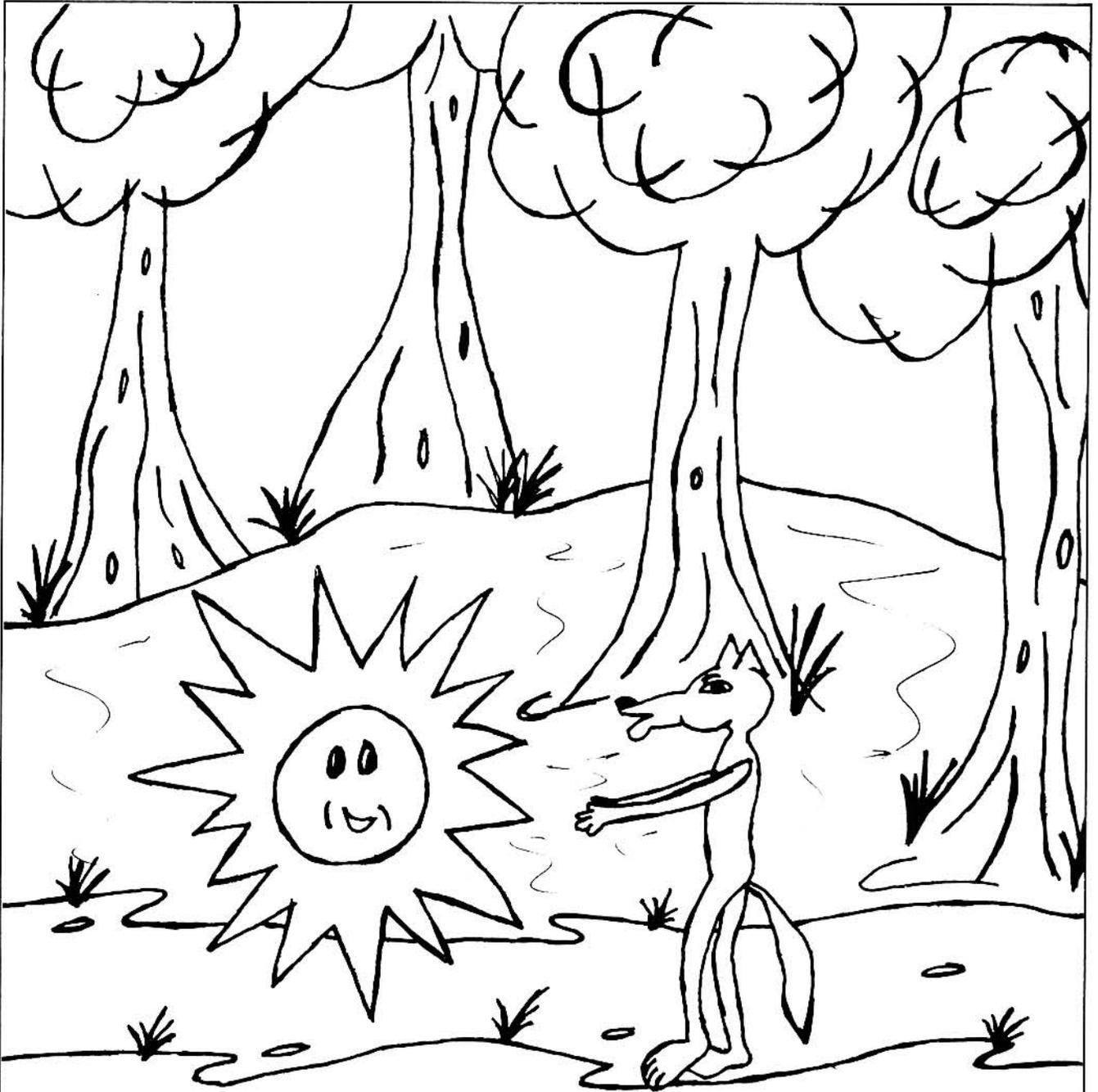
Frog said, "You throw me against the sun, I'll grab it with my hands and bring it down to earth."



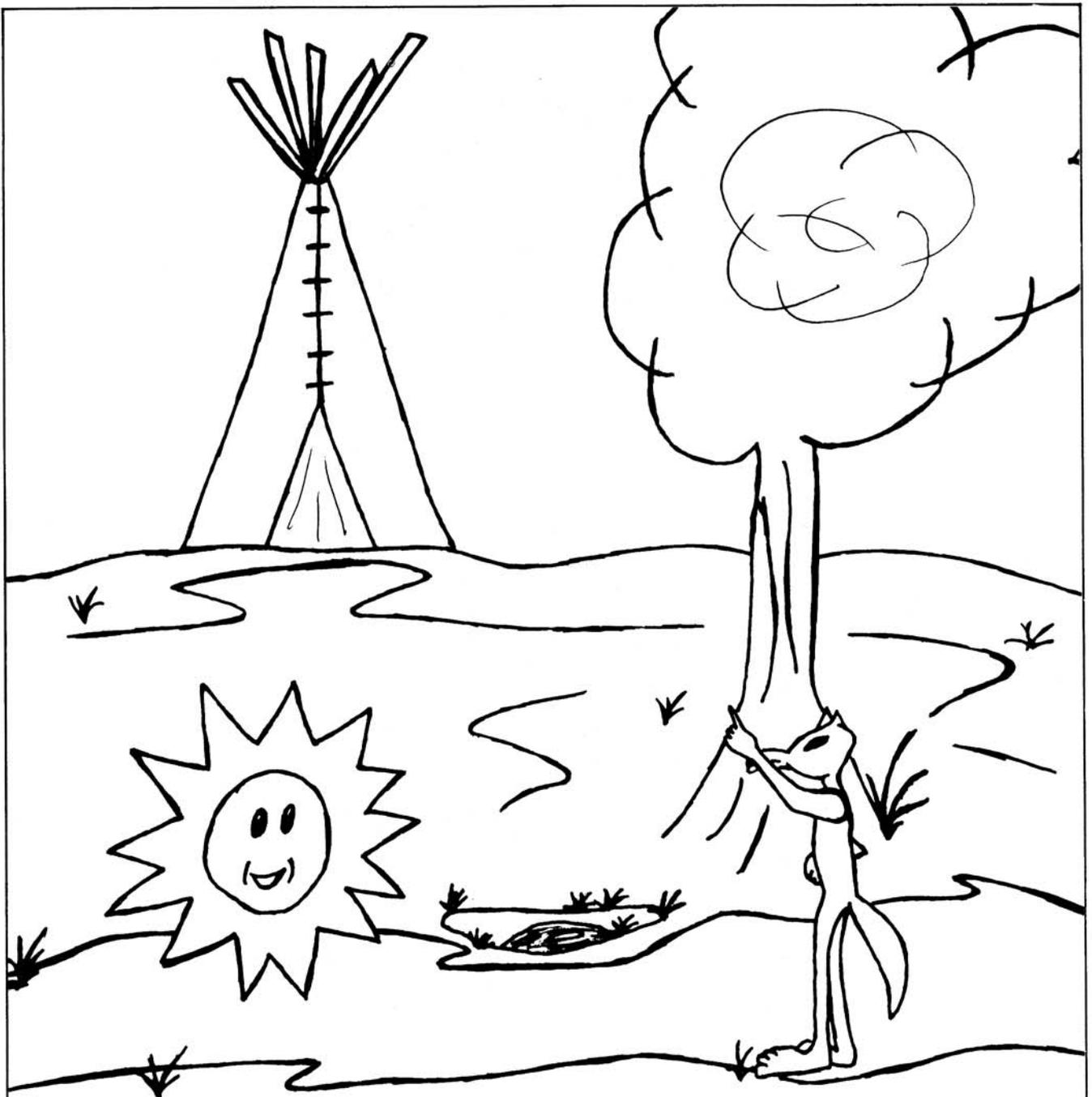
Coyote took hold of Frog and threw him with all his might at the sun. Frog began his journey to try and seize the sun to pull it down to earth.



