

The Bob-Tailed Coyote

The Indian Reading Series



Level II Book 8

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

The Bob-Tailed Coyote

Level II Book 8

**By members of the Northern Cheyenne
Research and Human Development Association**

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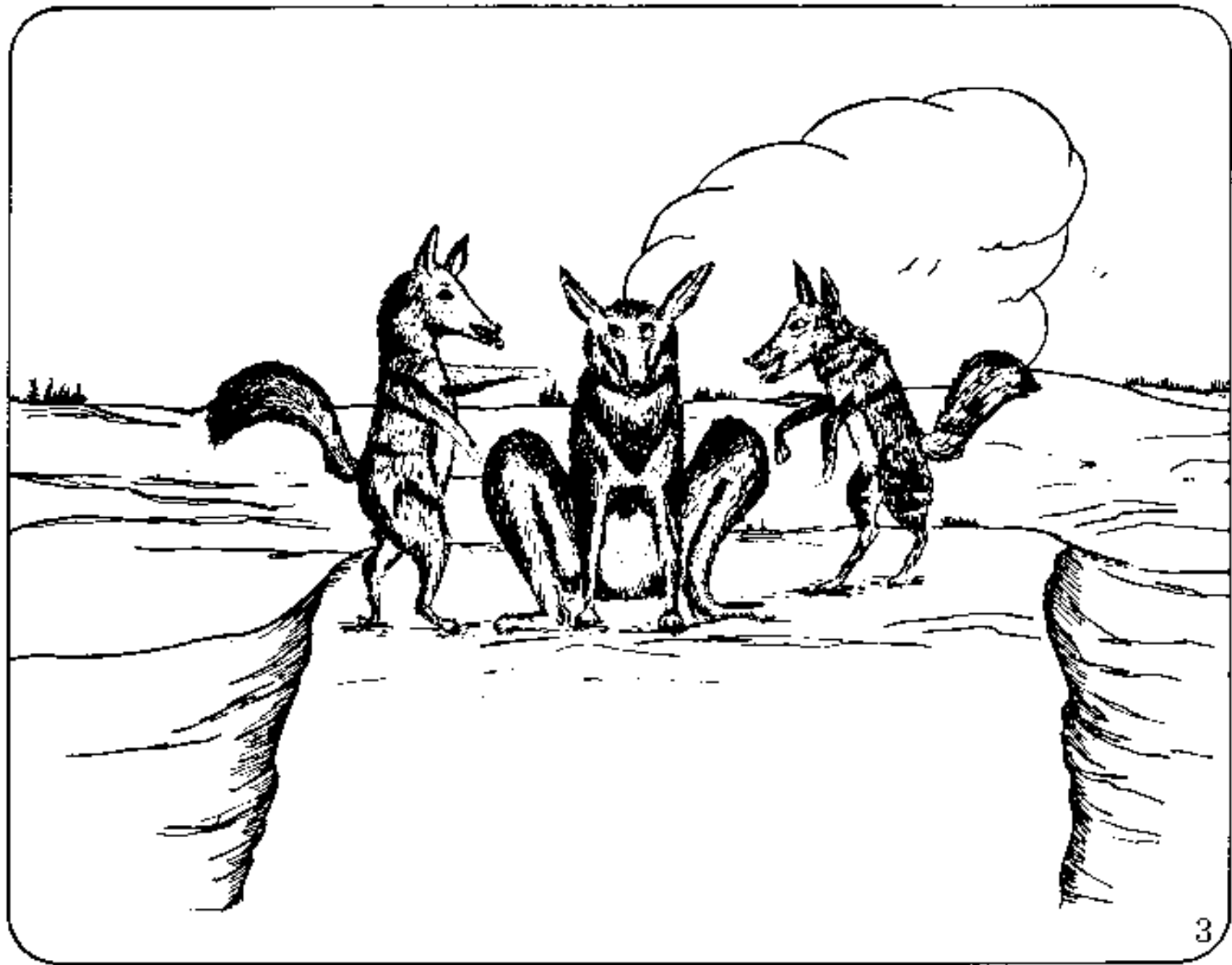
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This Northern Cheyenne legend is about a bob-tailed coyote who tries to trick other coyotes into getting rid of their tails.

