

ABOUT the Author & Illustrator

Jennifer Ward is the author of many picture books, including the award-winning *Somewhere in the Ocean and The Seed and the Giant Saguaro*, and the forthcoming titles *Because You Are My Baby* and *Way Up in the Arctic*, all from Rising Moon. She lives in the desert of Tucson, Arizona, where coyotes feed her imagination. Jennifer maintains a website specifically for children and educators, www.jenniferwardbooks.com.

Steve Gray showed artistic promise from early on by using his imagination to entertain. While living in Tucson as a kid, he was inspired by a trip to the Sonoran Desert Museum. He and his sister Pammy created their own “Wild West” exhibit in their backyard. The feature attraction, “The Ferocious Coyote,” was played by their pet Chihuahua Pancho, who was caged in an upside down laundry basket. Admission was 5 cents.

PRaise FOR

There Was a Coyote
Who Swallowed a Flea

Midwest Book Review-
“...bright colors and fun presentation promise to reach beyond the Southwest into elementary-grade libraries across the country...”

THERE WAS A COYOTE WHO SWALLOWED A FLEA

Written by Jennifer Ward
Illustrated by Steve Gray

Hardcover \$15.95

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Ages 4 to 8 - 32 pages - fully illustrated
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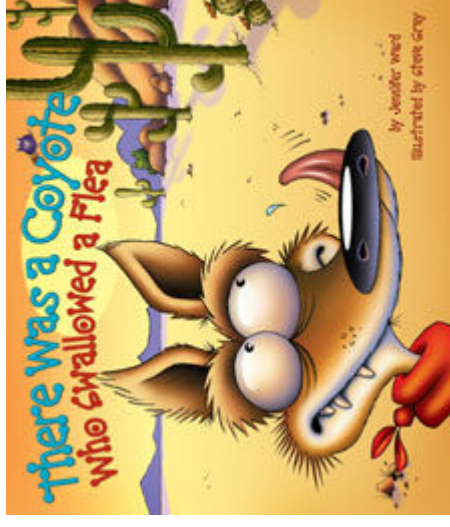


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THERE WAS A COYOTE WHO SWALLOWED A FLEA

Written by Jennifer Ward
Illustrated by Steve Gray



*There was a coyote who swallowed a flea,
plucked from his knee, that tickly flea.
Yippe-O-Ki-Yee!*

Skinny ol' coyote delights readers of all ages as he swallows his way through this delicious southwestern-flavored retelling of the beloved rhyme, I Know An Old Lady.

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Cumulative Stories
- ❖ Geography
- ❖ Rhyme
- ❖ Text-Text Connections

Pre-reading

Group discussion questions:
Looking at the book’s cover. Where do you think the story takes place? What do we know about the desert? What types of plants and animals live in the desert? Does the story look like fiction, or nonfiction?

Knowledge

The title of the book is There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea. What do you think the book will be about?

Comprehension

(After reading the story)
Describe in your own words what the story was about.

Application

Have you ever eaten anything strange? What was the most delicious food you ever tasted? What was the most disgusting food you ever tasted? Can a coyote really swallow all the things mentioned in the story?

Multiple Intelligence Activities for

There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea

Verbal/Linguistic

Write your own cumulative story

-or-

Write your own translation of the traditional rhyme, I Know An Old Lady. Seek the rhymes used throughout the story There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea.

Visual/Spatial

Steve Gray’s illustrations are playful, silly and offer a lot of expression. Observe each page and discuss the mood evoked from each illustrated character’s expression

Musical/Rhythmic

Encourage students to clap to the beat as the story is read.

Allow children to join in with the refrain, “Yippee-O-Ki-Yee!”

Interpersonal

Choose an animal from There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea to study. Create posters with facts about your animal and share what you learned.

Analyze

How is the environment in this book different from other places animals live, such as a forest, a prairie or your own backyard?

How is this story similar to the traditional rhyme, I Know An Old Lady? How is this story different from the traditional rhyme?

Synthesize

The story ends with the coyote wanting breakfast. Imagine you are the coyote in the story. What will you eat for breakfast?

What will you eat after breakfast? Will you eat healthy foods, or junk foods?

Evaluation

Which illustration is your favorite? Why?

Which part of the book is your favorite? Why?