

Tribal Traffic Safety: A New Coyote Story
łu? sqélix^w hu hec x^wix^wilwí?isi t x^wm̄ncut:
isíc spílye? sq^wéllum̄c:



Story by Margo Hill
Spokane Tribal Language Translation
by Barry Moses
Illustrations by Emma Noyes

With this New Coyote Story on Tribal Traffic Safety, we honor the teaching methods of our ancestors. We are thankful for the lessons that they have taught us through our language and our stories.

This Tribal Traffic Safety project was made possible by a grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Eastern Washington University is thankful to the participating tribes, the tribal artists and language speakers who made this book possible for our next generations to enjoy.

Our ancestors have always told stories with the animal people. One of our favorite characters is Coyote. Coyote is a mischief maker and we can learn from the mistakes that Coyote makes. Coyote is very boastful and thinks he is smart. Sometimes he doesn't use his common sense.



qe ši?tnnútn hu pentč q^wé?ellumtmis łu? x^wix^weyúł sqélix^w. spílye? ýe čn-
aqs łu? qe sš?it x^wménč x^wix^weyúł. nyŋap hu hec q^woq^womscót łu? spílye?,
hu q?enplé? hu n̄em qe yo?núnm łu? t̄n spílye? čsléčstis. t milk^w hu hec
k^wtiscúti łu? spílye? hu hec ntélsi t yoyót. t x^w?it hu psáye?.

One day, Coyote was just walking around. He wasn't going anywhere; he was just walking around.

t nk^wasqt, ʔu? spílye? hec x^wstlwísi. ta č čeň hec x^wúyi ; čmiš hec x^wstlwísi.



Coyote decided he wanted to go to the powwow. Then he thought, “That’s right! I’ll drive my car!” So he decided he’d wash his car. He wanted to really be stylish and show off.

čʔpa?xém ʔu? spílye? qs x^wuy ʔu? č ʔec ya?pqíni. k^wt nte ʔu? spílye?, “k^wuc uné?...!
hiqs nt^xwmusm ʔu? in pípúyšn...!” k^weňt nte qs čewms ʔu? pípúyšis. nte qs ʔunʔunéx^w
m̓ qs swinúmt̓ m̓ qs qex^wm̓scút.



Coyote said “Maybe Mole will want to go with me to the powwow.”

cúti łu? spílye?, “x^wa ńem q^wu čšntes t púl^ıyehá łu? č̣ ʔec yaʔpqíni.”



So Coyote packed up his regalia, his teepee and deer meat sandwiches. Coyote drove to Mole’s camp. He asked her “Hey I’m heading to the powwow. Do you want to go with me?”

t spílye? hu p̣p̣úl^kwis łu? snyaʔpqíntn x̣c̣núṃtis, łu? ṣtṃqnełx^ws, hu łu? č̣ʔúlix^w sn-
q̣eʔq̣eʔeẉsc. nṭx^wmusm łu? spílye? łu? č̣ púl^ıyehá snccílštis. seẉis, “heʔ, č̣yec taʔx̣wlús
łu? č̣ ʔec yaʔpqíni. ha k^wec nx^wyélsi...?”



Mole said “I will go with you. Let me pack my regalia and sleeping bag.”

cúti łu? púl^ıyehá, “unéʔ, ńem čšncin. x^wumíʔ q^wu ḷc̣istx^w hiqs p̣p̣ul^kwm łu? i
snyaʔpqíntn x̣c̣nuṃtn hu łu? i snčłʔitštn.”



They loaded up and got on the road. Mole put on her seatbelt and said “Hey Coyote aren’t you going to put on your seat belt?”

čłcqmné?ewłm hu ?eńé?es hu nq^wa?pá?aq̄s. łu? pułyehá hu lčewsm n pípúýšn hu cúti,
“he..., spílye? ha ta ńem k^w lčewsm...?”



Coyote said “No. I don’t need a seat belt.”

cúti łu? spílye?, “ta. ta čyec ya?pcíni t snlčewstn.”



Mole said “Don’t you know the #1 factor in our Native American People dying in traffic crashes is lack of seat belt use?”

cúti łu? pułyehá, “ha tac mistex^w hu sš?it hu x^wí šey hec q^wmq^wmí?ip čx^we?x^w?ít łu?
sqélix^w łu? ńe čłk^wé?elłč n pípúýšn néti tas lčé?ewsm...?”