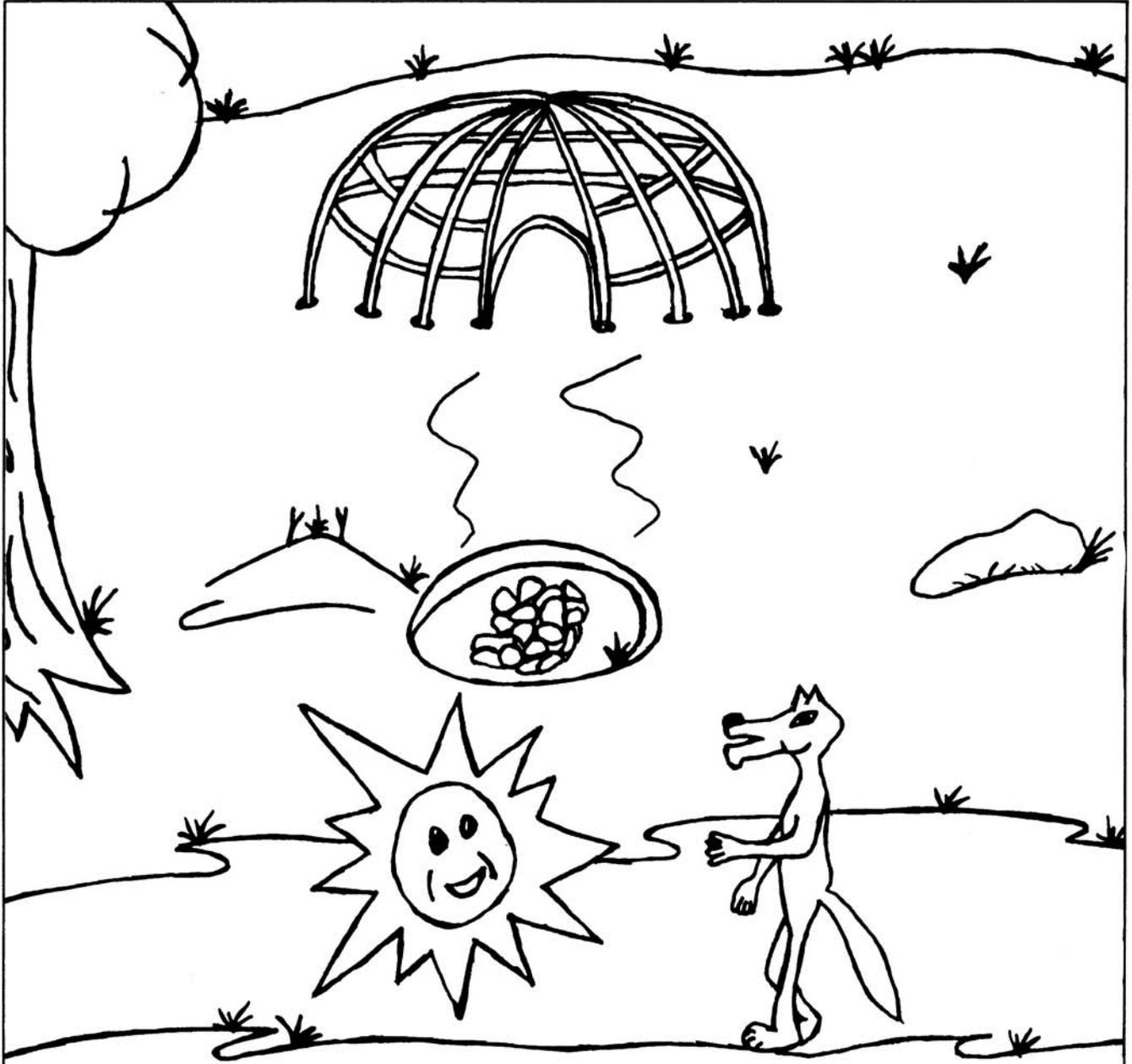
While Frog was on his journey to the sky, Coyote planned what he would say upon Frog's return. Coyote used his special powers and made some places to show the sun. When Frog came back Coyote welcomed the sun warmly.



"I am very glad to see you and talk with you," Coyote said.
"Your father and my father once camped near here. Would you
like to see the place where they camped?"

