



Grade Level: K
Subject: ELA

q'at - Coyote in Love

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- History
- Lifeways

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to explain the importance of family and love to Native peoples
- Students will be able to describe roles of different people in a family

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICES

- Connecting to the lives of students
- Connecting to students' personal families and family members
- Preserving and honoring cultural history
- Student talk, working together and individually

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on their participation in classroom discussions during the read aloud and the creation of their family drawing

Overview

Coyote in Love is a Oregon Native American Creation Story describing the creation of Crater Lake. Students will listen to a read aloud of the story and discuss main characters, settings, and key details. After the story, students will think of who they love in their own lives and draw an illustration.

MATERIALS

- [Image](#) of Crater Lake
- [Coyote in Love text](#)
- Coloring supplies
- Paper

LOGISTICS

- Where does this activity take place?
Classroom
- How are the students organized?

Whole Class Teams: 3-5

Pairs **Individually**

TIME REQUIRED

30-50 minutes

STANDARDS

Oregon Common Core State Standards: ELA-Literacy

K.RL.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

K.RL.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story. Identify beginning/middle/end.

K.RL.7 With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear.

Oregon Social Science Standards

Geography K.9 Identify, compare, and contrast pictures, maps, and globes.

Geography K.10 Locate, identify and describe places of importance to self, family, school, and culture.

Geography K.11 Examine culturally significant traditions, celebrations, days, and places including those from cultures that are currently and historically marginalized.

Background for Teachers

Circle of Stories:

<https://www.pbs.org/circleofstories/voices/index.html>

Coyote in Love Teacher Resource:

https://mindydwyer.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Coyote_Teacher_Resource_2015.pdf

“Coyote symbolism and meanings include cleverness, trickery, adaptability, and other qualities. Because their natural range encompasses Canada, the U.S., and Central America, coyotes are portrayed in the legends and oral history of Native American tribes throughout these regions. In addition, the coyote spirit animal is an important being in the spiritual belief systems of many of these cultures.

For Native Americans, the coyote is a clever being who possesses supernatural qualities. Like the raven or crow, he is both a trickster and a creator. Native Americans saw the coyote as both a savior and a villain, depending on the circumstances.”

-[UNIGuide](#)

VOCABULARY

- **Love (q'at)** - strong feelings of affection for another person or thing, caring a lot about another
- **twilight** - the period or the light from the sky between full night and sunrise or between sunset and full night
- **soothe** - to make less angry, pained, or distressed; calm or comfort.
- **radiant** - glowing with love, confidence, or joy
- **scolded** - to speak in a sharp or angry way
- **yelped** - to make a quick high-pitched bark or cry

Opening

Show students an image of Crater Lake in Oregon

(Suggested :https://drive.google.com/file/d/19eqvOirTANVxC_86iMX1zvuRjTFdxgoT/view?usp=sharing)

Discuss with students:

- *Have they ever visited Crater Lake?*
- *Do they ever wonder how lakes are made?*
- *Why do they think the water in Crater Lake is so blue?*

Activity

Pre-Reading:

- Show students the cover of Coyote in Love and read the title. Have students make predictions about what they think the book is about.
- Explain the book style to students (Native American creation story)
- Take the students through a picture walk of the book discussing what they see on each page.

During Reading:

- Read the book aloud, discussing the characters, settings, and main events throughout. Have students make predictions about where Coyote may travel to next and what he is going to do.
 - **Characters:** Coyote, the star
 - **Settings:** forests, mountaintops, the sky, Crater Lake
 - **Main Events:**
 - (1) The child asks mama to tell them a story before bed
 - (2) The coyotes outside howl, reminding mama of Coyote in Love
 - (3) Coyote sits and looks at the star that he loves
 - (4) Coyotes sits and waits for her to appear each night
 - (5) Coyote sings to the star
 - (6) Coyote runs through the forests to the mountain
 - (7) Coyotes climbs the mountain to the top and watches the sunset
 - (8) Coyote watches the stars appear and dance in the sky
 - (9) Coyote sees the star he loves
 - (10) Coyote stands on the mountain and stretches to reach his star
 - (11) Coyote tells the star that he wants her to be his wife but the star says “no”
 - (12) Coyote leaps up and grabs the star
 - (13) The star scolds Coyote and pulls Coyote into the sky
 - (14) The star takes Coyote to the edge of the sky and drops him
 - (15) Coyote crashes into the top of the mountain and the mountain explodes leaving a huge hole
 - (16) Coyote begins to cry blue tears
 - (17) Coyote’s tears fill the huge hole in the mountaintop and creates Crater Lake

Closure

After the book is finished, discuss with students the idea of love:

- If Coyote is in love, what does that mean?
- What did Coyote do because he was in love?
- Who do you love in your life?

Have students draw an image of someone(s) they love and what activity they do with them.

Differentiation

- Teachers can show/explain vocabulary before, during, or after the reading
- The final illustration can be created as a whole class with students offering suggestions as the teacher draws the scene

Extension

- Teachers can provide information to students regarding the scientific explanation of the creation of Crater Lake
- Teachers can explore other Creation Stories
 - Grand Ronde - The Four Ages ([English](#) and [Chinuk Wawa](#))

Notes/Other

Jan Michael Looking Wolf's or Grand Ronde Canoe Family audio tracks can be played as background music while students are working. These audio tracks can be found on Spotify or Apple Music.

Jan Michael Looking Wolf: [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#)

Grand Ronde Canoe Family: [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#)

Appendix

Image of Crater Lake:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19eqvOirTANVxC_86iMX1zvuRjTFdxgoT/view?usp=sharing

Coyote in Love text: available for check-out from The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, see this form to request: <https://forms.gle/CVHLszoUy5pJHFbWA>