

## She Played by Her Lonesome

*What's interesting about "A Coyote Columbus Story" because it incorporates themes of innocent youth completely missing the larger picture of American History. The contemporary history taught to our young is simplified beyond recognition, etc. I'm including three paragraphs following the introduction in order to capture as much of Brenden's paper as possible without losing concepts established in previous body paragraphs. I've decided to peer review this paper because it fails at a lot of the same explanation cues as me, and reviewing the paper has made me more keenly aware of what an audience needs out of a paper.*

Key:

**Yellow Highlight:** Topic Sentence + Closing Sentence

**Green Highlight:** Evidence

**Pink Highlight:** Claims

### Peer-Reviewing "Conflict In A Coyote Columbus Story" by Brenden Allan

As a reader we can see that Coyote is a young girl based on the use of the word "her" and her party accessories mentioned in the first line. <sup>1</sup> The topic sentence needs to convey the idea of the paragraph. She may be female, but this detail can come slightly later on. Coyote is under the impression that Christopher Columbus founded America and also the Indian people according to her school's history book. <sup>2</sup> Almost evidence, really feels like I'm simply being told The mentioning of the history book can serve as a representation of the idea of conformation of the young Native American girl to the American culture or perhaps represents the disagreement the author of the story has with what children are being taught in school in todays day and age. <sup>3</sup> This sentence comes out of nowhere, it really needs a quote or something to let us know what you're trying to

interpret. Growing up in school we always learned that Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue and founded the land we call home today, but as we matured into adults we began to realize there was much more to this story. The disagreement between the two characters in terms of understanding of the story behind the discovery of America sprouts from the simplicity amongst the mind of the young Coyote. <sup>4</sup> The disagreement also needs an explanation or quote to show up why

you're drawing this conclusion The elder mentions that "Some of Coyote's stories have got Coyote tails and some of Coyote's stories are covered with scraggy Coyote fur but all of Coyote's stories are bent.", which is used to convey the lack of understanding and fuzziness associated with the conceptions amongst her stories. A young child struggles to see the underlying foundation of an issue since he or she lacks different ways of thinking about and analyzing a situation. In order to convey the proper story and history the narrator chooses to word the story in a way that makes the subject of his story directly relatable to Coyote herself.

The concept of the premature mind is present throughout the retelling of the discovery of America story. <sup>5</sup> (From the story's perspective) The narrator uses the character known as "Old Coyote" as the subject of his retelling of his story pertaining to the discovery of America. Upon researching the symbol of a coyote in Native American culture I found that it is a representation of a mythical creator. When describing Old Coyote the narrator initially tells the story of how Old Coyote would always dance and play ball with the Indians in the area, which had befriended her. Old Coyote was said to constantly change the rules and always made it so that she could win, which pushed the young Indians away. <sup>6</sup> This is technically evidence, but it could be a quote to make it sound less like

you're simply telling me what is in the story With Old Coyote's unfair ways we see how she is self-centered in her actions and thought process. <sup>7</sup> Since "young Old Coyote" can be very confusing,

this paragraph could elaborate more on the character The young Old Coyote had no conception of

why the Indians had stopped playing with her because she lacked the ability to realize how she was acting and how that affected others instead of her. <sup>8</sup>How does this relate to the discovery of

America Story? It needs more relevance to the thesis In the story Old Coyote begins to play and sing by herself and the narrator warns us that trouble lies ahead.

Old Coyote is now lonely and forced to play by her lonesome, which leads to her forming imaginative friends and ideas. The narrator states that Old Coyote "makes three ships" and then questions herself on where these ships came from. I asked myself how does a young girl create three massive ships? With the information of the coyote representing a creator in Native American culture I could see how this story could be more of a mythical tale detailing the creation of America itself. My only other explanation for this would be a metaphor representing the well-known saying regarding the power of a child's wish. <sup>9</sup>Weigh each side and see which one you want to go with for

a final draft I am under the impression that Old Coyote was no mythical being, but instead a young child exploring her imagination. Being lonely Old Coyote had wished for new friends to play with since all of the Indians she had originally played with all found better things to do. The ongoing process of Old Coyote creating and giving the ships along with their passenger's qualities and characteristics leads to the initial confrontation between Old Coyote and Christopher Columbus. To Old Coyote, these objects were all apart of her imagination and she was the creator of them. <sup>10</sup> There is a decent amount of context for this claim, but it could use a quote to help it "show"

more instead of "tell" After further investigation I also thought that perhaps this too was highlighting the simplicity of the young mind by wording it in a way that made it seem that Old Coyote believed she had created these ships and these people in her imagination, which all appeared and had come true. Being the young child Old Coyote she is in high hopes that these foreign men described as wearing funny clothing are here to simply play ball with her and be her friend. The narrators depiction of the conversation held between Old Coyote and Columbus is short and to the point. The

foreign men have come in search of China and all of the riches and resources associated with it. The mentioning of the men searching for the riches associated with China gives them a greedy characteristic. The men soon realized that they were nowhere near China, but couldn't go home empty handed. The men quickly begin to exploit the animals and resources they see and out of rage Columbus himself came up with the idea that they could sell the Indian people over in Spain. Columbus is now exposed as a greedy and close-minded individual who exploits people rather than the man who discovered the land we live on today. <sup>11</sup> Is this still from Old Coyote's

imagination? This directly conflicts with young Coyotes idea of the type of man Columbus is, but the new description of the adventurer seems to go completely over her head. The men quickly began collecting all of the Indian people up for capture while Old Coyote sat back and laughed as if it were a joke. The laughing had continued until she had realized that Columbus had taken all of her Indian friends around her. Since Old Coyote herself was not taken I assumed she had been left due to the fact she was just a young girl. Old Coyote chose to blame herself for "thinking up" the ships and the foreign people who pillaged the land she called home and took her friends. Old Coyote was left alone again with no friends, but this time it seems that she was left only to blame herself and her selfish ways. <sup>12</sup> What does this all build to? Is this a realization that Columbus is not the hero of

American Mythology, or a reflection of Old Coyote because she imagined the pillaging?