

SYNOPSIS

TATANKA AS A COYOTE.

”Coyote, the great entertainer.”

Tonight’s evening around the campfire is dedicated to the children. Every child who would like to perform something gets to do it in front of the whole WA-MO tribe. Lulu is eager to perform, and she wants to do something funny. She tries to make a funny melody on her flute. Tatanka does not get it. He would never try to entertain someone just to end up being laughed at.

Tatanka starts walking up the mountain. He has nothing better to do - nothing to practice for tonight’s event. Up on the mountainside, Tatanka spots a coyote, and decides to transform to a coyote himself. The coyote is desperately trying to balance a cone on his nose, while standing on two legs. He fails miserably - trips and falls flat to the ground. The cone rolls into a hole in the ground (a mole-rat’s hole).

Tatanka laughs. The coyote hears Tatanka’s laughter and asks if he would like to try. Tatanka says he does not want to try, and the coyote asks whether Tatanka prefers to laugh of others, and not of him self. Tatanka cannot answer the question.

The coyote asks Tatanka to find three cones. He wants to show how great he is at juggling. The coyote turns out to be a terrible juggler two, and his chaotic attempt looks more like some kind of silly dance. Tatanka laughs and joins the coyote in his silly dance.

Now, the coyote wants to show off his throwing skills. He gathers the cones and starts throwing them down in different holes in the ground. Tatanka is impressed to see all the cones hit the holes. Tatanka gives the coyote his well-deserved applause, but is suddenly interrupted when angry mole-rats emerge from their holes, throwing all the cones back at the two of them. Tatanka and the Coyote laugh even more.

The coyote says that life is much funnier when you can laugh at yourself. Tatanka and the coyote keep laughing while trying to doge the flying cones. Then, Tatanka hears Lulu’s flute calling. He needs to return to the camp, and transforms back to himself again. At first, the coyote is stunned by Tatanka’s transformation, but now he wants to transform himself. The coyote pictures himself as half coyote and half Indian, and it all seems rather silly in his mind, so he starts laughing at his own thoughts.

Lulu is happily surprised to learn that Tatanka wants to perform after all. She is rather nervous, so Tatanka suggests they perform together.

That night, by the lonely tree, Tatanka tells his grandfather how everything feels better when you are able to laugh at yourself

(Flashback of Lulu playing her flute and Tatanka dancing the silly coyote dance with cones).