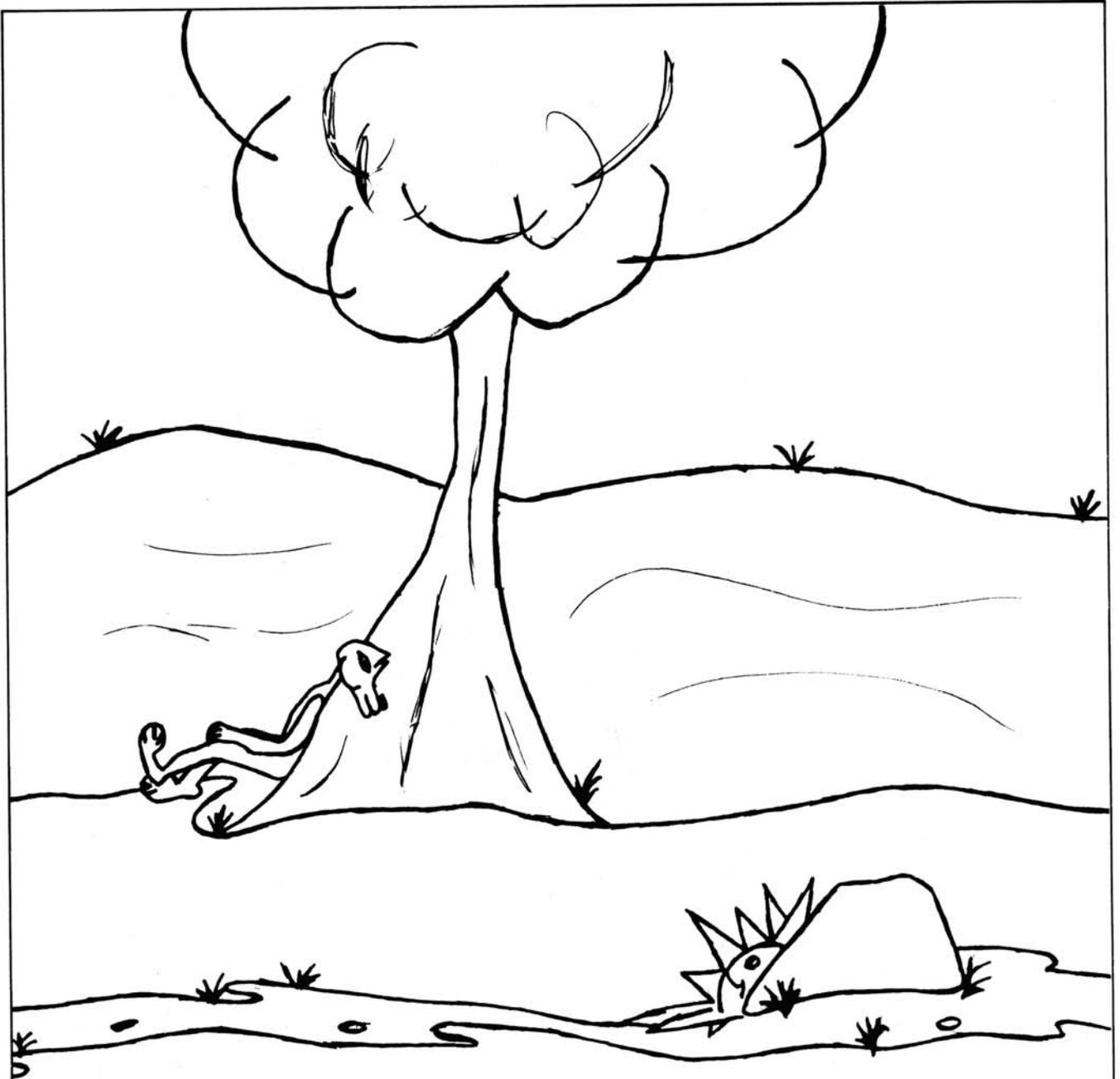


Coyote led the sun to a good camping place, scraped off the earth and showed the sun the ashes of an old campfire. He pointed to five old tepee poles. "Our fathers lived in this tepee," said Coyote.

