

“Please tell me a story about an experience you’ve had with coyotes in Vermont”

“A couple months ago, during quarantine, during a restless night, I had my window open and I was staring wistfully out of it and I could hear the howls of some coyotes, and I was like, hmm, those are that’s probably some coyotes. I didn’t see them, but I wasn’t sure, so I wasn’t sure they were coyotes. But I didn’t think they were dogs and you know there were some howls. And that’s my most recent coyote memory, I heard them outside my window.”

“And can you explain why that story was meaningful to you?”

“It was a, I mean it was just a nice moment. I love being awake when I’m the only one awake in the house at night, and the coyotes, you know they really broke the silence in a way that made me realize I was not alone and one with nature. And it brought me some solace, at a dark hour in quarantine. But yeah I don’t know, they never really bothered me, but yeah.”

“Now let’s talk about coyotes more generally. Can you rank your experience of coyotes in Vermont on a scale of 1 to 10, with one being negative and 10 being positive?”

“I mean you know, I’ve never really, I’ve never like, been face-to-face with a Vermont coyote I don’t think, I mostly just hear them at night around the property. But you know so they stayed out of my way I stay out of theirs, so I’ll give them like an eight, yeah.”

“And can you explain why you ranked your experience that way?”

“You know I mean, not really. When I woke up this morning I didn’t expect to rank my, my coyote-Vermont experiences. But, I would say that you know I’m pretty satisfied with them so, you know I gave them an 8 because that’s a good score, that’s a B. You know, but they don’t have like at 9 or 10 because they’re not like they’re not actively working to improve my life, you know. They don’t go above and beyond, but they, they meet the standard. Would this be standards-based, I would give coyotes at 3 I would say. Meet the standard, does not exceed, yeah.”

“We’re almost done! I just have a few quick background questions for you now. Think back to the coyote story that you shared. Can you tell me where it took place?”

“Ya it took place in my bedroom where I spend, or spent, a lot of my time in quarantine just sitting at my desk staring at my window, just listening to what’s going on. Normally I hear birds and stuff when I sit there, but I don’t know I just like listening to Nature, and coyotes were a nice break in what were the usual sounds that I hear outside my window, yeah.”

“And can you tell me what year your coyote story took place in?”

“2020.”

“What kind of things do you do outside, for work or for recreation?”

“Oh boy, well, I mean for work I suppose my job this summer was supposed to be as a, staff member at a boys, tripping summer camp. So I’m a licensed outdoor professional, as you could say. And so I lead young boys between the ages of 13 and 15 on wilderness canoe trips in the Adirondacks and Canada. And then you know, for personal pleasure I’m an avid biker, hiker, skier, and you know I enjoy a good walk. And you know, that’s probably the extent of my, you know I’m outside a decent amount. All the time that I’m not inside I’m outside, so yeah”

“Lovely. How long have you lived in Vermont?”

“I’ve lived in Vermont for the first eighteen years of my life and then I go to college in Middletown, Connecticut. But you know I still live in Vermont, I’m a college student but you know, it remains to be seen what the future will hold. But 18 to 20 years yeah.”

“What town do you live in?”

“I live in Charlotte Vermont.”

“What year were you born in?”

“I was born in the year 2000.”

“What is your gender?”

“Oof, that’s a tough one, male, boy.”

“What is your ethnicity?”

“White.”

“You’re done! Thanks so much for your story and your time!”