



Coyote and the Rolling Stone

A Goshute Tale

Cultural Note

According to Goshute tradition, Coyote tales should only be told during the winter time.

Rabbit fur blankets were made from wild rabbit skins that were sewn together and worn by the Goshute and Shoshone people.

Vocabulary

ambled

hovered

impact

plucked

soared

The Native American Indian Literacy Project was made possible by funds from the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). It is a joint effort of the USOE and San Juan School District Media Center. For more information about this project, contact Shirlee Silversmith at (801) 538-7838.

The booklets are available on a CD from the USOE. You may print the booklets off the CD, free of charge, for educational purposes. If you would like to purchase printed copies of the booklets, contact San Juan School District Media Center at (435) 678-1229.

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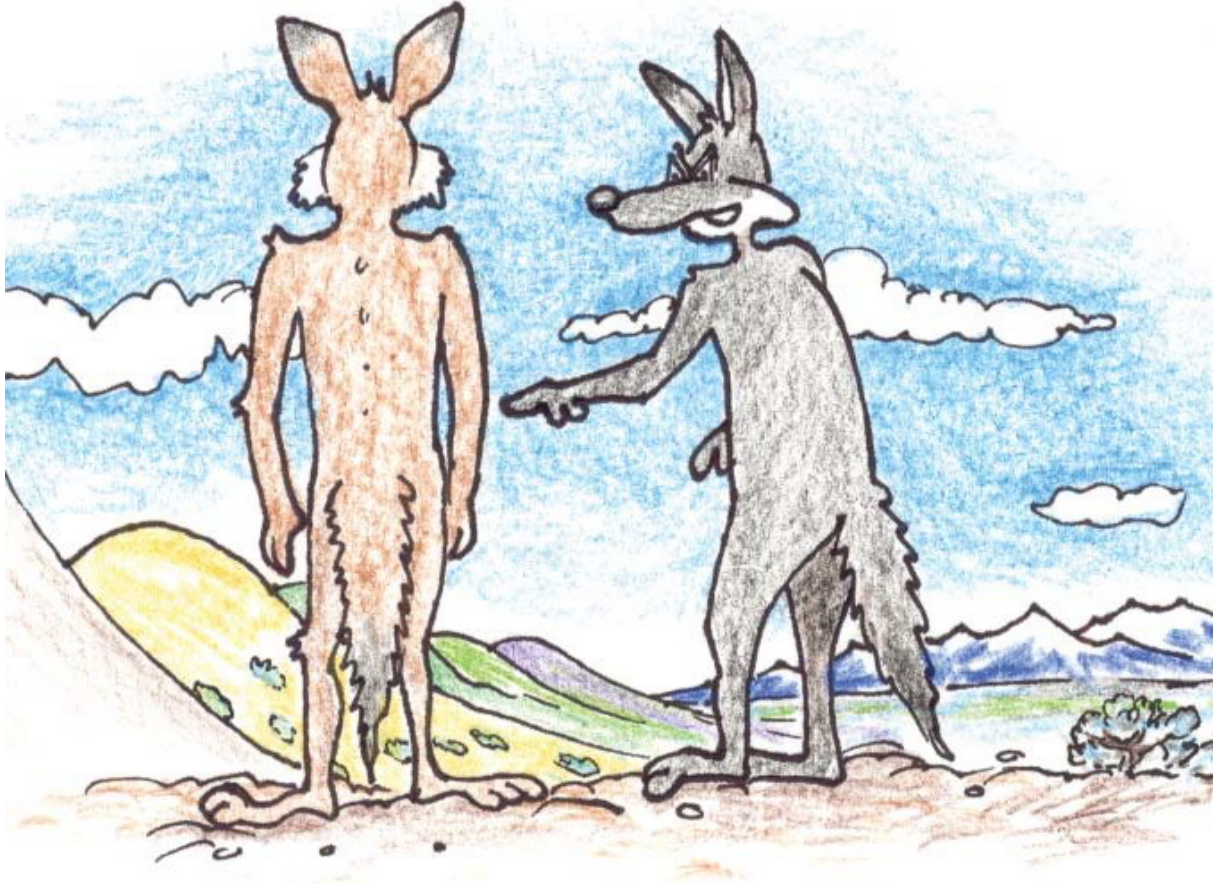


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After Coyote's brother restored his sight, he told Coyote, "When you leave here, don't get into any more trouble." He pointed down the hill. "Around that hill, you'll see some pretty blankets draped over the *tempi*, rocks. Don't bother them. If you do, the stones will chase you and kill you." His brother waved goodbye as Coyote walked away.