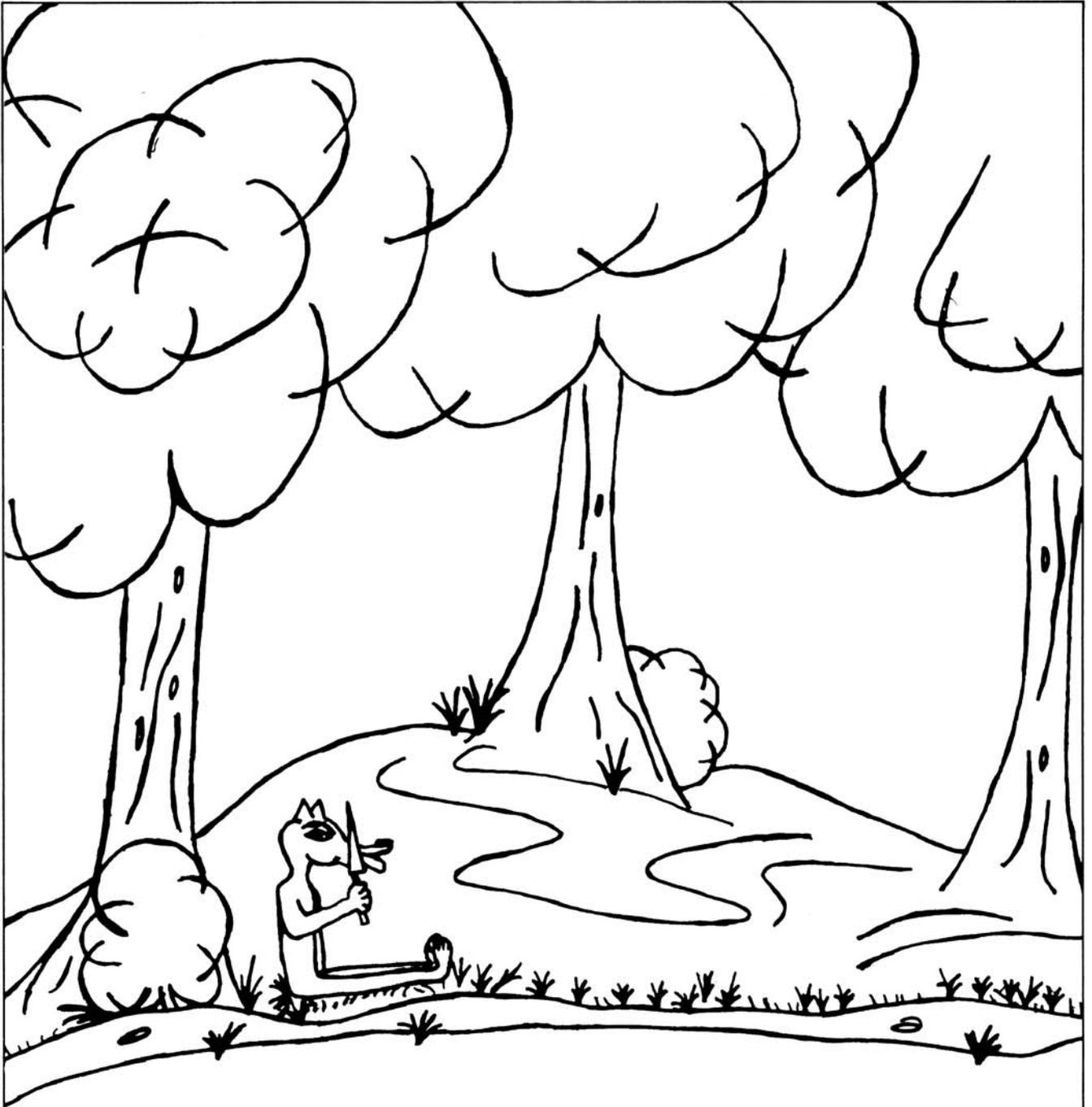


Coyote led the sun to the remains of a sweatlodge on the river bank. The framework of willows was still standing. The rocks which had been heated for the sweat baths were also there.

The sun was convinced their fathers had been friends and he was willing to be Coyote's friend. The sun decided it was all right to camp with Coyote.



Coyote, however, planned to kill the sun as soon as he was asleep. Occasionally Coyote would look over at his companion expecting to find him sleeping. But the sun was always awake. He always had his eyes wide open, just as in the daytime.



Coyote kept his plan to kill the sun. He made a big knife and hid it under himself. He knew the knife was not good enough and waited a few more nights. He slipped away from the sun during the day and made another knife from flint.

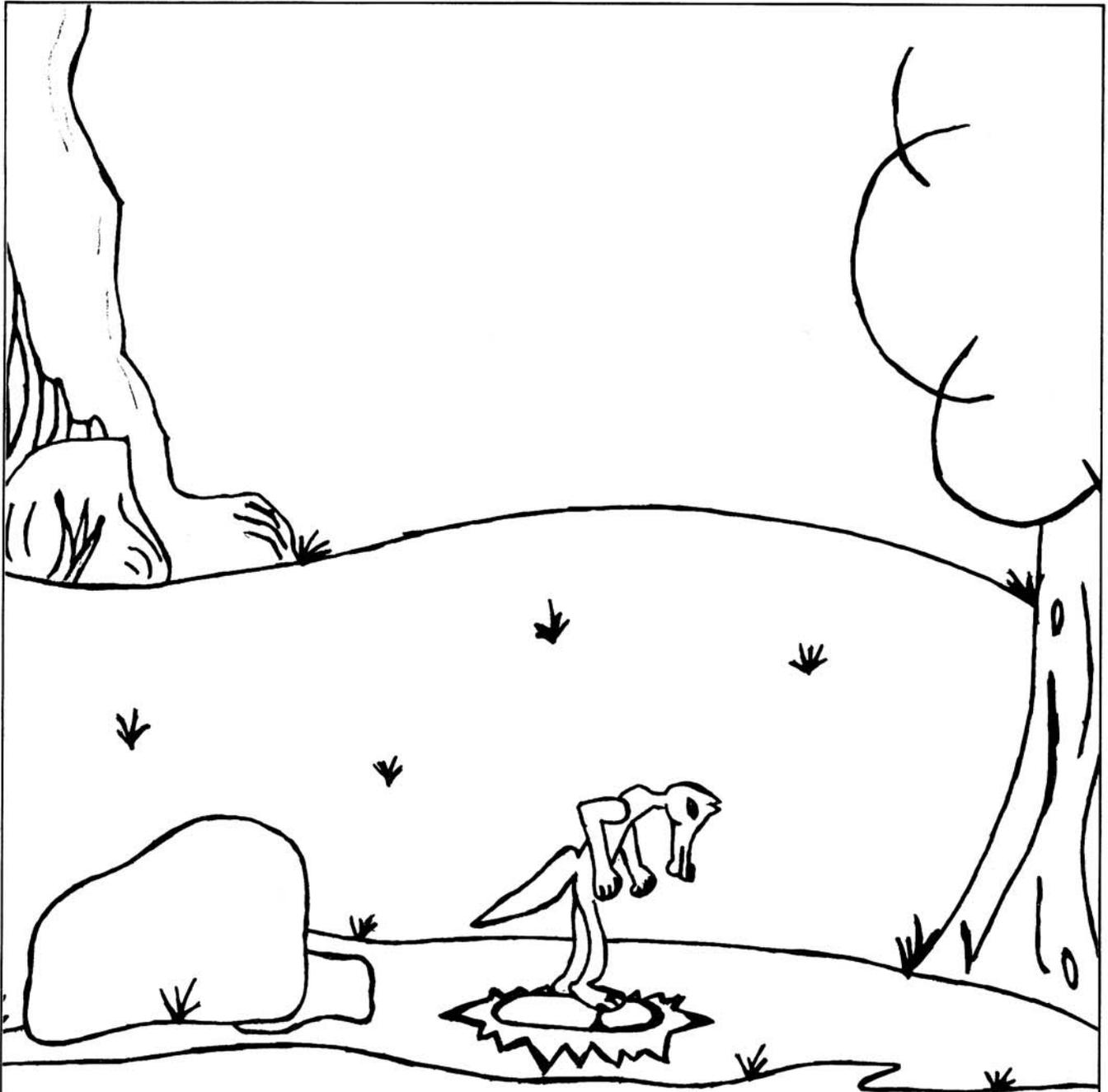


Each time the two lay down to sleep, Coyote kept watching for his chance. Sun would lay with his eyes open. Finally, one time the sun was looking in another direction, Coyote took his flint and cut off the sun's head.



