

Literacy Charts Using "Eye Juggler Coyote: A Ute Tale"

Life Skills:

- Collaboration
- Effective Communication
- Lifelong Learning
- Complex Thinking

Curriculum Tie:

- **Language Arts**
3rd Grade
[Standard 8](#)
[Objective 1](#)
- **Language Arts**
4th Grade
[Standard 7](#)
[Objective 3](#)
- **Language Arts**
4th Grade
[Standard 8](#)
[Objective 1](#)

Time Frame:

2 class periods that run 30 minutes each.

Group Size:

Small Groups

Summary:

Using the Ute traditional tale "The Eye-Juggler Coyote," students will create a language literacy chart to respond to the story, characters, and author's craft. This lesson can be conducted as a whole-classroom session, or small-group sessions.

Main Curriculum Tie:

Language Arts - 3rd Grade

[Standard 7 Objective 1](#)

Identify purposes of text.

Career Connections:

- Artistic; Social/Humanitarian

Materials:

San Juan School District Media Center and the Utah State Board of Education offer copies of the Native American traditional tales in CD form or booklet form. Multiple copies can be printed from the CD. Teaching suggestions, vocabulary list, and glossary of words in the traditional tribal language are included in each story booklet.

Materials also include broad-tipped markers, a large sheet of white butcher paper 5 feet in length, and large index cards or strips of cardstock to write titles or characters' names.

Web Sites

- [San Juan School District](#)
Provides a link to the Media Center: San Juan School District Media Center and the Utah State Board of Education offer copies of the Native American traditional tales in CD form or booklet form. Multiple copies can be printed from the CD. Teaching suggestions, vocabulary list, and glossary of words in the traditional tribal language are included in each story booklet.

Background For Teachers:

Teachers need to be aware of the cultural aspects of traditional tales. Traditionally, the winter months are the only months coyote tales can be told. Teachers should be familiar with language to literacy charts. Roser, Hoffman, and Farest (1990) recommend the use of language charts to reflect children's thoughts and feelings about a book. These charts can be used to collect responses, compare reflections, compare/contrast characters in the story, compare contrast other Coyote stories found in the traditional Native American tales series from which "Eye Juggler Coyote" tales

comes (listed in the materials' section of this lesson plan)

Web Sites

- [Dept. of Community & Culture/Division of Indian Affairs](#)
State of Utah website gives information about the five Native American tribes of Utah, maps, etc.
- [Utah Museum of Natural History](#)
Virtual tour of an exhibit that highlights the five tribes of Utah.

Student Prior Knowledge:

Students should be familiar with what a traditional tale is, including familiar examples, such as The Three Little Pigs, The Little Red Hen, The Fox and the Hen, etc. and understand that traditional tales often use animals who speak with one another and exhibit human traits. Characters in traditional tales also present problems that wouldn't really happen in real life, but are used to portray a problem or challenge that reflect a human trait. In this story of "The Eye-Juggler Coyote", Coyote demands to learn how to juggle his eyes but doesn't follow the rules or words of caution that go with the game, and he suffers the consequences of his choice. He also has a hard time taking responsibility for his actions (blames the birds for his mishap) and then demands that the buffalo and mouse help him with his dilemma.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will read the story "The Eye-Juggler Coyote" and respond to it using a literature chart in a whole-class or paired-reading/response grouping.

Instructional Procedures:

1. Provide background information, as listed in teacher's section and student background information.
2. Show the students the book. Read the title and have students predict what the story will be about. Write responses on the chalkboard.
3. Read the story "Eye-Juggling Coyote" as a whole group read-aloud.
4. Check predictions.
5. Use large piece of butcher paper ruled into a four-column chart with headings that highlight the focus of the this lesson: the characters Coyote, Bird, Mouse, and Buffalo.

The first column will be the characters' names. The second column will be "Tell What Happens in the Story". The third column will be "How does the author show the personality of each character?" (what descriptive words, specifically, or dialogue). The final column will be "Words to Describe the Character" (inference; using what the students know).

Strategies For Diverse Learners:

Gifted students can be challenged by creating puppet plays or storytelling sessions, using props, puppets, music, etc. The lesson can be adapted to facilitate the struggling student by using paired-reading or buddy-share sessions.

Extensions:

ONE: Language to Literacy Chart: Small groups can create another chart to include three titles of traditional tales with Coyote as the main character, comparing/contrasting his character traits/plot, etc.

TWO: A fun extension would be to explore the fun world of juggling! Some fun websites have video clips of some incredible jugglers (see below). Students can have fun juggling bean bags (they are much easier to start out with), scarves, hoops, tennis balls, etc. or even pair-juggling. Have some fun!

THREE: Character Education Lesson (Responsibility: One of the Six Pillars--see attachment below)

Attachments

- [Coyote_Tales_from_Different_Tribes.doc](#)
A list of books with Coyote as the main character. Includes Shoshone tale, Ute tale, and others.
- [Extension_Ideas_-_Character_Education.doc](#)
Character Education: Listening; Responsibility

Web Sites

- [The Instant Juggler's Manual](#)
Diagrams of juggling exercises and three-item juggling pattern.
- [World Juggling](#)
Jason Garfield demonstrates how to juggle, beginning with the basic skills. Six-minute video clip. Very good!
- [Adam Zeisler Professional Juggler Clip](#)
Adam Zeisler, professional juggler. He reminds me of what Coyote might have looked like juggling his eyes!
- [Google Video Clip - Juggling](#)
Chris Bliss, renown juggler. Four-minute clip.
- [Character Education](#)
Character Education lesson plans and resources

Assessment Plan:

The chart itself will assess comprehension, as well as the students' understanding of plot, characters, and inferences. Include a rubric for group or paired-work session for self-evaluation of student work/participation.

Rubric:

- [Group or Paired-Work Session](#)

Bibliography:

San Juan School District Media Center and the Utah State Board of Education offer copies of the Native American traditional tales in CD form or booklet form. Multiple copies can be printed from the CD. Teaching suggestions, vocabulary list, and glossary of words in the traditional tribal language are included in each story booklet. <http://www.sanjuanschools.org/mediacenter> (link in the materials' section of this lesson).

Character Education extension:

Sept/Oct 2004 issue of Today's School under the title: "You Are A Character Educator." David H. Elkin, Fred.

Character Education website: <http://www.goodcharacter.com>.

Reutzel, D. Ray and Cooter, Robert B. Balanced Reading Strategies and Practices. Prentice Hall, 1999.

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