

The Foolish Coyote

Every autumn, a group of blackbirds gathered on top of a mountain to sing and dance before they headed south for the winter. One day, a coyote was hunting on the mountain. He heard the blackbirds singing. When he looked up, he saw them flying in the air.

1. What characters are in this story? _____
2. Who is probably the main character? _____
3. Is this writing fiction or nonfiction? _____
4. Explain your answer for question 3. _____

Day 1

"How beautifully you fly and dance!" the coyote cried. "Can you teach me to do that? If I could fly, I could be the great king of the coyotes."

The blackbirds knew the coyote could never fly, but they wanted to have some fun. "We can teach you to fly. Come to the top of the mountain, and we will assist you."

1. Write the word from the story that is a compound word. _____
2. What other word could you use instead of **assist** in this story? _____
3. What can you tell about the character of the blackbirds? _____
4. Would you say the coyote is **proud** or **humble**? _____ Underline the sentence that supports your answer.

Day 2

When the coyote got to the mountaintop, the birds told him to sit down. Then, each bird pulled a feather from its shiny black suit. "This will hurt," said the birds. "But, this is the only way you will be able to fly."

1. What sound does the **ui** in **suit** make: **oo** as in **boot** or **u** as in **cup**? _____
2. What is each bird's "shiny black suit"? _____
3. Would you say the blackbirds are **mean** or **funny**? Explain. _____

4. Do you think the coyote will let the blackbirds hurt him? Explain. _____

Day 3

The birds all stuck feathers into the coyote's legs and tail. The feathers jabbed terribly, but the coyote said nothing. He sat very still until the birds had finished. All the while, he was thinking of what a great king he would be.

1. What word from the story means "poked with a sharp point"? _____
2. Look back at your prediction from Day 3. Did the coyote let the blackbirds hurt him? Explain. _____
3. Do you think the feathers will make the coyote king? Explain. _____

4. Would you say the coyote is **brave** or **foolish**? _____

Day 4

The Foolish Coyote (continued)

When all of the feathers were in place, the excited coyote ran to the edge of the mountaintop and jumped into the air. For a minute, he seemed to be flying. He flapped his legs and looked at the ground far below.

"Look at me!" he shouted. "I'm king of the coyotes!"

Soon, though, he began to fall. With a great crash, he landed on the ground. As he lay there, sore and bruised, he realized that it is wisdom and courage, not the ability to fly, that make a great king.

1. What word in the story has a **ui** that sounds like the **ui** in **suit**? _____
2. What word in the story means **good judgment**? _____
3. What word in the story means **bravery**? _____
4. What is the moral of this story? Circle the best answer.
 - A. Good rulers need wisdom and courage, not special powers.
 - B. Only birds were meant to fly.
 - C. Teasing someone is not a good way to have fun.
5. How did the coyote feel at the end of the story: **proud** or **foolish**? _____

Explain. _____

6. Retell the story to another person. Have the person sign here.