One day long ago, Old Wily Coyote was sitting on a hill.
He called all the young coyotes together.
"Listen to me," he said.
"Our tails stop us from going under fences.
Bears grab our tails and we cannot get away.
We should get rid of our tails."



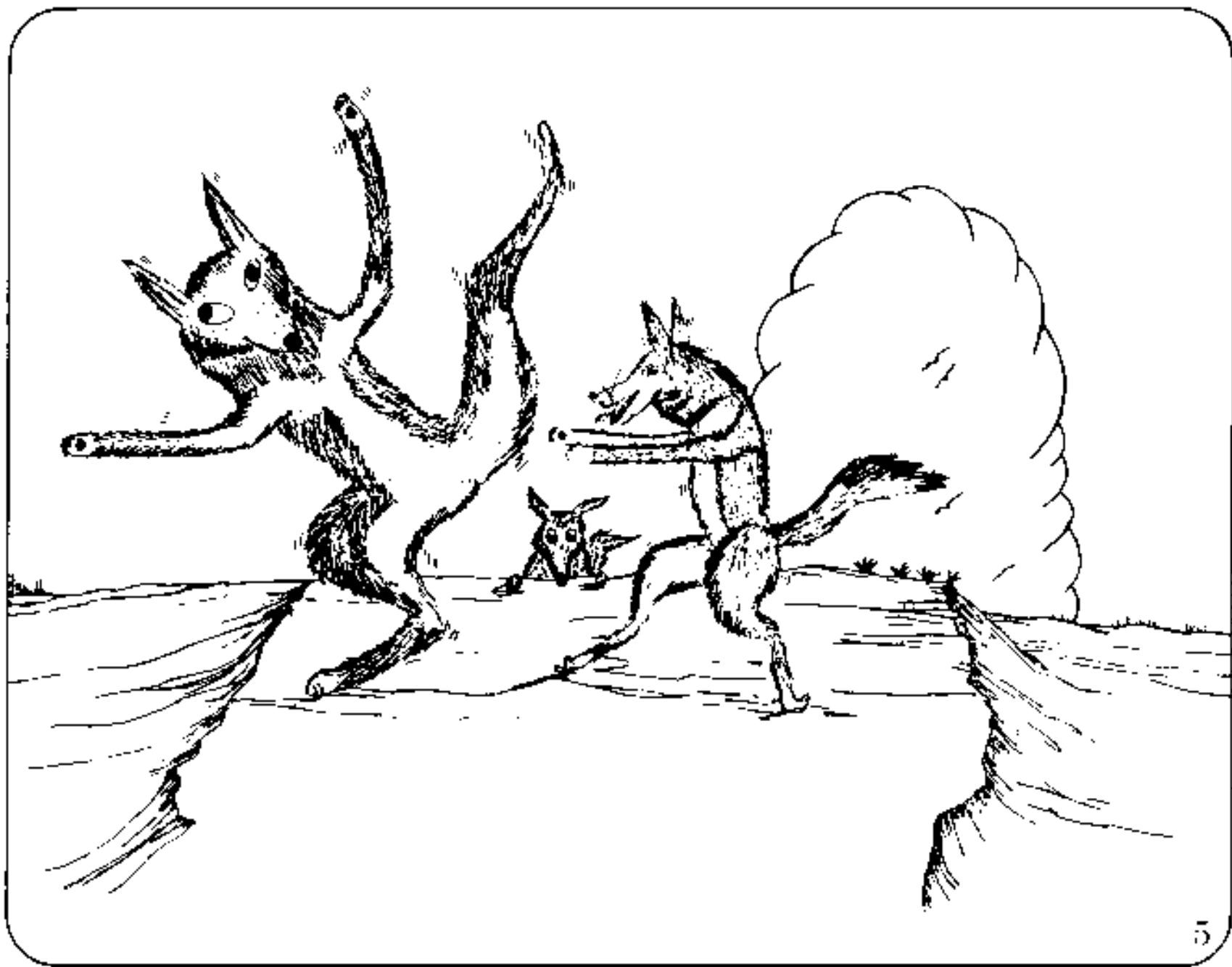
The young coyotes wondered why Old Wily Coyote
said these things.

