

Dialogue Sample from

COYOTE TALES

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(In the moonlight, CHICKEN, FOX, RABBIT, RACCOON, and PRAIRIE DOG are chased offstage by COYOTE who is overcome by all the delicious possibilities and desperate for dinner. Dawn breaks and FOX, breathless and exhausted from the chase, enters alone near a tall rock pillar.)

FOX

I think I've lost him. I ran and ran and ran to escape those sharp teeth. Ah, it's cool in the shade of this tall rock pillar.

(FOX yawns and slides down the rock for a nap.)

But a fox sleeps with only one eye shut. The other eye will be on the lookout for Don Coyote!

(FOX sleeps with one eye open. COYOTE enters, hungrily looking for dinner but not seeing FOX.)

FOX (Continued)

(Whispering)

Oh, no! There's Coyote! If Coyote catches Fox, they'll be nothing left of me but my beautiful tail.

(FOX stands and pushes dramatically against the rock pillar, grunting and groaning. COYOTE sees FOX and moves closer.)

COYOTE

Ah, there you are, Zorro.

(Moving still closer)

I do believe I've found my breakfast.

(Growling and advancing, COYOTE realizes that FOX has not tried to escape.)

COYOTE (Continued)

Why don't you run away, Señor Fox?

FOX

(Overly confident and annoyed)

Why don't I run away? I really cannot imagine why you have to ask!

COYOTE

What do you mean?

FOX

(Growing more exasperated with every question)

Do you not see this pillar of rock?

COYOTE

I do.

FOX

Do you not see that I am holding up this pillar of rock?

COYOTE

(Looking up and down)

You are holding up this pillar?

FOX

Ah! Do you not see that this pillar of rock supports the sky and, unless this pillar is held up, the sky will crash to the ground?!

COYOTE

The sky crash to the ground? But I have been to this place many times and this pillar never had to be propped up before.

FOX

Hah! And I thought Coyote was clever. It's quite obvious. The pillar has only just come loose!

(Straining and struggling)

Help me or it will fall and crush us both!

(COYOTE looks up at the sky and suddenly jumps to FOX's aid, pushing desperately against the pillar.)

COYOTE

You're right! The pillar does look like it's falling!

FOX

That was a close one! Lucky for me you came along.

(Suddenly realizing)

Oh, but this is terrible! If no one else comes along we will have

to stay here forever!

COYOTE

That's true. And, if we try to leave, the pillar of rock will fall on us before we can run to safety!

FOX

That's certainly bad luck for us both.

(Suddenly cheerful)

Oh, I know what can be done!

COYOTE

(Gasping from the exertion)

What, what?

FOX

I will go for help while you hold up the pillar.

COYOTE

But it takes both of us to hold it up.

FOX

No, it doesn't. Remember I was here all alone. Surely Coyote with his legendary strength can hold it up until I return with help. Otherwise we will both remain here until we grow too tired and are crushed like a tortilla.

COYOTE

I don't know ...

FOX

I won't be gone longer than half an hour. And I will bring Raccoon and Rabbit with strong poles to brace up the pillar.

COYOTE

Well ...

FOX

And I will bring chickens and eggs and tamales, sopapillas, enchiladas, flautas, and --

COYOTE

All right, all right! Go! Go!

FOX

(Calling as exiting)

Push harder, brother Coyote! You must make up for both of us, yes?

(FOX scampers off happily.)

COYOTE

(Looking up)

At least the pillar doesn't seem to have moved without Fox's help. I suppose I am quite stronger than I think I am. "Push harder," Fox said. I am! Oh, I am!

(Looking up again)

It does look as if it could fall any minute.

(Grunting and groaning and changing positions)

Surely it's been over an hour since Fox went for help. My arms are aching.

(Pushing all the while, COYOTE slides down the pillar, lies on the ground and pushes desperately with his feet. From this position COYOTE watches the sun set and begins to howl.)

Owoooah! I mustn't let the sky fall to earth! Owoooah! When will Fox return?!

(Lights dim and the crescent moon rises in the sky, COYOTE changes positions and stands again, pushing on the pillar.)

Now it's night! What could have happened to Fox? Owoooah! I have no strength left to hold up the sky. Owoooah! Maybe with luck I can run faster than the rock pillar can fall. It's my only chance. Besides, I'm about to starve to death anyway!

(Howling loudly, COYOTE makes a run for it away from the pillar.)

