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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The Indian Reading Series: Stories and Legends of the Northwest

The Bob-Tailed Coyote
Level II Book 8

By members of the Northern Cheyenne Research and Human Development Association
Illustrated by Dale Brady

Joseph Cohnen, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
This Northern Cheyenne legend is about a bob-tailed coyote who tries to trick other coyotes into getting rid of their tails.
One day long ago, Old Wily Coyote was sitting on a hill.
He called all the young coyotes together.
"Listen to me," he said.
"Our tails stop us from going under fences.
Bears grab our tails and we cannot get away.
We should get rid of our tails."
The young coyotes wondered why Old Wily Coyote said these things. They looked at him. They went behind him and pushed him over. Then they knew why Old Wily Coyote did not like tails. Old Wily Coyote did not have a tail.
Old Wily Coyote told the young coyotes how he lost his tail.
One day when he was fishing with his tail, it became frozen in the ice.
He pulled and pulled to get his tail out of the ice.
At last Old Wily Coyote jumped free.
But he pulled off his tail.
And this is why Old Wily Coyote had no tail.
The young coyotes knew Old Wily Coyote
had tried to fool them.
They said, "Let Old Wily Coyote be the only one
with a short tail."
And he was the only bob-tailed coyote.
Moral:
At times people try to talk you into doing something before you know the reason.
Think before you let someone talk you into doing something.
Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the Teacher’s Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and III sequences.

1 End of Summer
   Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

2 Thunder and the Mosquito
   Muckleshoot Tribe

3 Why the Codfish Has a Red Face
   Skokomish Tribe

4 How Wildcat and Coyote Tricked Each Other
   Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

5 Pat Learns About Wild Peppermint
   Blackfeet Tribe

6 Picture Writing
   The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

7 Grandma Rides in the Parade
   Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

8 The Bob-Tailed Coyote
   Northern Cheyenne Tribe

9 The Great Flood
   Skokomish Tribe

10 The Rainbow
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

11 The Time the Whale Came to Jackson’s Bay
    Skokomish Tribe

12 Coyote and the Man Who Sits On Top
    Salish Cultural Committee of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

13 The Crow
    Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

14 Tepee, Sun and Time
    Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

15 Water Story
    Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

16 How Birds Learned to Fly
    The Fourteen Confederated Tribes from the Yakima Nation

17 Napi and the Bullberries
    Blackfeet Tribe

18 How Cottontail Lost His Tail
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

19 Being Indian Is
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

20 Why Animals and Man Can No Longer Talk to One Another
    The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

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

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