

THE COYOTE AND THE TURKEYS

By – Pat Etue

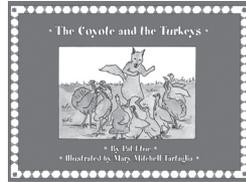
Illustrated by – Mary Mitchell Tartaglia

Genre – Narrative – Retelling a legend

Set 11 – 189 words

Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Show students a picture of a coyote from the story or from an informational book. Ask them what they notice about the animal (fur, four legs, etc.) Show them a picture of a turkey and ask them what they notice about it. Ask if they think a coyote and a turkey would be friends? Why or why not?



Introduction

Tell students: *This is a story about how a coyote tricks some turkeys.* Make sure each child is familiar with coyotes and turkeys.

No picture walk should be necessary once the words *turkey* and *coyote* have been introduced.

Tell students to read the story to find out what the coyote does.

Discussion – Book Talk

Retell the story, collaboratively or in pairs. Review the elements of narrative story structure.

Ask students: *Were there any words you didn't know? What strategies did you use when you were reading?*

Discuss: *Did you think this story was funny? Why or why not?*

Always encourage students to give reasons for their answers or go back into the text for proof.

Why do you think the turkeys did as Coyote suggested? Why don't turkeys like to hear a coyote sing to this day?

Character analysis: *What words can we use to describe Coyote (or the turkeys)?* Again, ensure that the students give proof from the story. Complete a cooperative character sketch together.

Creative Response – Independent Practice

Children can:

- make coyote masks and turkey masks out of construction paper. Use this opportunity for oral discussion of the characters.
- use the readers' theater script on the reproducible master to dramatize the story.
- read other pourquoi stories. Pourquoi stories explain something in nature such as:
 - How the crow got black feathers.
 - How the beaver got a flat tail.
 - How the chipmunk got its stripes.
 - How the skunk got a bad smell.

Read Aloud Connections

How Chipmunk Got his Stripes: A Tale of Bragging and Teasing by Joseph Bruchac, Dial, 2001.

Pourquoi Tales: The Cat's Purr and Others by Ashley Bryan, Houghton Mifflin School, 1989.

The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids illustrated by Graham Percy, Derrydale Books, 1986.

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears retold by Verna Aardema, Dial Press, New York, 1975.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching		
High Frequency Words	first, more, next, many, them, put	Clap, chant and cheer the words. Find them on the word wall and in books.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	<i>ance</i> family – dance, prance, France, lance	Look for word families on the word wall.
Structural Features of Words	Contractions - Let's, I'll Full words - do not, will not	Review contractions and make a classroom chart. Word hunt all the contractions in the story. Discuss words that could be contracted, such as <i>do not, will not</i> .
Text Features	not – in bold type	Look for bold type in other books. Read the sentences with expression.



The Coyote and the Turkeys

Characters

Narrator, Coyote, Turkey 1, Turkey 2, Turkey 3, Turkey 4.

Narrator: *Long ago there lived a Coyote.*

Coyote: I have no food. I must find food.

Narrator: *The coyote came to a hill and saw lots of turkeys.*

Coyote: I like to eat turkeys. *(The coyote hides behind a tree.)*

Turkey 1: Coyote, we see you. You can't eat us!

Coyote: I'm not going to eat you. Let's play a game.

Turkey 2: We do not like your games, Coyote.

Coyote: Do you like to dance?

Turkey 3: Oh, yes!

Coyote: Then, let's have a dance.

Narrator: *So the coyote put five fat turkeys in the first row.
Then he put the other turkeys in the next row.*

Coyote: Now I'll sing a song.

You have to shut your eyes and dance.

Narrator: *So the turkeys shut their eyes and danced.*

Coyote: AAAOOOOOOO-O-O-O

Narrator: *Then Coyote grabbed the five fat turkeys
and ate them up.*

Turkey 4: To this day turkeys do not like to hear a coyote sing.