Interview: Parable, Parody, or "Blip in the Canadian Landscape":
Tom King on *A Coyote Columbus Story*

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Abstract

Résumé: Dans cette entrevue, Thomas King parle de l'accueil de son premier livre illustré, *A Coyote Columbus Story*. Il évoque l'importance qu'il accordée à la tradition orale, à la critique de l'histoire officielle, à la dimension symbolique et parodique du récit afin de montrer l'envers du voyage de Christophe Colomb.

Summary: In this interview, Thomas King discusses the reception of his first picture book, as well as its oral quality, its vision of history and time, the quincentennial of Columbus's voyage, and the book's status as both parable and parody.

Full Text:

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A Coyote Columbus Story is no finger-pointing lament. None of its characters slouch in defeat with body parts morphing into thin air, as does the narrator at the end of Encounter. The reader sees indignation, not stoicism, on the faces of the people being kidnapped. Your school or public library probably has a copy of Yolen's book, but not King's. Order a copy of A Coyote Columbus Story and a copy of A Broken Flute and read Jean's essay. You will gain insights that you can apply to other books. Posted by Debbie Reese at 8:48 AM.

*American Indian? Or, Native American?* There is no agreement among Native peoples. Both are used. Thomas King has written several highly acclaimed children's books. *A Coyote Solstice Tale*, illustrated by Gary Clement, won the American Indian Library Association Youth Literature Award for Best Picture Book and *A Coyote Columbus Story*, illustrated by William Kent Monkman, was a Governor General's Award finalist. King, who is of Cherokee and Greek descent, was a Professor of English at the University of Guelph for many years, where he taught Native Literature and Creative Writing. It wasn't the ending I expected in the book. I had thought there'd be some sort of a happy ending or maybe some way in which Columbus is made into a fool for everyone to see. But this book is pretty darn honest about Columbus's intentions, as well as his treatment of the Native Americans.