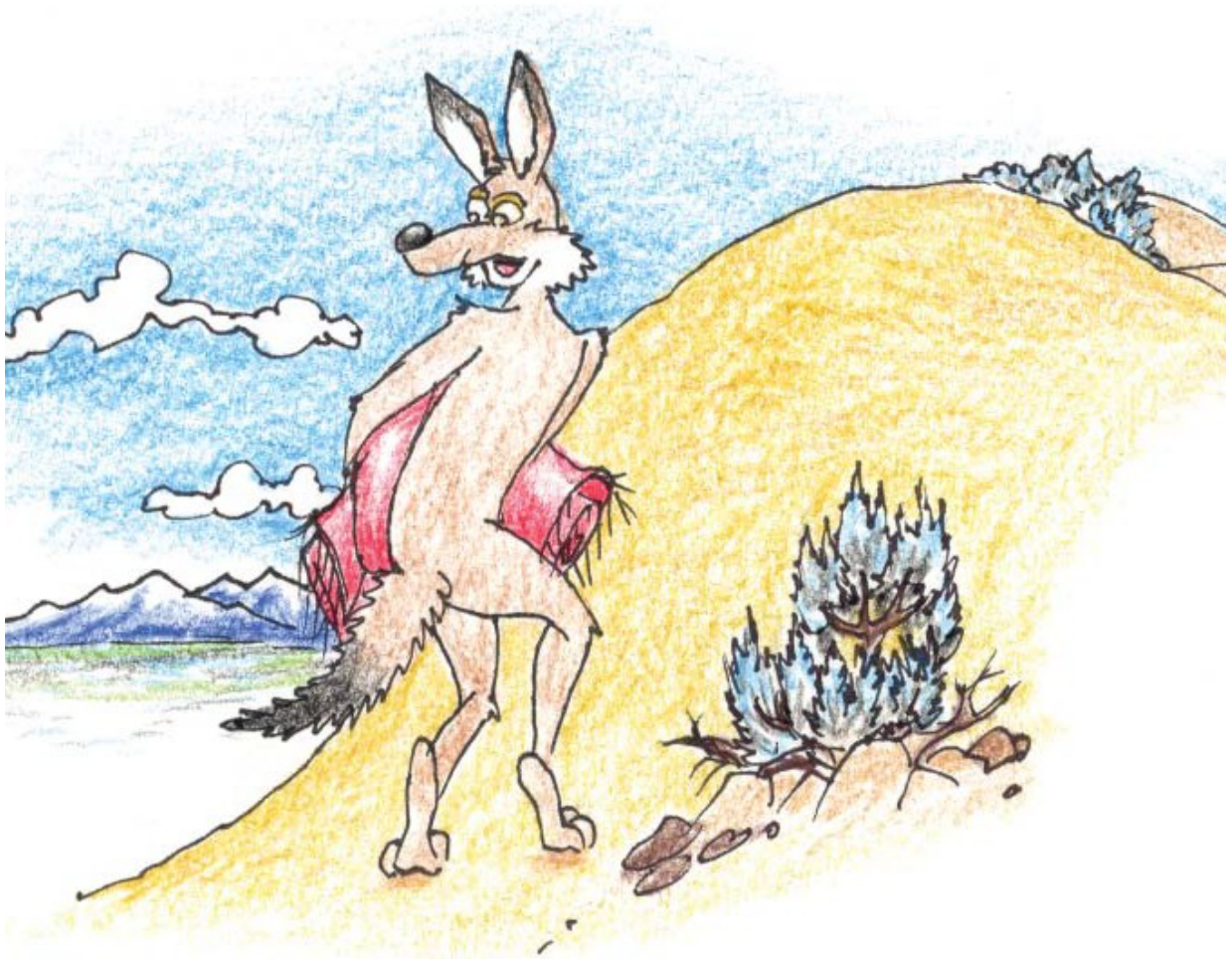


After Coyote strolled down and around the hill, he saw the blanket-covered boulders, just as his brother had said. He asked himself, "How can rockchase people? That's impossible."

