

**Levels: Grade 3 (Early, Middle, Upper)**

**Word Count: 1,217**

### Script Summary:

Hungry Coyote wants to eat poor little Rabbit, but Rabbit has a few tricks up his sleeve in this hilarious traditional Mexican folktale.

### Objectives and Assessment

**Monitor students to determine if they can:**

- consistently read their lines with appropriate rate and accuracy
- consistently read their lines with appropriate expression, including pause, inflection, and intonation
- follow along silently and listen for spoken cues

### Using the Scripts:

- Each role is assigned a reading level according to the syntactic and semantic difficulty encountered. Feel free to divide roles further to include more readers in a group.
- Discuss vocabulary and encourage readers to practice their lines to promote fluent delivery of the script.
- Have readers highlight their lines on the scripts, and encourage them to follow along as everyone reads.

### Vocabulary:

**Story words:** lesson, mesquite, roasted, saguaro, scrawny, tales

### Cast of Characters:

Grade 3 (Early)	Grade 3 (Middle)	Grade 3 (Upper)
Narrator 2	Narrator 1	Rabbit
		Coyote

**Cast of Characters:**

Parts		
Narrator 2	Narrator 1	Rabbit
		Coyote

**Narrator 1:**

One day, Rabbit was out in the desert nibbling on a prickly pear cactus when Coyote slyly crept up on him.

**Narrator 2:**

Rabbit spotted Coyote and began to hop away as fast as he could. Coyote was quick and cornered Rabbit near a large **saguaro** cactus. Poor Rabbit trembled with fear.

**Coyote:**

Rabbit, you aren't fast enough to outrun me. I'm very hungry. You're a bit **scrawny**, but you look good enough to eat.

**Rabbit:**

Why would you want to eat a little rabbit like me? My skin is tough from the desert sun, and I am as skinny as a **mesquite** bean. I wouldn't be more than a mouthful.

**Coyote:**

You'll do for a snack.

**Rabbit:**

No, no, no! What you want is a fat, juicy, **roasted** chicken.

**Coyote:**

That does sound delicious, but I don't see any chickens around. I'll settle for some grilled rabbit.

**Rabbit:**

I know where the humans are camped. They're cooking delicious chickens for their lunch. Let me go, and I'll bring you one.

**Coyote:**

You're trying to trick me. Close your eyes, and I'll eat you quickly.

**Narrator 1:**

Coyote licked his lips and opened his jaws.

**Rabbit:**

I'm telling you the truth, and I'll prove it. Trust me. You wait here, and I'll bring you a juicy chicken. The humans are near the mountain just over there.

**Coyote:**

The humans? HA! Why should I believe you? You are just a scared little rabbit who doesn't want to be eaten!

**Rabbit:**

I give you my word as a rabbit. If you will let me go, I will get you a juicy roasted chicken.

**Narrator 1:**

Coyote thought about what Rabbit said. Rabbit really was skinny and little, hardly worth the effort of eating.

**Coyote:**

Hmmm, roasted chicken does sound delicious.

**Rabbit:**

It sure does. Imagine how juicy it would be, and how stringy I would be.

**Coyote:**

Okay, I will let you go, but you had better bring me back a delicious roasted chicken!

**Rabbit:**

Of course! You have my word as a rabbit!

**Narrator 2:**

Rabbit ran off toward the mountain, and Coyote waited. He waited a long time. He waited and waited and waited.

**Narrator 1:**

Finally, Coyote could wait no more. He became angry and followed Rabbit's tracks towards the mountain. As he got closer to the mountain, he saw Rabbit standing by a cliff wall.

**Coyote:**

Look at that tricky rabbit. When I get my paws on him, I'm going to teach him a **lesson** about telling **tales**.

**Narrator 2:**

Coyote marched right up to Rabbit. Rabbit's paws were placed against the cliff wall and he was pushing as hard as he could.

**Coyote:**

You have tricked me for the last time. Now you're going to be my snack.

**Narrator 1:**

Rabbit didn't run away. He kept pushing against the cliff wall.