He refused to put a seatbelt on. Mole told Coyote “Seat belts keep you from being ejected during a car crash. Most people ejected from a car can die from their injuries.”

pń tamsc qs lčewsm. t pułyehá hu cuys łu? spílye?, “ńem łci?m łu? a snlčewstn hu ta
k^wqs čqmistm tń pípúýšn łu? ńe k^w čłk^welłč. ńem q^wmip tń slx^wups čx^we?x^w?ít łu? sqélix^w
łu? ńe čqmistm łu? tń pípú?uýšis.”

Always Wear Your Seatbelt



They set off down the highway. Coyote started going fast. Mole said “Hey Coyote! Slow down. You’re going too fast!”

hoy ?eńé?es hu nq̣ʷa?pá?aq̣s. ʔu? spílye? hu čtaᵾʷléčst hu ʔaýíp. cúti ʔu? pułyehá,
“he..., spílye?...! xʷu...! ḳʷḳʷýetš...! mił kʷec ʔaýipmí...!”



Coyote said, “We have to hurry if we want to make a grand entry at the powwow.”
cúti ʔu? spílye?, “taqstám qeqs q̣ʷíṃmi ńe qeqs čłčicntm ʔu? hec š?it swenš.”



Coyote was often foolish and sometimes doesn’t listen to others.

t xʷ?it hu psáye? ʔu? spílye? hu t?e hu t ṇʷu? hec ṇpuᵾwéne?mms ʔu? sṇḳʷélixʷs.”



Mole said “We won’t even make it to powwow if we crash. If you drive too fast we can crash.”

cúti ʔu? pułyehá, “ta qeqs čłčicntm ʔu? hec ya?pqíni ʔu? ńe qe čłḳʷellč. ńe mił kʷ
ʔaýíp, nexʷ ńem qe čłḳʷellč.”



Finally, Coyote slowed down.

?axí hu ḳʷḳʷýetm ʔu? spílye?.

Don't Speed



Mole said “Hey Coyote – What are you doing?”

cúti łu? pułyehá, “he..., spílye?. stem łu? ac kʷuılm...?”



Coyote said “I’m Facebooking and texting our friends that we are on our way to the powwow.”

cúti łu? spílye?, “čyec skʷʷus-qi?mí u yec té?ekstm łu? qe síxłaxt hu yes cú?unm hu qe ?eńés łu? č ?ec ya?pqíni.”



Mole tells Coyote, “You better quit. Pay attention to the road. We might crash.”

t pułyehá hu cuys łu? spílye?, “łémi hoy...! čqe?élsmnt łu šušwéł. ɣi ńe qe čłkʷełč.”