He plucked a red blanket from a white stone. "This will keep me warm on my journey," he thought, tucking it under his arm.

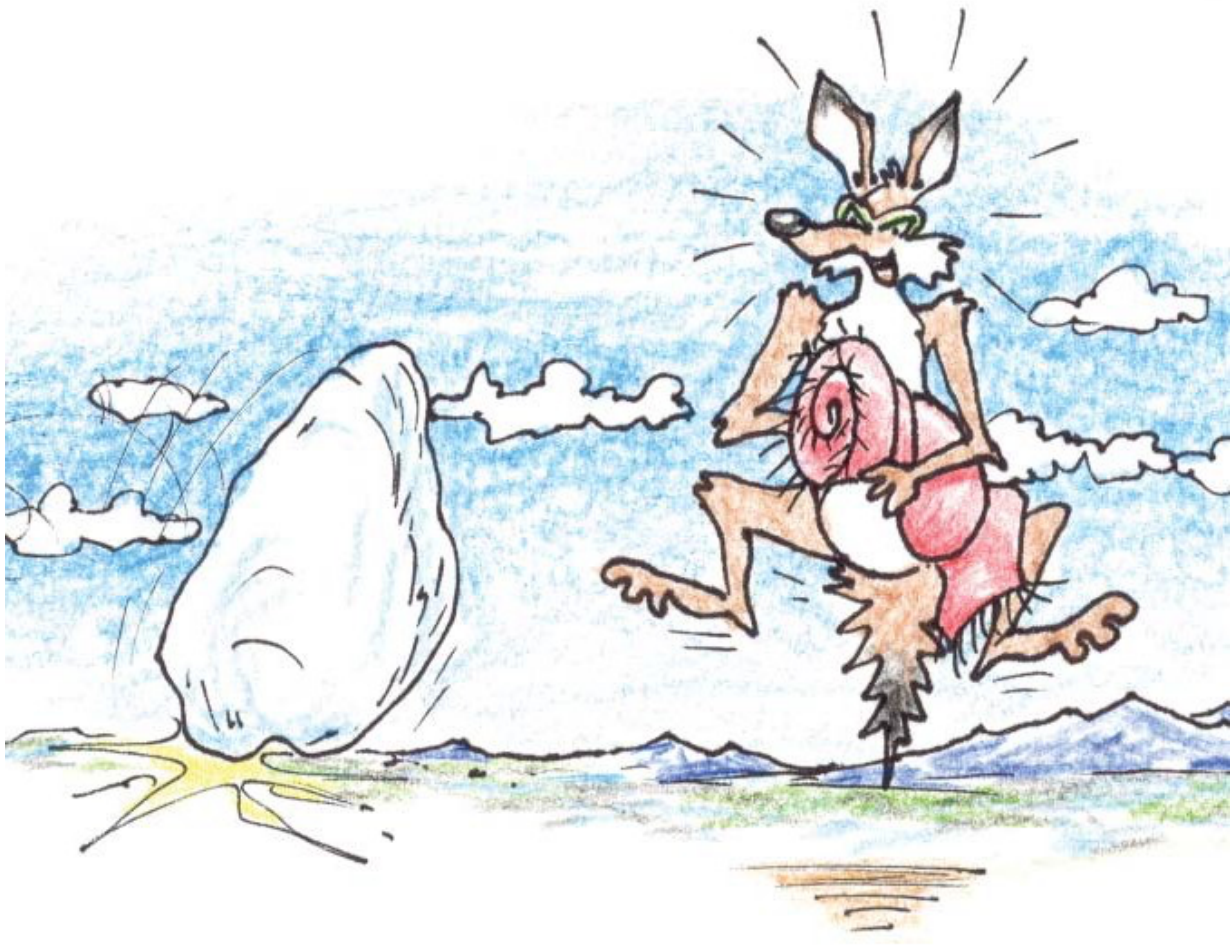
When he reached the top of the next hill, he looked back. Nothing moved. "I knew stones couldn't walk," he said.