They looked at him.

They went behind him and pushed him over.

Then they knew why Old Wily Coyote did not like tails.

Old Wily Coyote did not have a tail.



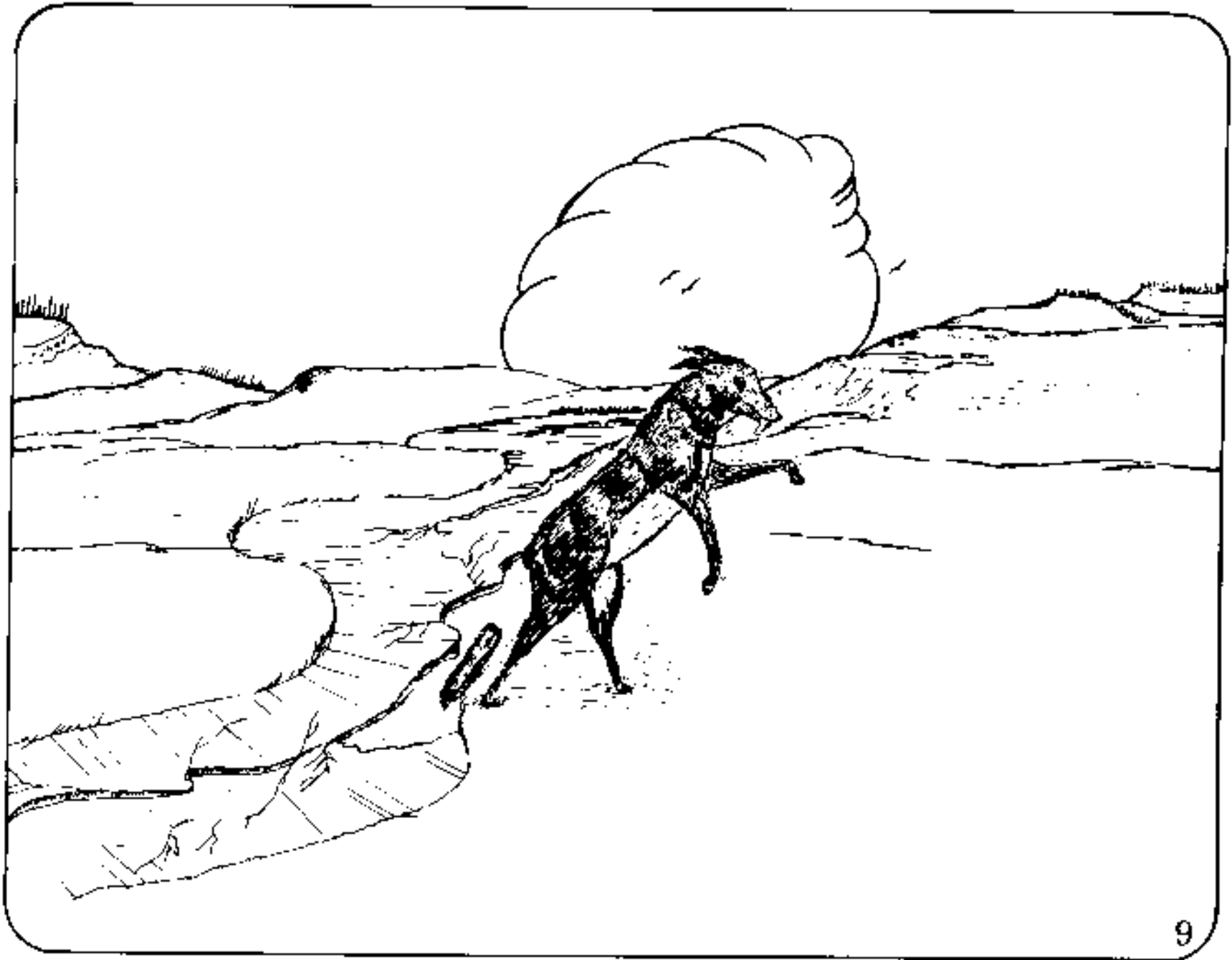
Old Wily Coyote told the young coyotes
how he lost his tail.

One day when he was fishing with his tail,
it became frozen in the ice.

