

Trickster Tales

“Coyote and Buffalo” (p.38-40)

1. How does Coyote use magic to avoid Buffalo’s attack?
2. What human characteristics does Buffalo Bull show in this story?
3. Beside Coyote, who else is a trickster in this story? What lesson does this teach?
4. What natural phenomenon does this trickster tale help to explain? How is it explained in the story?
5. Based on this tale, what traits are admired in **Okanogan** society? What traits are scorned? Explain. *Consider the following in your response: What actions are rewarded? What actions are punished?*

“Fox and Coyote and Whale” (p. 41-43)

1. What is the central conflict of this story? *Hint: it is introduced in the first paragraph.*
2. Identify reasons why Coyote and Fox are considered “twins” in the story.
3. When Fox breaks the water maidens’ necks, what does this action say about Fox and tricksters? Explain.
4. What natural phenomenon does this trickster tale help to explain? How is it explained in the story?
5. Identify and contrast the tone of this story with “Coyote and Buffalo”.