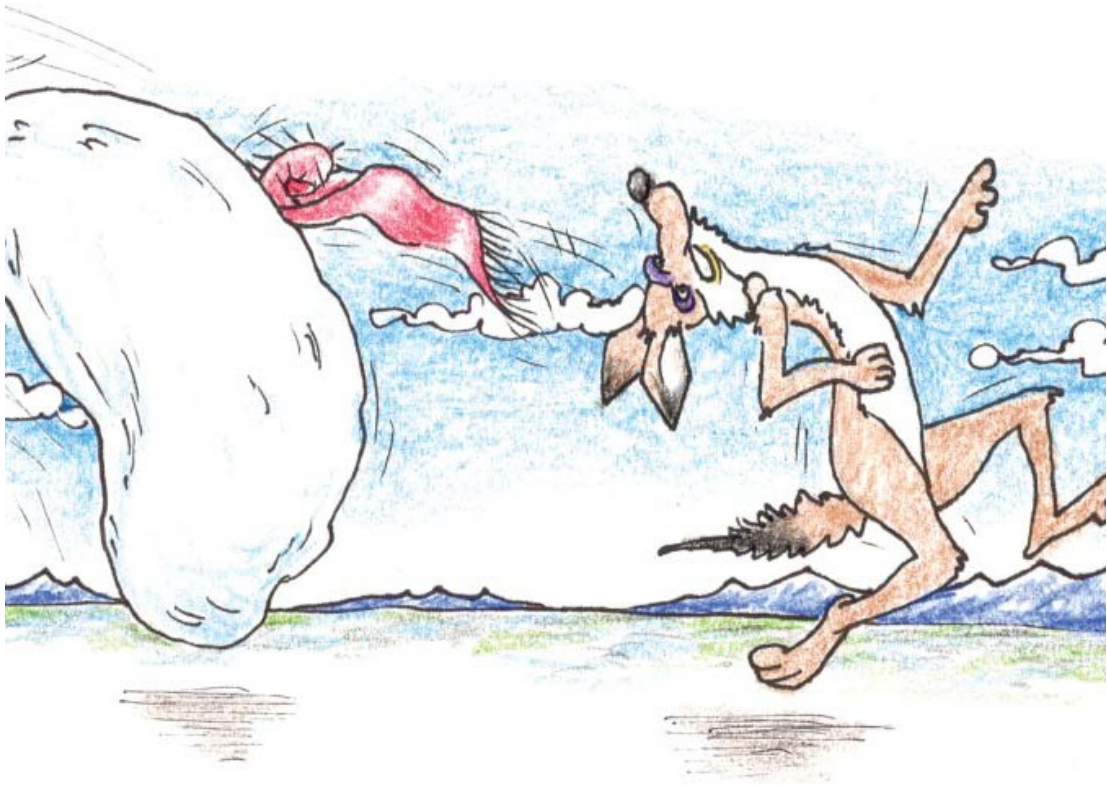
He ambled up another hill. Hearing a rumbling sound, he looked back. Dust flew as the white rock rolled after him. "What can that rock do to me?" he asked, not too worried. "Since when can a rock roll uphill?"

Coyote sauntered along. The rumbling grew into a roar, and the earth shook. He looked around and saw the rock gaining on him.