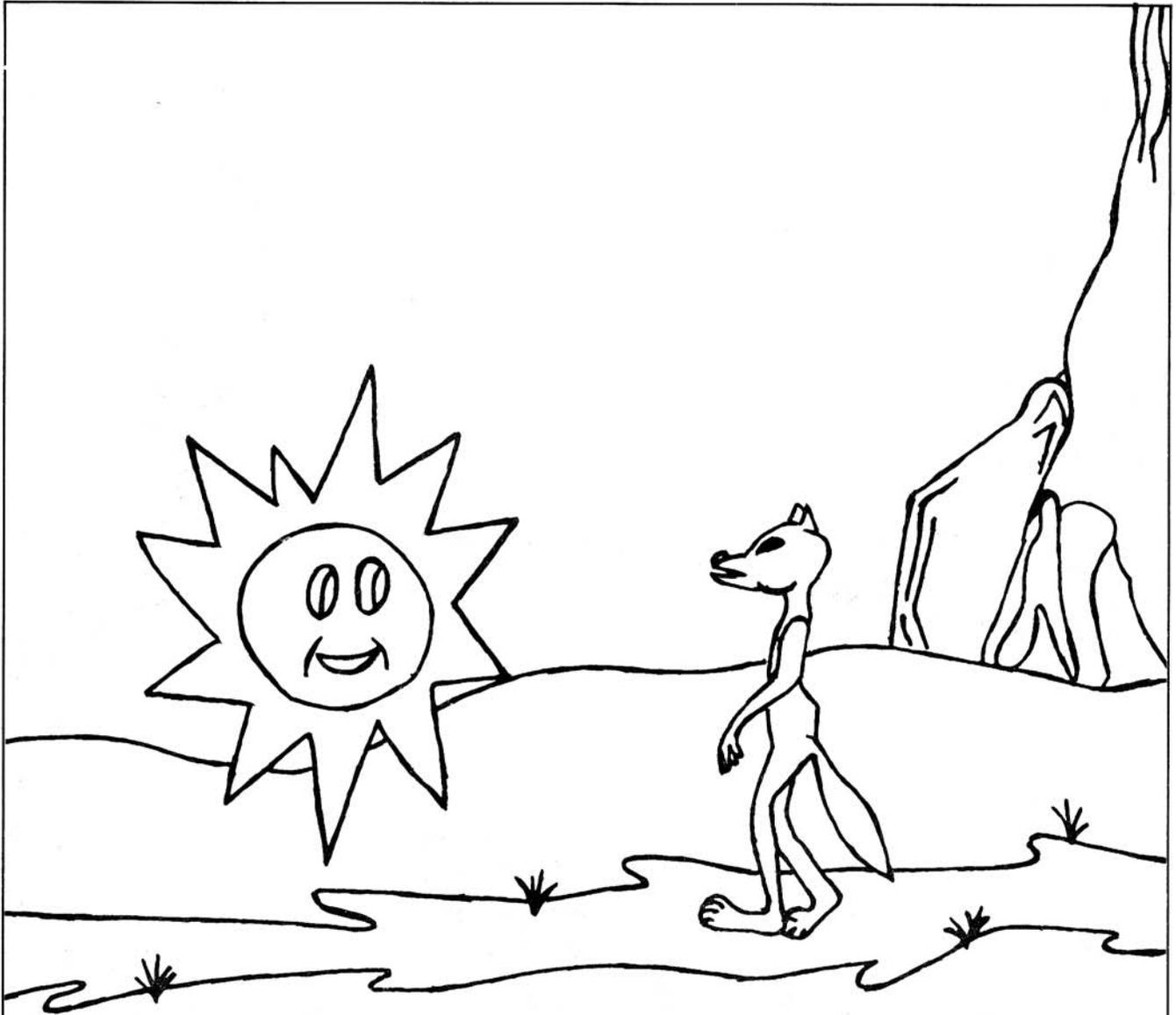
Coyote went up to the sky and became the sun. He found he did not like to spend all of his days traveling across the sky.

Coyote said, "I'll have to put the sun's head beside his body. I'll straddle him three times and he will come back to life."

