

Ms. Coyote and the Doe

Life Skills:

- Complex Thinking
- Effective Communication

Curriculum Tie:

- **Language Arts**
3rd Grade
[Standard 1 Objective 1](#)
- **Language Arts**
3rd Grade
[Standard 7 Objective 2](#)

Time Frame:

1 class period that runs 45 minutes.

Group Size:

Large Groups

Summary:

Fables: Navajo traditional storytelling in comparison to other fables.

Main Curriculum Tie:

Language Arts - 3rd Grade

[Standard 6 Objective 2](#)

Use multiple resources to learn new words by relating them to known words and/or concepts.

Career Connections:

- Storytellers - presenting stories at public gatherings or events

Materials:

Books: "Ms. Coyote and The Doe"

Poster: Trotting Coyote (Ma'ii Jooldloshi)

<http://www.sanjuan.k12.ut.us/media/mediaweb.htm>

Coyote Tale Series - additional text connections

Cotyote Tales tapes and DVDs

Background For Teachers:

Coyote, or Ma'ii, is an important character in the creation stories of the Dine (Navajo) people. Because of his many good and evil deeds, he is know by several names: Ykatak Dilwoshi, Howling to the Universe; Hailkaah Ndilgasshi, Howling in the Morning; Dooldini, Annoying or Bothersome One. Coyote the trickster is both good and evil. Cunning and confusing, he refers to everyone as his "cousin," animals and humans alike. Coyote tales are told only during the winter time, when frost covers the ground, to respect the Navajo culture.

Student Prior Knowledge:

Brainstorming Activity:

Activate prior knowledge by asking key questions.

Do you know any stories about Coyote or any other animal story?

Building Prior Knowledge: Use the Ma'ii Jooldloshi, Trotting Coyote Poster to build additional knowledge about Coyote the trickster.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Outcome: students understand that fables tell about moral values that they can relate to real-life experiences.

The moral to this fable is not to be envious of other people's talents and beauty. Be yourself.

Instructional Procedures:

1. Set a purpose for reading: "Today we are going to read a story that tells a moral relating to real-life experiences using animal characters. This type of story is called a fable."
2. Do Activating/Building Prior Knowledge activity.
3. Read Aloud: As the teacher reads the story, he/she will stop and ask students to summarize the important details on each page. Also, teachers will stop at key vocabulary words to help students better comprehend the text.
4. Culminating Activity: Meet with students in a community circle and have every student share using a sharing ball (students can share or have choice to pass). Have a discussion about why it's important to develop good life skills.

Sharing Statement: What can you do to overcome jealousy/envious feelings?

Strategies For Diverse Learners:

Challenge Activity: Students can write their own stories about when they felt jealousy/envious feelings and how they dealt with or overcame those feelings. They can share their stories in the author's chair when they publish their writing piece.

English Language Learners Activity: Students can work together in partners to retell the "Ms. Coyote and the Doe" as storytellers.

Extensions:

Writing Activity: Students can write their own animal fables to share with other students and the school.

Art Connection: Students can illustrate their own sequential pictorial story using a graphic organizer.

Assessment Plan:

Assessment: Teachers will assess whether students have comprehended the story through observation of the community circle activity and other extension activities.

Bibliography:

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Created Date :

Jun 06 2006 15:01 PM



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