**English First Peoples 11**

**Where the Borgs Are**

By Thomas King

 **/10**

**Borg: The** Borg are an alien group that appear as recurring antagonists in the Star Trek franchise tv series. They are a cybernetic organisms linked in a hive mind called “The Collective”. The Borg co-opt the technology and knowledge through the process of assimilation. (Wikipedia)

Let’s watch a short clip of when Captain Picard and the crew of the Enterprise first encounter the Borgs <https://youtu.be/Q3XIsU_6Phg>

**Overview:** Grade 10 student, Milton Friendlybear is researching a project on the Indian Act for school and with his grandfather, and discovers some shocking similarities between the Borg from *Star Trek* and with the European colonialism of the Indigenous People of Canada, specifically the Indian Act and its impact on Indigenous peoples.

**Pre-reading**: To really understand what King is contrasting in this “hyberbolic narrative”, you must first understand the Indian Act and its impact on the First Nations Peoples of Canada.

1. Go to the PPT in files—class materials—stories—Indian Act
2. Go through the PPT as a class

**Reading Skill: Highlight evidence of characterization for** the Star Trek characters, grandfather, and Milton give exact examples of how they are characterized. Look for evidence of direct and indirect characterization.

**Short Story Terms:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Answer** | **Significance/Explanation** |
| **point of view** |  |  |
| **Setting-time, place, mood** |  |  |
| central **conflict** of the story |  |  |
| Is the protagonist a ***dynamic*** or ***static*** character? |  |  |
| This story is an allegory. Define and explain how so. |  |  |
| The Star Trek characters are a symbol, explain/ |  |  |

7. Characterization: find evidence that supports each character’s characterization:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Evidence from text to support** | **Characteristic** |
| **Milton** |  |  |
| **The Borg** |  |  |
| **Miss Merry (teacher)** |  |  |
| **Grandfather** |  |  |
| **The Ferengi** |  |  |
| **The Vulcans** |  |  |
| **The Klingons** |  |  |

Please answer with evidence from the story

1. What is one thing you learned about the Indian Act from reading this story? What are 3 more things you learned from the podcast?
2. What do the many amendments to the Indian Act do, and do they benefit First Nations? List one amendment and the year and explain below.
3. What does King imply about the creation of the Indian Act?
4. What is ironic about Miss Merry making Milton write “racism hurts everyone” 50x on the board, and his mother stating, “some more than others”.
5. What does blood quantum mean and how does it impact Indigenous People?
6. What does is mean to be *enfranchised* and how could it be seen as another tool of oppression?