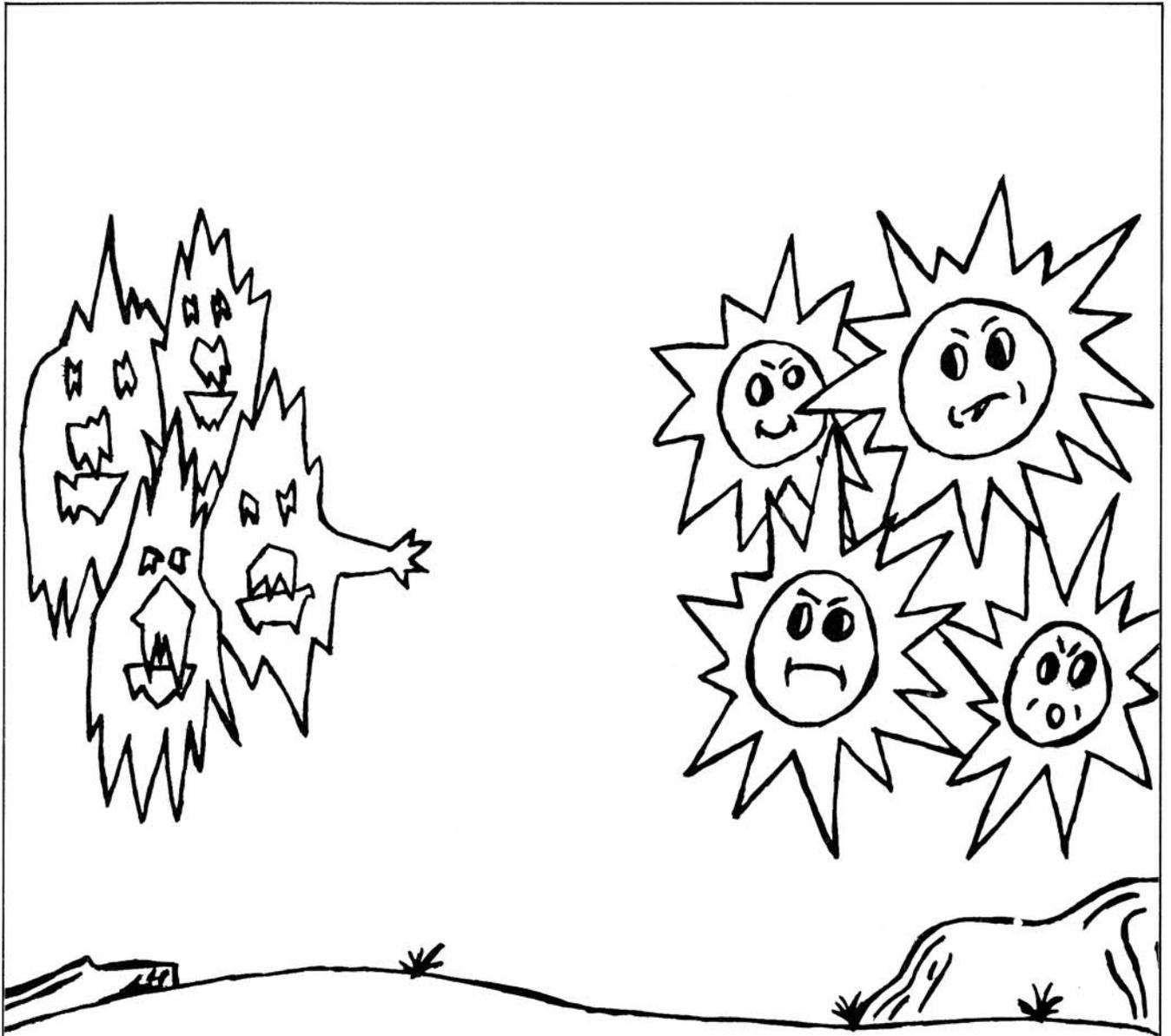


That's what Coyote did. After stepping three times across the body and head, they grew back together. The sun came to life. He yawned and stretched.

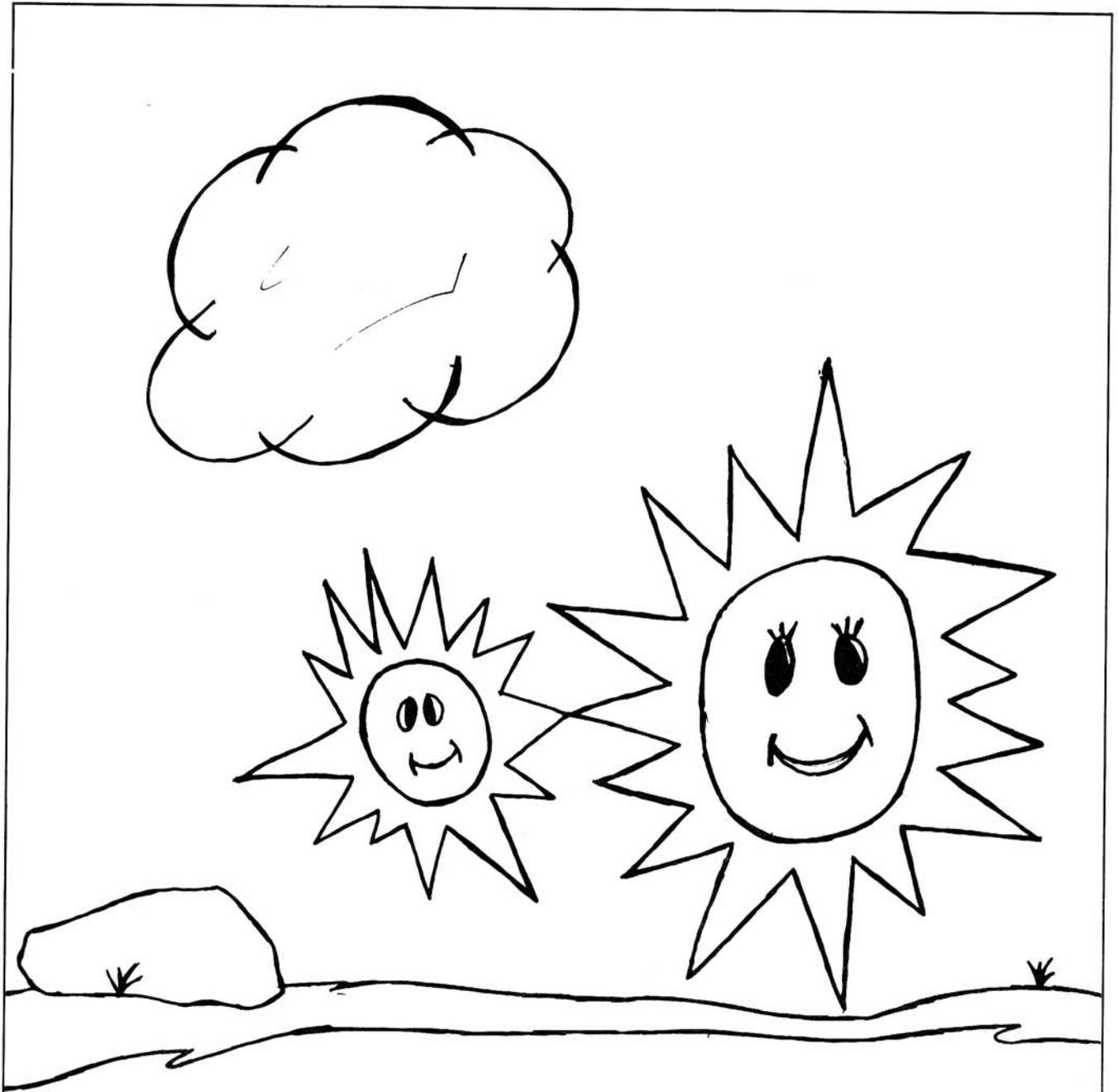
"Oh, I have enjoyed my rest," the sun said. "I'm not going to work so hard again."



