

Weekly Written Response #5:
Coyote, Master of Death, True to Life & The Girl Who Married the Bear

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Original Art Response to “*Coyote, Master of Death, True to Life*”



The story of the coyotes is about the inevitability of death and the journey of the coyotes to play the game against all odds. I must admit that when I first started reading it, I had not yet grasped the story's core and was only thinking of the stereotypes that the Cartoon Network had

given me about coyotes, that they were cunning and fickle as if they were all negative adjectives. This is true of the coyote in the story, as he places a high value on his own cleverness and pays the price before succeeding in each half of the myth. This is true when he seeks the good of others as well as when he seeks only his own satisfaction. Then, one might think, he succeeds in the land of the dead, not the land of the living. This myth teaches us not to do what should not be done, and not to try to defy nature's laws.

We always want to think about whether we can make up for something if we do it differently, but the funny thing is that when we are like the coyote, we keep changing, gaining something, losing something, and in the end, we appear to be the same, but something in us we actually changed and deep down we know that we're not the same anymore.



Original Art Response to “*The Girl Who Married the Bear*”

After reading the introduction and the whole story, I realized that the girl who married a bear is not just a sad love story, but also an inheritance of Indian culture and tradition.

The author told how he wanted to tell the readers the vivid tone and the most direct feelings when he heard it himself, which made me even more curious about how vivid the original story would be. From the beginning of the girl's rebellious behavior, we can assume that there will be a big twist later on, it seems that all fables have this kind of padding, and I also feel that the girl is finally struggling because she is in love with the bear, and this side I see the contrast between animal and human behavior towards the things they like.

The bear intuitively feels that he wants to own the girl he likes, taking her around to travel and hunt for her to eat, in addition to finding ways to keep the girl from returning to the family side, we see that the bear has no heart. But the girl has a great struggle after falling in love with the bear. When she finds out that she may never see her family again, she puts sand on herself and rolls the mud ball toward the way home, but she also has no way to let go of the bear. Although he could go home, he was not in a joyful mood.

The author also explains the delicate relationship between Native people and nature that this story brings out, which generally emphasizes the delicate and frightening balance between human and animal relationships that Indians believe has existed since the beginning of the world. We see bears in many myths, like "Brave" and "Brother Bear" in Disney movies, and it's as if we really see the half-human presence in the bears and the awe and fear that humans feel for them. I think this kind of story really makes me feel that storytelling is one of the most important ways for Indians to express their identity, and what we learn through stories are their cultural background and their values.