“**Trap Lines**” by Thomas King

**Reading Strategies**: infer, question, connect

**Prose Concepts**: symbolism, irony, characterization, theme, flashbacks

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| **Principle(s) Of Learning:**  **Explain:** |

**Reading Skill: Identify flashbacks; when father is speaking to son, and when he is flashing back to his own communication with his father**

**Short Story Terms:**

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| **Term** | **Answer** | **Significance/Explanation** |
| **point of view** |  |  |
| **Setting-time, place, mood** |  |  |
| central **conflict** of the story |  |  |
| Is the protagonist a ***dynamic*** or ***static*** character? |  |  |
| The tackle box is a **symbol.** What does it symbolize? |  |  |
| Thomas King uses much irony in this story; identify one example |  |  |

1. What is the **simile** the narrator uses to describe his son’s use of language? Is it an effective simile for the purpose? Why?
   1. **Contrast** this imagery to the older Christopher. How has he changed?
2. How would you describe the conversations between the narrator and his son after he graduated from high school? Use **quotes as evidence**. Copy them out with “quotations” around the sentence and the page number.
3. Thomas King uses **flashbacks** to conversations with his father and his life on reserve. What is the **purpose** of this? Why would the author want to flashback to his life with his father?
4. The story about the sticks is an important component to the theme of the story. In your own words, can you **explain** **the meaning and its connection to the theme**? How can Christophe’s reaction to it be seen as symbolic to the differences between generations?
5. What is the **symbolism** of the green tackle box?
6. Contrast Alberta’s memories of discussions with her mother and the narrators. What does this say about relationships and communication?
7. Where do you find **humour** in this story? Why is using humour important in creative writing?
8. What is the significance of the image of the narrator reflecting on his father collecting fishing ads and putting them on the refrigerator, then later him crumpling and tossing them into the lake?
9. Is the narrator a **dynamic, round, or flat** character? Explain your reasoning.
10. What is the **theme statement** for this story?
11. Can you change it into an **inquiry question**?

12. What is the symbolic significance of the title, “Trap Lines” in relation to the theme?