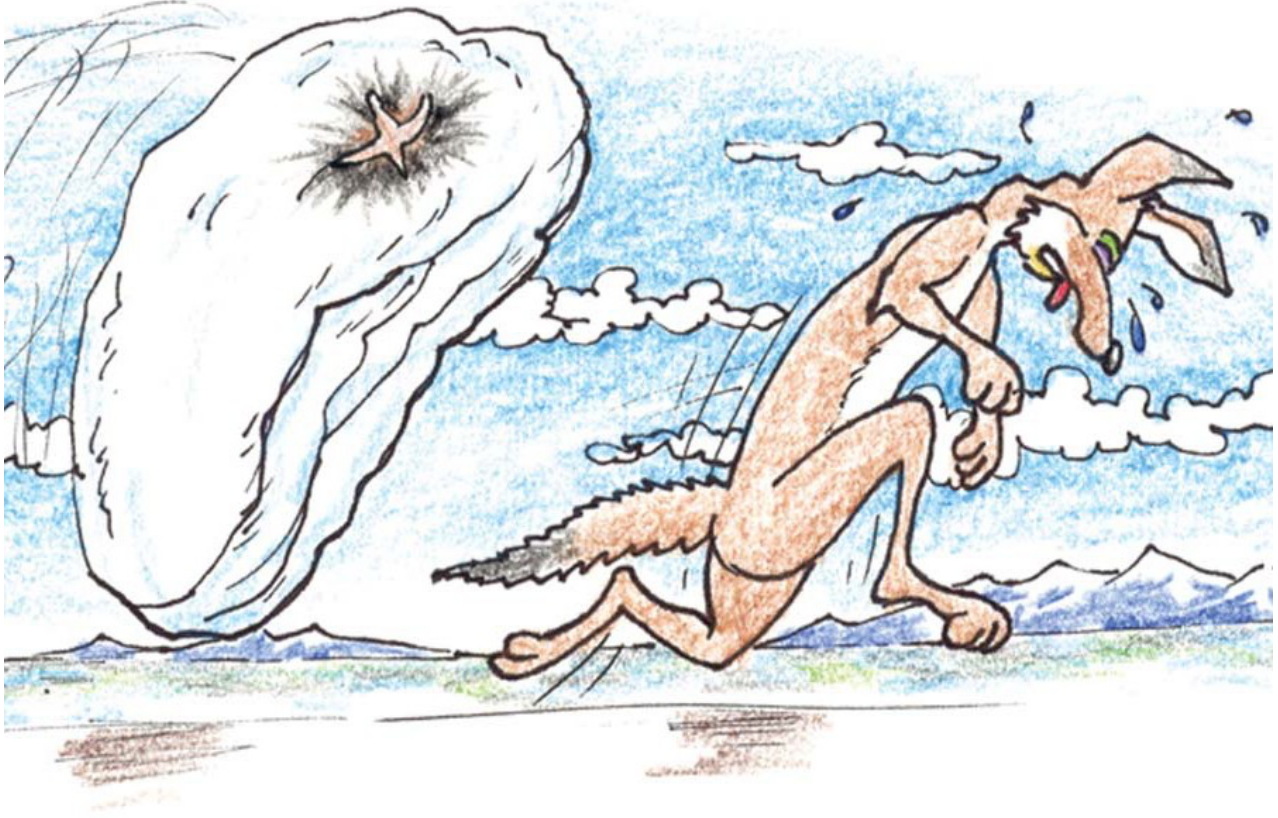
Coyote bounded forward. "Help me!" he called to his younger brother, Hummingbird. As he ran, he peered into the sky. "I hope you're somewhere close. That rock is about to kill me!"

He hurled the blanket as far as he could and sprinted away even faster.





