

Guide Sheet for Literature Circles

Name: Rachel

Group Name: Rachel, Brooke, Erik, Lindsay, Maddox

Book: Indian Horse

Answer the following questions in complete sentences and use textual evidence where appropriate.

1. Describe the three most important events or character revelations you have read so far in your novel. (Remember to tell why you've deemed these three as most important in your opinion.)

1. Saul's grandmother dies of hypothermia causing Saul to go to residential school
Saul's grandmother dying is the reason Saul had to go to residential school, if she had not died, they would have made it to their other relative's house and Saul would have avoided residential school. Residential school lead him to playing hockey.

2. Saul get's out of the residential school due to his ability to play hockey
we latter learn in the book that leaving residential school was a great escape for more then the abuse we knew at the start. leaving residential school gave him a family and hockey.

3. we find out that Saul was sexually abused by father leboutilier
though most of the book, the reader is lead to believe that father leboutilier is a kind person in the residential school where most of the people are mean. but near the end of the book we learn that this man abused Saul, causing him trauma throughout his life.

2. Predict will happen next with the main characters? Why do you say this? (Use textual evidence to support your idea....note page numbers too.)

I think Saul is going to keep true to himself and not become mean or aggressive to the other players. But I think in the far future something bad is going to happen.

3. Relate to the novel by discussing similarities that are you finding between your life and the lives presented in the story?

Saul is talking a lot about competition and as I am getting older I am starting to realize that there is a lot of competition. you almost never get a break from having to prove that you are better then everyone. Because people only chose the best and if that is not you then you are not going to get that opportunity. Even at times people target others because

they want to get ahead. And if there are people who are different they may be at a disadvantage, people may not be as forgiving when they make a mistake.

4. Select three lines from the text that make you think, intrigue you, or fall under the category of being wonderfully composed. Comment on why you choose each of the lines.

“I became a bird. An ungainly bird at first, but a creature of air nonetheless.” (P.64) this line demonstrates how he felt free for a moment, like nothing was holding him back.

“I saw kids die of tuberculosis, influenza, pneumonia and broken hearts at St. Jerome’s. I saw young boys and girls die standing on their own two feet. I saw runaways carried back, frozen solid as boards. I saw bodies hung from rafters on thin ropes. I saw wrists slashed and the cascade of blood on the bathroom floor and, one time, a young boy impaled himself. I watched a girl calmly fill the pockets of her apron with rocks and walk away across the field. She went to the creek and sat on the bottom and drowned, that would never stop, never change, so long as they continued to pull Indian kids from the bush and from the arms of their people. So I retreated, that’s how I survived. Alone. When the tears threatened to erupt from meat night i vowed they would never hear me cry. I ached in solitude. What I let them see was a quiet, withdrawn boy, void of feeling.” (P.55) this quote really showed what it was like in residential school, how horrible it was for the students, and how a lot of them ended their lives to get out of it.

“when I hit the ice I left all of that behind me. I stepped onto the ice and Saul Indian Horse, the abandoned Ojibway kid, clutched in the frozen arms of his dead grandmother, ceased to exist.” (P. 83) this quotes really summed up how Saul felt when he played hockey, it shows how hockey was Saul escape from the abuse that he and the other students faces at the school.

5. What if you were in the shoes of the main character right now? What would you do? Why?

I would become mean. I would have put up with everything enough, it’s time to fight back. if you let people walk all over you they are going to walk all over you.

6. Recommend two themes from the text for your group to discuss and come up with three questions that will help get that discussion going.

Themes:

1. Resilience
2. Family and tradition

1. Is it worth going along with something that you don’t like to protect your name?

2. Why do people treat others so badly when they have nothing to gain from doing so?