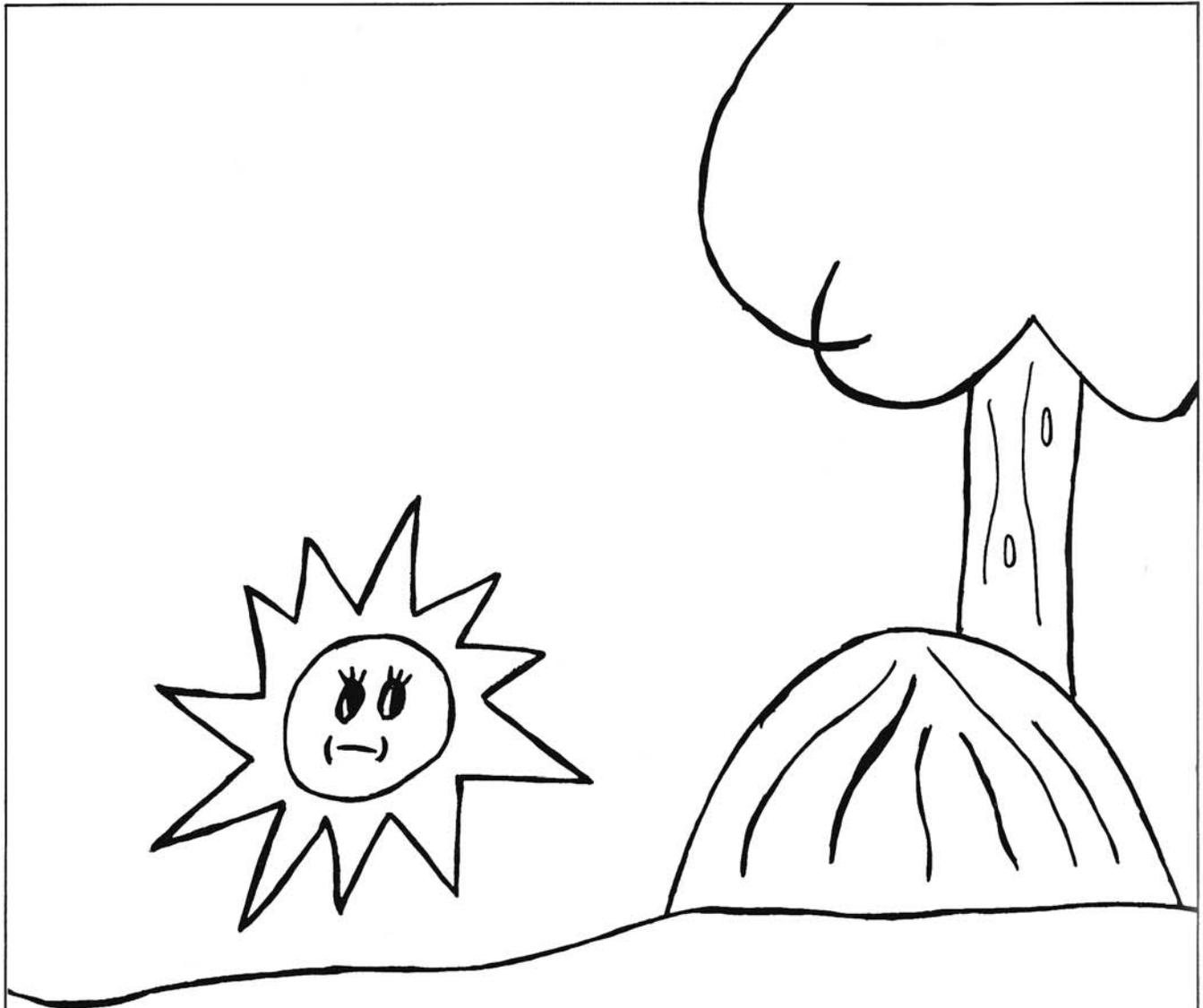
“That’s right,” replied Coyote. “I’m not going to let you. I am going to divide the year into four seasons. You will never again be as hot as you used to be. You will be warm in summer but not scorching hot. Winter will be your time to rest. Spring will be a middle season when you will be getting yourself ready for summer again.



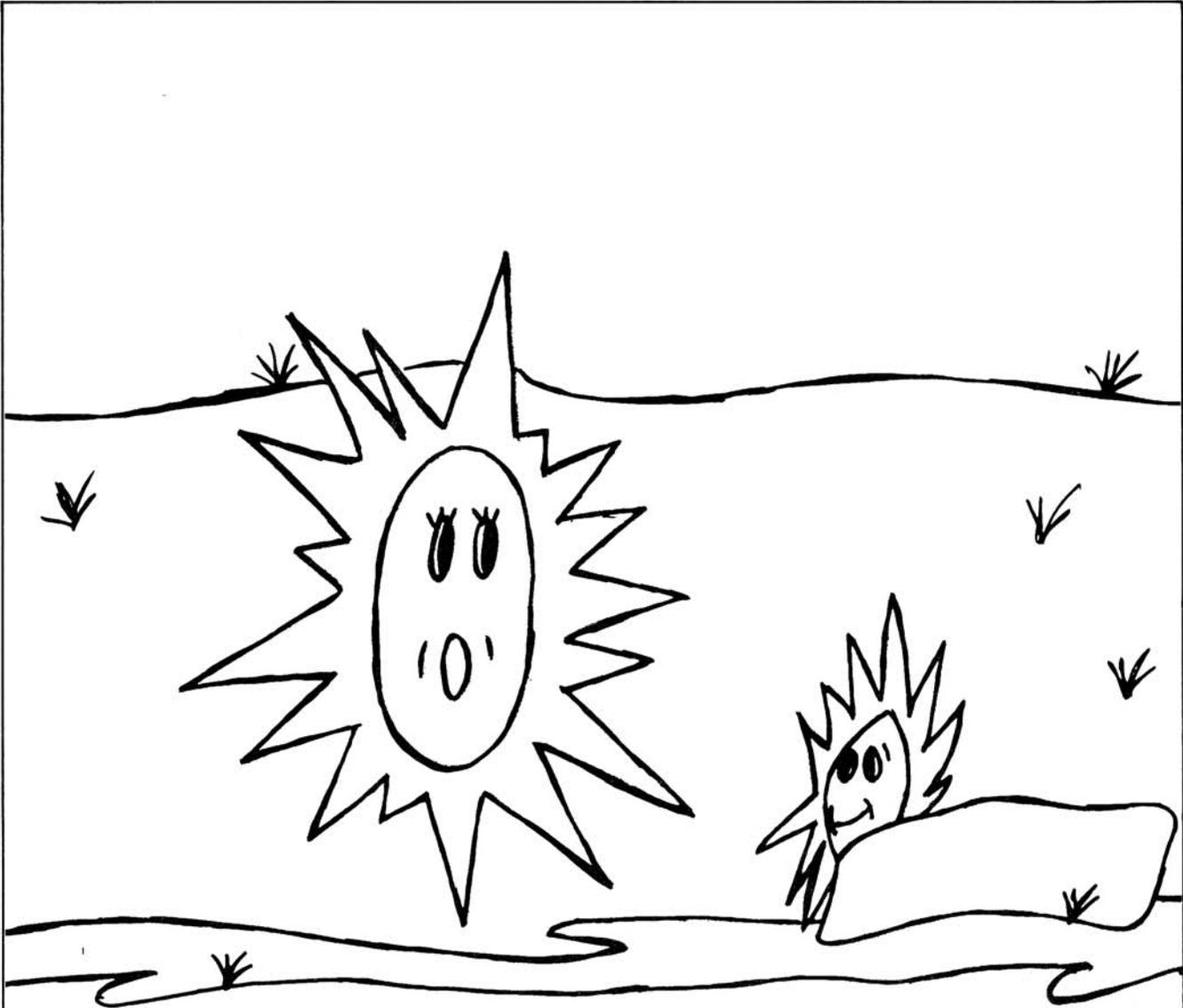
All the seasons were happy except Winter. Winter was not satisfied because he thought he should control a longer part of the year than Summer. Winter challenged Summer and his four brothers to a wrestling match. Winter won and all of Summer's brothers were killed. The earth became very cold for a long time.