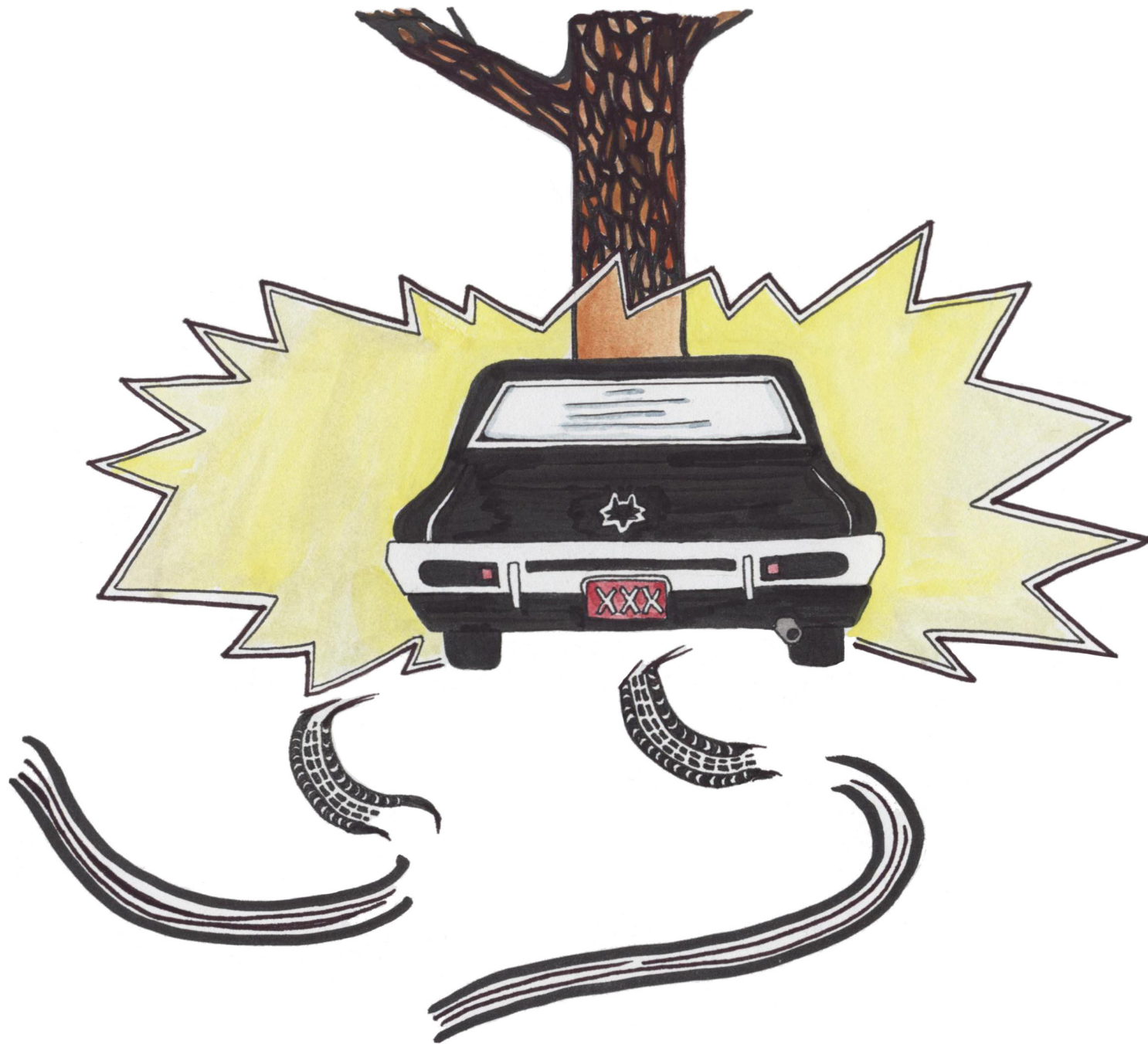
Never Text and Drive



Coyote and Mole crashed into a tree, and they died.

hi k^weñt hu čtamnáʔalq^wm hu q^wmíʔip ʔuʔ spílyeʔ n puʔyehá.

Keep your eyes on the road



Just then, Coyote's brother Fox arrived. Fox stepped over Coyote and Mole three times and they both came back to life.

put hu cčičš łu? spílye? sínce?s sᵾʷoxʷó. t sᵾʷoxʷó hu če?tés hu čłkʷítšlšis łu? spílye?
hu pułyehá hu łu? čselm hu eł xʷlxʷí?ilt.



Coyote stretched and yawned. He said, “Oh my goodness, I had a good dream.”

túrmist hu hewhéwlš łu? spílye?. cúti, “hayó...! ɣest łu? i sqeýs.”



Fox said to him, “You weren't sleeping; you were dead!”

t sᵾʷoxʷó hu cuys, “ta kʷec ?ítšj; kʷ ʎlil...!”



Mole was very angry at him. She said, “Coyote, you are very foolish! You're good for nothing! Because of you we were hurt. I hope young people don't follow you!”

yoyót ?áymtmis t pułyehá. cúti, “mił kʷ psáye? spílye?...! kʷ tnmus...! ɣʷí ?anwí hu qe
lxʷup. kʷmi taqs ?ewtépnc t titwít hu šéšutm...!”



Final message: Nowadays Fox won't bring you back to life. If you want to stay safe in a car you must wear your seat belt, not drive too fast and never text and drive. Don't be foolish like Coyote.

That is all.



łu? hec ?ecéwt smémí: yetłx^{wá} hu ta qeł x^wlx^wiltnc t s^xwo^{wó}. łu? ne k^w nte k^wqs
Íci?m x^wm^qncut n an pípúy^{šn}, taqstám k^wqs x^cnumtm t pípúy^{šn} snłčew^{stn}. ta k^w qec
ntx^wmusm t iłáxt, hu ta pistém k^wqs téksti ne k^w ntx^wmusm. ta k^w qec psáye? ?ec^xíł t
spílye?

šey hu hoy.

