“**Trap Lines**” by Thomas King

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

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

1. **Accessing background information. Choose one question to answer in a paragraph.**

Do you have trouble expressing your feelings? Who do you look to when you need advice or support? Explain the obstacles for communicating between family members.

*OR*

What do you think is the biggest difference between your everyday life and your parents when they were your age? How has society changed?

1. **Read the story. As you read, *infer, question and connect*.**
2. **After reading and discussing, answer the questions with the people in your group. Communicate and collaborate 😊**
3. 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?
4. 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.
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. What is the **symbolism** of the green tackle box?
8. Do you think the narrator has regrets after his son leaves? Explain.
9. Where do you find **humour** in this story? Why is using humour important in creative writing?
10. Is the narrator a **flat or round** character? Explain your reasoning.
11. Is the narrator a **dynamic or flat** character? Explain your reasoning.
12. What is the **theme statement** for this story?
13. Can you change it into an **inquiry question**?
14. How would you assess the narrator and his son according to the core competencies of personal identity and communication? We will do this as a class.
    1. In a well-constructed paragraph response, respond to the following prompt: *The importance of communication as an essential life skill, is a core competency that is easily recognizable in “Trap Lines”. Explain how.*