Raccoon’s Black Eyes and Ringed Tail

The Indian Reading Series

Level III Book 8
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Raccoon's Black Eyes and Ringed Tail
Level III Book 8

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Long ago, raccoons lived by a stream near the great Snake River.
The mother raccoons told all their children not to go near mean Coyote's house.
Raccoon children never had fear of anything. They were always daring each other.
One day, the naughty (kay-sho-und) raccoon
told the good (zund) raccoon
to go into Coyote’s (Isa-peh’s) house.
They were both curious as to what Coyote’s house
looked like on the inside.
They had heard stories about his mean nature.
Coyote overheard the two raccoons.
He decided to say hello to them.
Coyote’s charm was beyond belief.
The two raccoons couldn’t believe their eyes and ears.
Coyote invited them into his home.
The two raccoons were amazed
at all the pretty things Coyote had.
Coyote pulled out his black, shiny rope and did some rope tricks. He told the raccoons he would teach both of them how to rope. They didn’t know that the rope had sticky, black, soot-like gum on it.
Coyote roped the naughty raccoon first.
The rope wrapped around his tail and around his eyes.
After Coyote tied the naughty raccoon, he went after the other one. He tied him up too.
Both raccoons were yelling and screaming.
The mother raccoons ran to rescue their two raccoon children. Coyote couldn’t fight both of them, so he released the two children.
The mothers tried to wash all the black, sticky gum off the children’s eyes and tails, but they couldn’t. The two raccoons never forgot their frightening experience. The gummy film on their eyes and tails never came off. They always felt dirty.
Raccoons still look that way today.
And they always wash themselves and their food before they eat.
Booklets available in the Level III 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 II sequences.

1 Story of the Seasons  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
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2 The Beginning of the Earth  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

3 The Blacktail Dance  
Blackfeet Tribe

4 How Marten Got His Spots  
Kootenai Cultural Committee of  
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Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
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5 Lost in the Fog  
Jamestown-Clallam Tribe

6 How to Be a Friend  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

7 How the Morning and Evening Stars Came to Be  
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the  
Fort Peck Reservation

8 Raccoon’s Black Eyes and Ringed Tail  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the  
Fort Hall Reservation

9 Coyote and Old Lady  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the  
Fort Hall Reservation

10 Coyote and Trout  
Kootenai Cultural Committee of  
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Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
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11 How the Milky Way Got into the Sky  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

12 Inkdomi and the Buffalo  
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the  
Fort Peck Reservation

13 Medicine Horse  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the  
Fort Hall Reservation

14 The Good Hunter and Fisherman  
Jamestown-Clallam Tribe

15 The Wild Buffalo Ride  
Blackfeet Tribe

16 I Am a Rock  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural  
Commission

17 The Man Who Loved Shell Money  
Skokomish Tribe

18 Old Man Napi  
Blackfeet Tribe

19 The Turtle Who Went to War  
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the  
Fort Peck Reservation

20 Coyote and the Mean Mountain Sheep  
Salish Cultural Committee of  
The Confederated Salish and  
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
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For order information and prices of the above booklets and the Teacher’s Manual, contact the publisher:

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