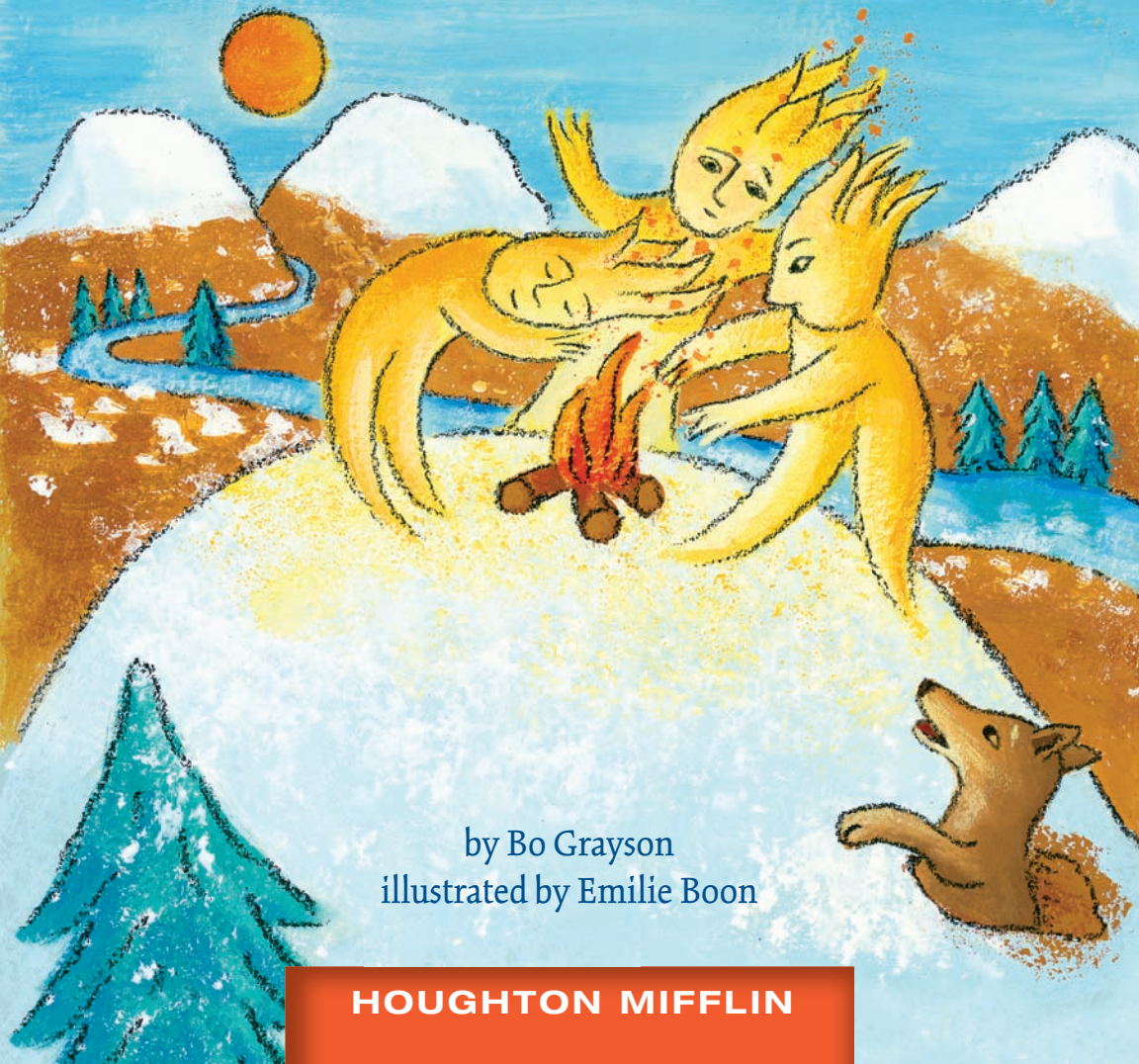




How Coyote Stole Fire



by Bo Grayson
illustrated by Emilie Boon

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

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🔊 Long ago people had no fire. In the winter, the wind was cold and snow fell. The people could not get warm.

Coyote saw that the people were cold and he wanted to help them.



🔊 Coyote knew that the Fire Beings lived at the top of a mountain. They kept fire there.

🔊 The top of the mountain was at a great height. But Coyote knew that fire could keep the people warm. So he went slowly toward the top of the mountain. When he reached the top, he crept close to the fire. Then he dug a tunnel and hid.



🔊 Coyote watched the Fire Beings take care of the fire. After some time, the fire burned out, and only warm embers were left. Then one Fire Being gathered small sticks. The other Fire Beings used these sticks to start the fire. Soon they made the fire roaring hot.





🔊 Coyote wanted to steal some fire for the people. But the Fire Beings guarded the fire day and night.

🔊 Coyote watched and watched. Then he saw that the Fire Beings were sleepy in the morning. They did not guard the fire very well right before the sun came up. So dawn was the best time to steal the fire.



But Coyote knew that he needed help. He went down from the mountain and spoke to his friends. Squirrel, Chipmunk, and Frog agreed to help. They made a clever plan to steal some fire.

The friends returned to the mountain. Frog waited at the bottom. Chipmunk waited halfway up the mountain. Squirrel waited just below the peak. Coyote crept alone toward the fire and hid in his tunnel. He waited for dawn.

▶ Right before the sun came up, Coyote dashed out of his tunnel. He ran up and stole a piece of fire.

The Fire Beings woke up. “Stop that thief!” they cried. They pointed in his **direction**. “Grab that thief!”

▶ One Fire Being grabbed his tail. When she touched it, the end turned white.

Coyote threw the fire to Squirrel. Squirrel caught the fire, but it was so hot that his tail **curled** up.





🔊 Squirrel threw the fire down the mountain to Chipmunk. Down raced the Fire Beings after the fire. One grabbed Chipmunk's back and left three marks.

🔊 Chipmunk threw the fire down the mountain to Frog. Down raced the Fire Beings after the fire. One grabbed Frog's tail. Frog leaped and left his tail behind.



🔊 Frog escaped with the fire. The Fire Beings roared in anger. Chipmunk, Squirrel, and Coyote ran down off the mountain. Then the four animal friends brought fire back to the people.

🔊 Coyote did not brag about stealing the fire. He showed the people how to use it. Now the people could keep warm in the winter.

🔊 The people noticed that Fire Beings had hurt the four friends. Coyote's tail had a white tip. Squirrel had a curly tail. Chipmunk's back had three stripes. And Frog had lost his tail.

🔊 The people did not **tease** the animals because they had changed. They thanked them for stealing fire. Then they helped them **heal**.



Responding



TARGET SKILL Understanding

Characters Is Coyote a kind character or an unkind character? Copy and complete the chart below.

Words	Actions	What I Know
He wanted to help them.	He ?	Coyote is ?



Write About It

Text to World Coyote and his friends help the people. Use a few sentences to write a summary essay about how Coyote helped the people. Then write about a time when you helped someone, and why it is important to help others. Include only the most important ideas from the story.



TARGET VOCABULARY

brag

curled

direction

healed

height

tease

toward

tunnel



TARGET SKILL **Understanding**

Characters Tell more about characters.



TARGET STRATEGY **Summarize**

Stop to tell important events as you read.



GENRE A **folktale** is a story that is often told by people of a country.

Level: K

DRA: 20

Genre:

Folktale

Strategy:

Summarize

Skill:

Understanding Characters

Word Count: 544

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