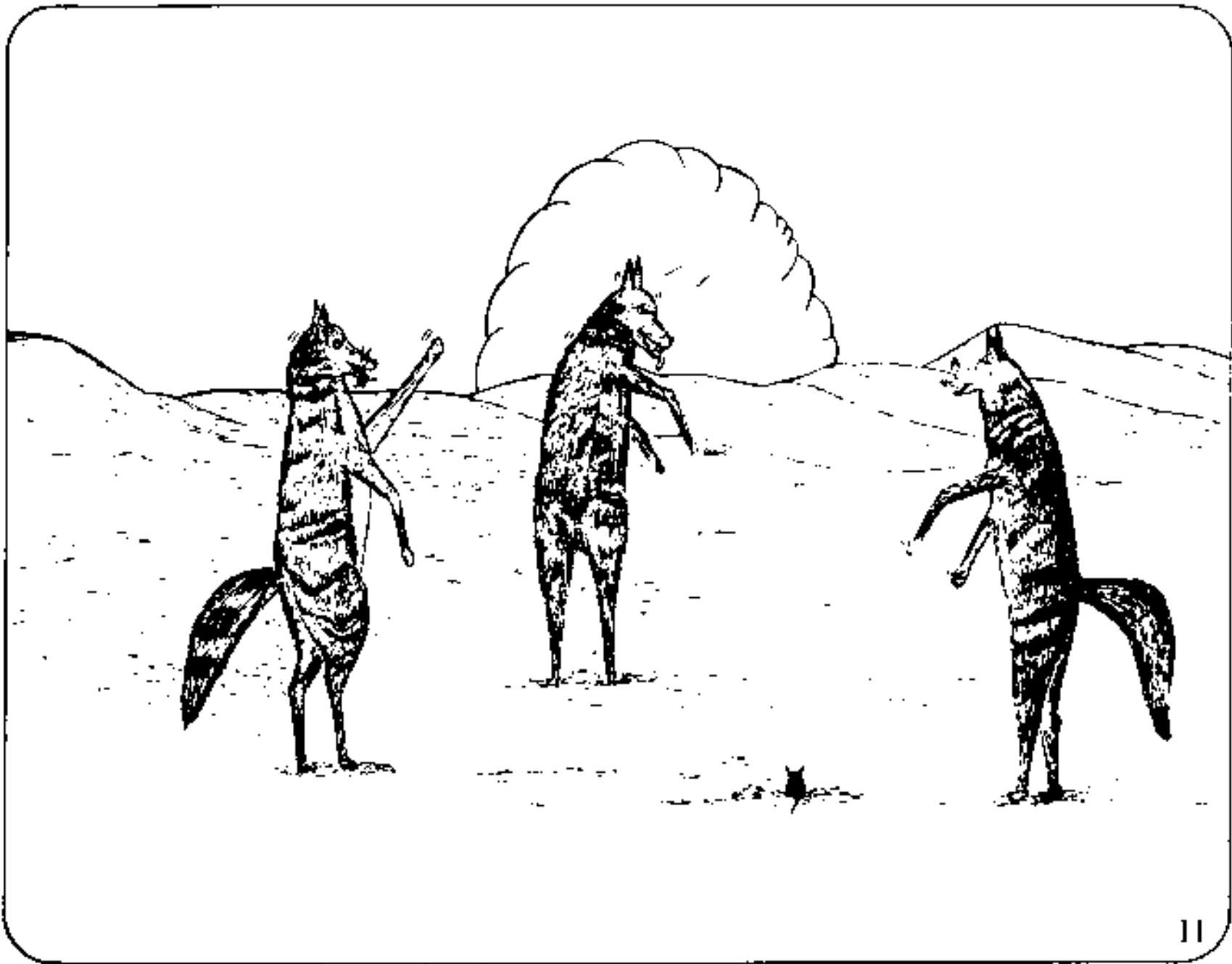
He pulled and pulled to get his tail out of the ice.



At last Old Wily Coyote jumped free.
But he pulled off his tail.
And this is why Old Wily Coyote had no tail.



