

HOW PORCUPINE GOT HIS QUILLS

Retold by – Shari Schwartz, Helen Tomassini, Linda Widenmaier

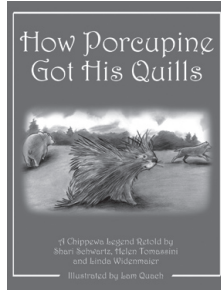
Illustrated by - Lam Quach

Genre – Narrative, Retelling of a Legend

Set 18 –482 words

Building Anticipation - Setting the Context

Read students several how and why legends. Ask students if they think these are fact or fiction. How do they know? Explain that how and why legends were a way of explaining the unknown and that all peoples in the world have these tales. Make a list of other how and why legends the students know. Take turns telling the tales they know. Look on this website for more tales that explain the unknown through a legend. <http://www.darsie.net/talesofwonder/index.html>



Introduction

Explain to the students that they are going to read a story from a particular culture entitled, *How Porcupine got His Quills*. What does the story explain? Have the students look at the Table of Contents. Explain that the authors have divided the book into two parts. Point out that the first part is where the authors give the readers facts about the Chipewyan Nation and the character Nanabozho. In the second part the authors retell the legend.

Discussion - Book Talk

Right there questions:

What could Nanabozho do that showed he was strong and powerful?
What phrase describes Porcupine's back before he had his quills?
Name the two animals that chased Porcupine.
What did the authors mean on page 8: *Luckily for Porcupine, Bear wasn't a good tree climber?*

Think and search questions:

What gave Porcupine the idea for his quills?
Why was Nanabozho surprised?
What did Nanabozho decide to do?
Where was Nanabozho when the wolf jumped on Porcupine?

On your own questions:

Why do you think Nanabozho decided to help Porcupine?
What other animals do you think may have chased Porcupine?
What are other animals that have unique protection?
In your opinion, could this have really happened?
Are there parts of the legend that could have happened?
Would you like Porcupine as a friend? Why or why not?

Creative Response - Independent Practice

Event Map

After retelling the legend, students can complete an event map of the story. Use the reproducible master as a graphic organizer for this. Children can share their event map with the group or in partners.

Writers' Workshop

Discuss the characteristics of a why legend. This is a legend that usually explains something that is found in the world of nature. Make a chart of what you could find in a why legend. In the first column write the name of an animal. In the second column write the prominent characteristic of that animal. Some examples are: *Skunk - Striped Tail, Turtle - Shell on the back* etc. Students can choose one of these and write a why legend .

Research

Research all the things that porcupine quills were used for by the First Nations Peoples in North America. In addition to books you might find in the library, look on these websites:

<http://www.peace4turtleisland.org/pages/quillandbeadarticle.htm>

<http://nativetech.org/quill/thread/>

<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/porcupine.htm>

Read Aloud and Poetry Connections

Glooscap and His Magic: Legends of the Wabanaki Indians, by Kay Hill, McClelland and Stewart, 1970.

How Two-Feather Was Saved from Loneliness, C.J. Taylor, Tundra Books, 1990.

Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling, Weathervane Books, New York, 1971.

The Native Stories from Keepers of the Earth, M.J. Caduto and J.Bruchac, Fifth House Publishers, 1991.

The Spirit of Canada – Canada's Story in Legends, Fiction, Poems and Songs, B. Hehner (editor), Malcom Lester Books, 1999.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words - walk, walking, long

Interest Words - legend, porcupine, Nanabozho, spirit, seize, stride, prickly, howling, Hawthorn tree

Word Families and Letter Clusters - The *or* sound: storm, porcupine, thorns, towards

Structural Features of Words - Ending *ly* – slowly, suddenly, luckily, safely, prickly, loudly, quickly, quietly

Text Features – Similes: *voice like the roar of a great lake in a storm, backs as smooth as silk*

Event Mapping

