

Read Across New Mexico 2026
Creative Arts Activity Sheet by Grace Mayer, Educator
Based on *I Dreamed I Was a Dog* by Joel Nakamura

Creative Writing Prompts (Grades 3-8)

Students are encouraged to create individual poems using these sentence starters:

- **I dreamed I was a** ____
- **I traveled** ____
- **I saw** ____
- **I heard** ____
- **I felt** ____

Each prompt invites students to use their imagination and personal experiences to finish the sentences.

Art Activities (Grades 3-8)

Activity 1: Continuous Line Drawing

- On a sheet of paper, students use a marker to draw a continuous line for 5-8 seconds without looking at the paper or lifting the marker.
- With colored pencils or other art materials, students find shapes within the squiggle and develop them into the drawing, similar to finding shapes in clouds.
- To add another element, students can include a family pet.
- To finish, the background can be painted a solid color.

Activity 2: New Mexico Environments & Creatures

- Brainstorm family pets and animals, birds, insects found in New Mexico, along with unique landscapes and local environments.
- From the list, paint two different background environments using watercolors.
- After the painting dries, use markers, pastels, stamps, or stencils to add one or two living creatures traveling through the art piece. The creatures can change form or size from one area to another.

Living Creatures: (Examples)

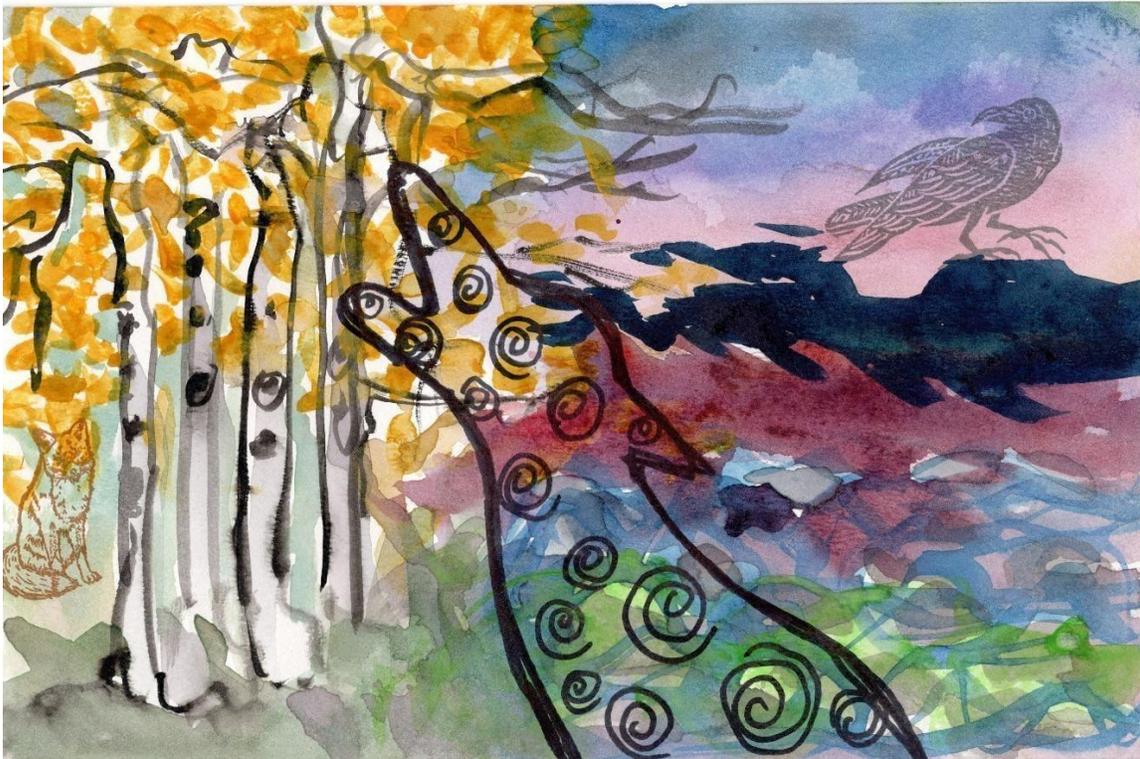
- Road Runner
- Prairie Dog
- Coyote
- Raven

Landscapes/ Environments:

- Carlsbad Caverns
- High Desert Mountains/ Aspen trees
- Rio Grande, Pecos Rivers
- Black Mesa
- Balloon Fiesta
- Santa Fe Plaza
- Pueblos

Final Note:

Students are encouraged to use their imagination and have fun with these activities.



Example: Art Activity 1



Example: Art Activity 2