

Book Title: *Coyote Christmas: A Lakota Story*

Author and Illustrator: S.D. Nelson

Annotation: Coyote Christmas is a story about the cunning coyote that would do anything to get a meal. The story teaches about making choices and that there is good in all that we do. When we do make choices that are not good, there are consequences to our actions. This story could be used in a grade 3-5 classroom as an example of a modern trickster tale.

Concepts at a Glance:

✚ Family, Trickster, Generosity, Christmas

Text Sets on Tricksters: Coyote's New Suit (King) A Coyote Solstice Tale (King), Nanabosho and the Cranberries, Coyote Steals the Blanket, Love and Roast Chicken, Trickster: Native American Tales A graphic collection, Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest, How Coyote Stole Summer (Krensky), Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon (Ahenakew)

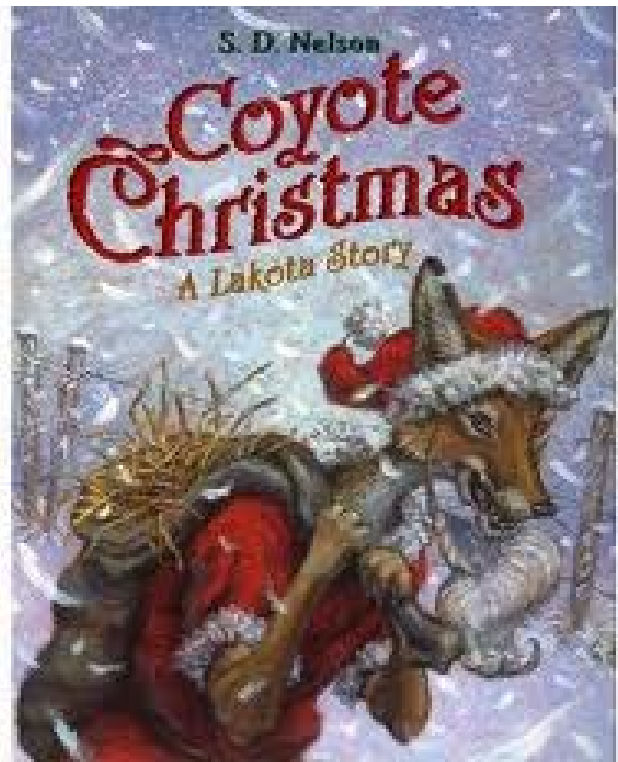
Text Set on Lakota people: Star people, Gift Horse, Crazy Horse's Vision, Quiet Hero, Dance on a Buffalo Skull, Greet the Dawn the Lakota Way, Buffalo Bird Girl

Links to Explore:

- S.D. Nelson website: <http://www.sdnelson.net/books.htm>
- Utube videos

Projects, Ideas and Activities:

1. Read more than one coyote tale. Discuss the question "Is Coyote good or bad?" The author note provides some information to help with this question.
2. Ask someone from the community to come in and tell a trickster tale (first find out what your community protocol is regarding asking for a story and when it is appropriate to tell trickster stories).
3. Teach oral storytelling. Practice telling this story to a partner, then tell to family.
4. Do a computer search to find where the Lakota people once were, and where they are now located. Show this on a map. What do multiple books on the Lakota people tell us about their traditional life?
5. Read more than one trickster tale and chart what they have in common.
6. As a class, turn this story into a graphic story (this will need a series of lessons on cartoon drawing and blocking a storyline).
7. Do an author study of either S.D. Nelson or Thomas King who is Canadian and has published several trickster tales.
8. Make your own UTUBE video based on a trickster tale.



Coyote Christmas - Curricular Links

English Language Arts

1.1 Discover and explore

- ✚ (K) Talk about favorite oral, print and other media texts.
- ✚ (2) Explain why particular oral, print or other media texts are personal favorites.

2.2 Respond to texts

- ✚ (2) Model own oral, print and other media texts on familiar forms.
- ✚ (2) Retell the events portrayed in oral, print and other media events in sequence.
- ✚ (4) Identify the main events in oral, print and other media texts; explain their causes, and describe how they influence subsequent events.

2.2 Create Original Text

- ✚ (1) Recall and retell or represent favourite stories.
- ✚ (3) Add sufficient detail to oral, print and other media texts to tell about setting and character, and to sustain plot.

Science: Grade One

- ✚ Topic B: Seasonal Changes and Topic E: Needs of Plants and Animals

Science: Grade Two

- ✚ Topic D: Hot and Cold Temperatures

Science: Grade Three

- ✚ Topic E: Animal Life Cycles

Art Level One: Media and Techniques: Painting

- ✚ Learn simple brush strokes.
- ✚ Experiment with the medium to explore its possibilities.
- ✚ Work primarily with tempera paint or tempera paint with additives.
- ✚ Mix primary colours and lighten and darken colours.
- ✚ Paint directly without preliminary sketching.

Art Level One: Depiction Component 6 -Qualities and Details

- ✚ (B) Textures form patterns.
- ✚ (D) Colour can be lightened to make tints or darkened to make shades. These tints or shades are also referred to as tone or value.
- ✚ (F) Details enrich forms.