COYOTE AND THE STARS
The Indian Reading Series
THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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Coyote and the Stars
Level I Book 1

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One night Coyote was lying on his back
singing a dancing song.
As he looked up into the sky,
he noticed the stars were twinkling brilliantly.
Never had they been so brilliant.
Coyote remembered that long ago
someone had told him that all stars
were beautiful Indian girls.
Coyote thought he would like to go up
to see the girls.
So he went through the woods asking
how he could go up into the heavens.
The Spider said that she could weave
a long rope.
And the Giant Redwood Tree said he could
bend down to earth and throw Coyote
up into the sky.
And this is what they did.
When Coyote got to the heavens,  
the girls weren't twinkling at all.  
They were dancing.  
Coyote was so overcome at the sight  
of so many beautiful Indian girls  
he just stood and stared.
The girls were dressed in white buckskin trimmed with beads, porcupine quills and shells. When Coyote came to himself, he rushed up to them and said, "I would like to join you in your dance."
The Stars answered, "You couldn't dance with us because we dance day and night, year after year, forever and ever. We never stop!"

"But," said Coyote, "surely if any girl can do that, I, a big brave, could also dance forever!"

But the Stars said, "No."
Coyote begged and pleaded and teased
until the girls said that he might join them.
So Coyote joined hands with the Stars
and danced all over the heavens
He was fine the first night.
But the next night, Coyote got tired. He didn't want the girls to know he was tired so asked, "May I stop to get a drink? I am very, very thirsty."
The Stars answered, "No, we told you to dance on and on, forever and ever."
They danced on and Coyote began to get more tired.
His back was aching and his legs were aching.
So he called out,
"May I stop to get a bite to eat?
I am very, very hungry."
The Stars said, "You must dance on and on and never stop!"
Before long the Stars were dragging him through the heavens.
Soon one arm came off and then the other arm came off.
Because Coyote could no longer hold on to the Stars, he fell back to Earth. As he fell through space, he passed Moon. Coyote called out, "Someone help me!" But not a sound came from Moon.
When he was nearing Earth,
  he saw Eagle soaring and he called again.
  "Help me, Uncle.
  Please help me fall on a mossy place!"
But Eagle just whistled and soared away.
Now in the Klamath region there is a great hole in the ground that is covered with red dust. The Indians say this is where Coyote fell, and the red is his blood.
VERBENA GREENE

Verbena Greene, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, is the mother of eight children. She attended Warm Springs Boarding School until the 11th grade and later earned her G.E.D. She has served as Local Coordinator for the Warm Springs Curriculum Development Committee and was the Tribal Education Program Liaison for more than seven years. She presently is serving as Culture Resource Person for the Tribes, providing classroom cultural instruction (legends, values, songs, etc.) on a consultant basis to schools and community colleges. She enjoys working with young people and is pleased that students are now forming culture clubs and holding powwows in the school environment.

CAROL ALLISON

Carol Allison has been closely associated with the Warm Springs Tribes for 16 years. She works in several different media, including water colors, cloth painting (shawls, skirts), and cartooning. In addition to writing and illustrating children's books, she has worked with Warm Springs committees writing down tribal history and culture.
Booklets available in the Level I sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use as outlined in the Teacher's Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest will appear in the Levels II and III sequence.

1 Coyote and the Stars  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

2 How Wild Horses Were Captured  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

3 School  
Blackfeet Tribe

4 Philene and Buttons  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

5 Insects Off to War  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

6 Why Bluejay Hops  
Skokomish Tribe

7 Indian Festival  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

8 Helpers  
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9 Far Out, A Rodeo Horse  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

10 Tales of Coyote and Other Legends  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

11 Birds and People  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

12 Chipmunk Meets Old Witch  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

13 My Name Is Pop  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

14 Santa Claus Comes to the Reservation  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

15 How Cottontail Lost His Fingers  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

16 Friends  
Blackfeet Tribe

17 How Daylight Came to Be  
Skokomish Tribe

18 A Little Boy's Big Moment  
Blackfeet Tribe

19 Skunk  
Muckleshoot Tribe

20 Raven Helps the Indians  
Skokomish Tribe

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the Teacher's Manual, contact the publisher:

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