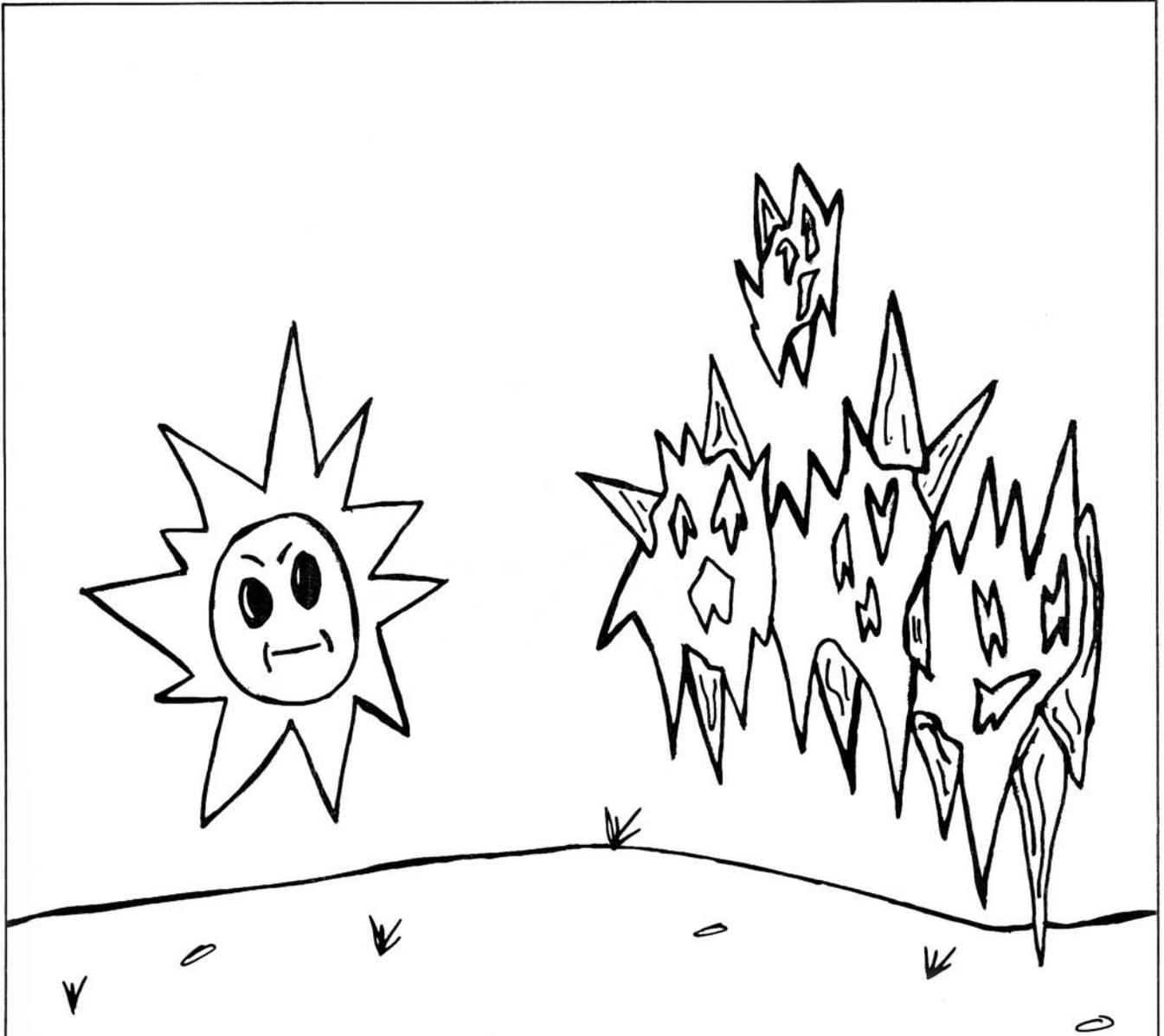
One of Summer's brothers left a baby son. The baby's mother and grandmother took him south to live. When the baby grew to boyhood he often asked about his father. His mother would not answer him. "Where is my father?" he would ask. But his mother would not reply.



The boy's mother encouraged him to become strong. Everyday the boy took a sweat bath in the sweatlodge so he would obtain the power of heat. From the sweat bath the boy plunged into the river so he would obtain the power of cold. When he became a young man he was very strong and had special powers. These powers were heat and cold. One day the young man said to his mother, "I think I am prepared to meet anyone and anything."



The young man's mother was glad. "Now I will tell you about your father," she said. She told him about the wrestling match between the five winter brothers and the five summer brothers.



The mother's story made the young man eager for revenge. He called the five winter brothers to a wrestling match. One at a time the young man fought them. He overcame the eldest brother and cut off his head. He overcame the second brother and cut off his head. He also killed the third and fourth winter brothers. The young man let the youngest brother remain alive.

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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