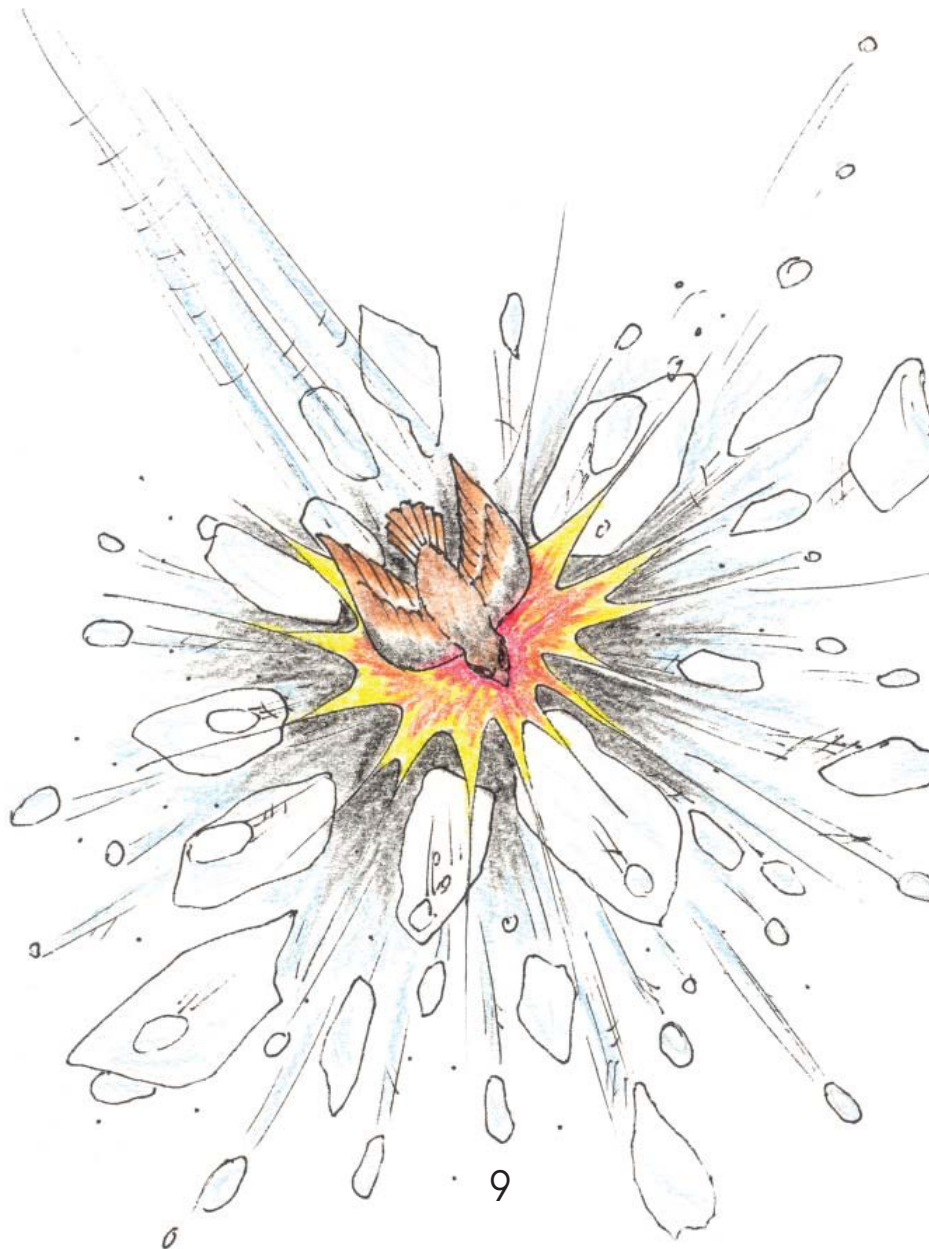
Hummingbird flew high into the air. He hovered for a moment. Then he dove, smashing into the rock. The impact killed Hummingbird, but the boulder still raced after Coyote.



Tired and weak, Coyote almost fell, but he managed to keep running.

Coyote called to another brother, *Waibo*, Night Hawk. "Help me, Brother," he yelled. "That rock is about to kill me."

Night Hawk soared overhead. He took his time, doing fancy maneuvers in the air. Finally, he dove, struck the rock, and shattered it. White pebbles flew everywhere.





Coyote collapsed to the ground, exhausted.

Glossary

enka wiika - red blanket

isappe – coyote

waibo - night hawk

nopi - hill

tempi - rock

Reading Suggestions

- Have you read “Coyote Loses His Eyes”? It is the first tale in this series. *Harry Potter*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and the books by Lemony Snicket are all examples of books in a series. Check them out for an enjoyable read.
- Coyote has been chased by a rock before. Have you read the Shoshone tale “Coyote and the Rock”? If not, ask your teacher for a copy of the tale.
- Word families can help you read many words. If you can read “luck,” for example, you can read “plucked,” “tucked,” “lucky,” “stuck,” and many more words from that family. Find a word from the story in the “ape” family. For some fun activities with word families, visit www.teachers.santee.k12.ca.us/carl/word_way.htm.

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