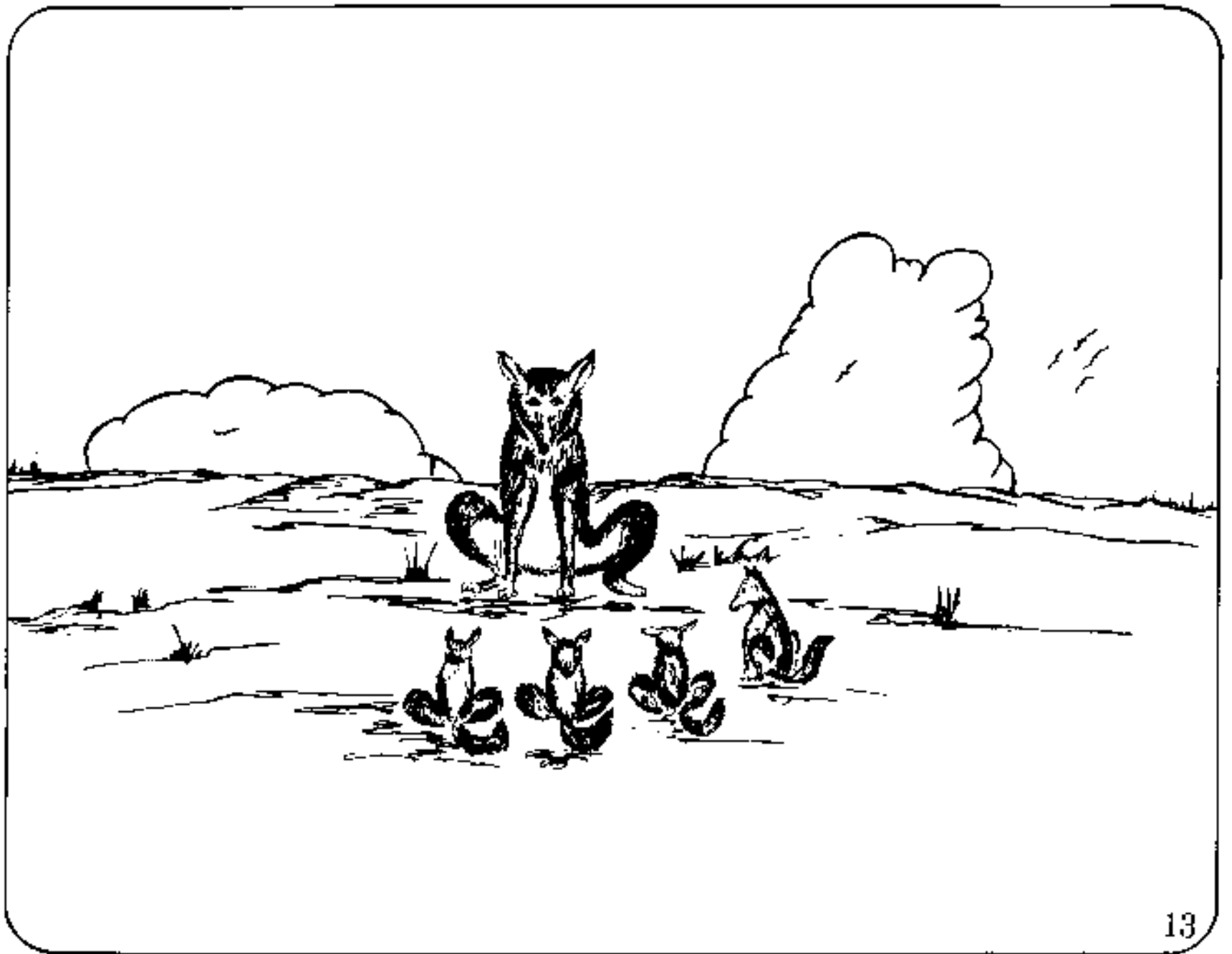
The young coyotes knew Old Wily Coyote
had tried to fool them.
They said, "Let Old Wily Coyote be the only one
with a short tail."
And he was the only bob-tailed coyote.



Moral:

**At times people try to talk you into doing something
before you know the reason.**

**Think before you let someone talk you
into doing something.**



Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and III sequences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <i>End of Summer</i>
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| 2 <i>Thunder and the Mosquito</i>
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| 8 <i>The Bob-Tailed Coyote</i>
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