**Rabbit:**

Is that you, Coyote? Thank goodness you are here. I was on my way to get your chicken when I noticed this cliff was about to fall on me.

**Coyote:**

What are you talking about?

**Rabbit:**

I am in a terrible mess! I have been standing here holding this cliff up since I left you. I'm afraid it will fall right on my head!

**Narrator 2:**

Suddenly, a stone fell from the wall. Rabbit gasped and pushed against the cliff harder than ever.

**Coyote:**

I don't trust you, Rabbit! You are always up to something. Are you sure you are holding up that cliff wall?

**Rabbit:**

This is not a time for fun and games. Holding a cliff wall is more serious than trying to trick you. Would you help me hold up the cliff while I go and get your roasted chicken? I'm sure it's almost ready.

**Coyote:**

Well, okay. I will help you, but you better bring me my roasted chicken. And it better be juicy and delicious, or I'll eat you instead, stringy or not. That'll teach you a lesson.

**Rabbit:**

Of course! You have my word as a rabbit!

**Narrator 1:**

Rabbit showed Coyote where to put his paws. Coyote pushed as hard as he could while Rabbit ran to get his chicken. A rock fell, and Coyote pushed against the cliff even harder. The sunlight beat down on coyote and his paws were tired.

**Coyote:**

Where is that rabbit? I'm getting so tired and hungry. I can't hold this cliff up much longer. I will have to run quickly when I let go or I will surely be crushed!

**Narrator 2:**

Another rock fell, and Coyote pushed even harder. He couldn't hold on anymore. He let go of the cliff, put his hands over his head, and ran as fast as he could. Nothing happened.

**Coyote:**

HOWL! You have fooled me for the last time, you sneaky rabbit. Now I am really going to eat you. That'll teach you a lesson!

**Narrator 1:**

Coyote bent down and put his nose to the desert floor. He followed Rabbit's tracks until he found Rabbit sitting on a large rock underneath a mesquite tree. Dry sagebrush covered the desert as far as the eye could see.

**Rabbit:**

Hello, Coyote. I've been waiting for you. The humans will be bringing the roast chicken by here any time now.

**Narrator 2:**

Coyote sat down and looked at Rabbit. He had a hungry grin on his face.

**Coyote:**

Rabbit, you've tricked me twice now. I'm going to eat you, stringy or not. I'm starving and have no patience to wait for the chicken, if there is any chicken.



**Rabbit:**

Don't be so grumpy. I don't know what is taking them so long. See that smoke over there? That's the humans' camp where they're roasting the chicken. You stay here, and I will be right back with one!

**Coyote:**

No way. I'm coming with you. I don't believe a word you say anymore.

**Rabbit:**

If you insist, I'll take you with me.

**Narrator 1:**

As Coyote followed, Rabbit started to hop faster and faster.

**Rabbit:**

Hear that noise? That's the chicken roasting. Smell the smoke? It will taste smoky and delicious.

**Coyote:**

I am so hungry I could eat two roasted chickens. How many chickens are cooking?

**Rabbit:**

More than you can count. Keep up! We're almost there.

**Narrator 1:**

Coyote ran faster, his tongue flopping out of his mouth. He smelled the smoke, and his stomach growled. He could only think about the delicious, juicy roasted chicken.

**Narrator 2:**

He didn't notice Rabbit suddenly turning to the right and diving into a burrow. He closed his eyes, letting his nose guide him to the smoky deliciousness.

**Coyote:**

It sure is getting warm out.

**Narrator 1:**

Coyote opened his eyes just in time. He was about to run into wall of flame!

**Narrator 2:**

Coyote yipped loudly and stopped. Orange embers floated down and singed his coat.

**Coyote:**

No meal is worth this much trouble! I'm going to hunt someplace else, and I'll never trust a rabbit again.

**Narrator 2:**

Coyote took off into the desert, howling as he ran. He wasn't seen for a very long time.

**Narrator 1:**

Safe in his burrow, Rabbit had a good laugh.

**Rabbit:**

Coyote might be bigger, stronger, and faster, but I'm smarter. Smart animals are always better at teaching other animals lessons!