Owoooah!!!!

(Sure that HE's cleared the "falling" pillar, COYOTE, panting and terrified, turns and stares amazed at the upright pillar.)

It's, it's, it's still standing ... it cannot be ... un momentito ...

(Realizing FOX's deceit)

Coyote tricked by Fox?! Impossible!

(Sheepishly)

But true. Coyote's the one who should hand out the tricks! I swear by ... by ... by the sky above, I'll catch Fox and tear him limb from limb and hang his mangy tail from the top of this tree to warn all others who would dare trick Coyote! Owoooah!!!

(COYOTE runs off howling "Owoooah!". FOX enters followed by RABBIT and RACCOON.)

FOX

So ... early this morning I left Coyote by the rock pillar ...

(FOX pushes dramatically on rock pillar for the others' amusement.)

... holding up the sky!

RABBIT

Holding up the sky? What are you talking about?

FOX

De que hablo? Let me tell you.

(FOX tells the story in Spanish. Following FOX's story is the English translation in italics.)

FOX

Permítame empezar por el principio. Así como el resto de ustedes, yo corrí y corrí de las mandíbulas hambrientas de Don Coyote. Corrí tan rápidamente que apenas pude respirar. Entonces, alcance este pilar de piedra. "Estoy a salvo. Estoy a salvo". ¡Pero no! ¿Adivina quien esta detrás de mi cola?

(Admira su cola)

Ay, mi hermosísima cola.

RABBIT AND RACoon

¿Quién? ¿Quién era?

FOX

¡Era Coyote, por supuesto! ¡Lamiéndose la boca! ¿ Que puedo hacer? ¿Qué puedo hacer? ¡Aja! Yo conozco una manera de salvarme pues soy un zorro muy hábil.

(Se inclina en el pilar)

"¿Ve este pilar Don coyote?" Le digo muy calmado y sereno. " Este pilar está sosteniendo al cielo. ¡"Ayúdeme, ayúdeme o el cielo se caerá y los dos quedaremos aplastados completamente!" ¡Y el Coyote, ese coyote hábil, me creyó! ¡Y así nos quedamos los dos, sosteniendo este pilar con toda nuestra fuerza!

(Empieza a reír)

RABBIT AND RACoon

¿Y después? ¿Y después?

FOX

Entonces yo le digo, ¡Ay, y esto está bueno, esto está muy bueno! ¡"Amigo Coyote, voy a ir a buscar mas ayuda!" "¡No, no!" Dice el Coyote. "Pero regresaré y traeré al Conejo y al Mapache." "¡No, no!" Dice el Coyote. "Y también traeré pollo, y huevos, y tortillas y... y..."

RABBIT AND RACoon

¿Y? ¿Y?

FOX

¡Y tuve una noche tan agradable, escuchando al Coyote aullar tan miserablemente mientras sostenía ese pilar toda la noche!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

FOX: Well, let me start at the beginning. Just like the rest of you, I ran and ran from the hungry jaws of Don Coyote. I ran so fast I could hardly breathe. Then I reached this rock pillar.

"I'm safe." I'm safe." But no! Guess who was on my tail?

(Admiring his tail.)

Oh, my fine, beautiful tail.

RABBIT and RACCOON: Who? Who was it?

FOX: It was Coyote, of course! Licking his chops! What to do?! What to do?! Aha! I know a way to save myself, clever fox that I am.

(HE leans on pillar.)

"See this pillar, Coyote?" I say so calm and cool. "This pillar here is holding up the sky. Help! Help me or the sky will fall and we will both be squashed flat!" And Coyote, clever Coyote, fell for it! So, there we were, both of us holding up this pillar for dear life!

RACCOON and RABBIT: And then? And then?

FOX: So then I say, oh and this was good, this was very good. "Friend Coyote, I will go for help!" "No, no!" says Coyote. "But I will come back and bring Rabbit and Fox." "No, no!" says Coyote. "And I will also bring chicken and eggs and tortillas and ... and ..."

RACCOON and RABBIT: And?! And?!

FOX: And what a pleasant night's sleep I had, hearing Coyote howl in misery as he held up this pillar all night long!

END OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION

RABBIT and RACCOON

And you slept soundly all the night long!

FOX

(yawning contentedly)

Toda ... la ... noche.

(FOX, RABBIT and RACCOON exit, laughing merrily.)