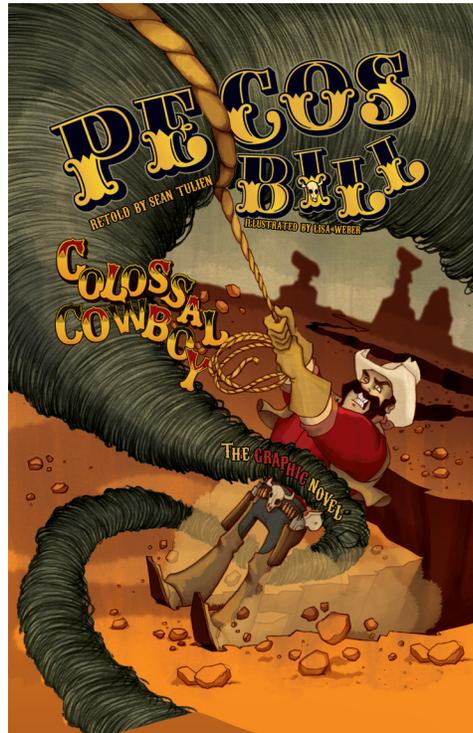




READER'S THEATER



Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy retold by Sean Tulien

- Characters:**
- Narrator** - reads above grade level
 - Pecos Bill** - struggling reader
 - Mama Coyote** - reads below grade level
 - Coyotes** - struggling reader
 - Will** - reads at grade level
 - Cowboy** - reads slightly below grade level

Genre: Tall Tale

Ages: 8-13

Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy page 1

Narrator: Long ago, a family was traveling across the desert. Along for the ride was a very special baby. At two months old, Bill had already begun to speak . . .

Pecos Bill: Hey there, Mr. Wolf! Wanna play?

Narrator: Baby Bill wrestled wolves — just for fun!

Pecos Bill: You aren't so tough!

Narrator: However, once in a while, Bill would play too tough. And to this day, that's why wolves howl at the moon. One day, while traveling near the Pecos River, the family's wagon drove over bumpy ground. Suddenly, baby Bill flew out of the wagon.

Pecos Bill: Wheeee!

Narrator: Any normal baby would have drowned in the Pecos River, but Bill just held his breath and crawled back to shore. And that's how he got the name Pecos Bill. Nearby, Mama Coyote was hunting for food and saw little Bill . . .

Mama Coyote: My, my! Don't you look tasty.

Narrator: Mama Coyote tried to chew on baby Bill!

Pecos Bill: Ha ha ha ha! That tickles!

Mama Coyote: You sure are tough. You'll fit in just right with my pups. Meet your new brother, children.

Coyotes: He sure is an ugly coyote! Where's his fur, Mama?

Narrator: As each day passed, Pecos Bill grew stronger and faster. He wrestled with his coyote brothers.

Coyotes: Let go, Bill! Don't pull so hard! That hurts my tail!

Pecos Bill: GRRR!!! I'm gonna get you!

Narrator: The life of the coyote became his own. Mama Coyote taught her pups how to survive in the wild.

Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy page 2

- Mama Coyote:** You can drink water that drips from the ceilings of caves if you can't find water.
- Narrator:** When they got older, she taught them how to hunt.
- Mama Coyote:** Follow the tracks animals leave behind, and use your nose to sniff them out!
- Narrator:** As the years passed, Pecos Bill became a mighty fine coyote.
- Mama Coyote:** I've taught you all I know, my son. It's time for you to go out on your own.
- Narrator:** And so Pecos Bill set out across the desert, ready for whatever might come his way. Then one day, near the Pecos River, a man started to talk to Pecos Bill.
- Will:** What are ya, some kind of coyote-man or something? Say . . . you look mighty familiar.
- Pecos Bill:** Grrrr?
- Will:** Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle! It's my long-lost brother, Bill! Why are you sniffing me like a coyote? Snap out of it!
- Pecos Bill:** Will? Will! I didn't even recognize you, brother! I've missed you so much!
- Narrator:** Will brought Pecos Bill back to his cattle ranch. Bill showed the cowboys better ways to herd their cattle. Since other men weren't as strong as Pecos Bill, he invented the lasso to help them catch strays. The other cowboys started branding their cattle, just as Bill had shown them.
- Will:** You've been mighty helpful, brother. Everybody knows what you've done for us cowpokes. But I still don't know what to do about Widow Maker . . .
- Cowboy:** She's the meanest horse that ever lived. No cowboy who has tried to tame her has survived. And anyone who gets in her way, well . . .

Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy page 3

Will: Let's just say she's been a real menace to us cowpokes for years.

Pecos Bill: Well, brother, I'll see what I can do! There she is! She doesn't look so mean. Hey, Widow Maker. Don't you want to be friends?

Narrator: It seemed like Pecos Bill had finally met his match. The entire planet rumbled as they wrestled and tussled . . .

Is Pecos Bill able to tame the wildest beast in the west? To find out, read *Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy*, a graphic tall tale from Stone Arch Books.