

Night Flying Woman by Ignatia Broker

Reading Questions

Answer the following questions as you read *Night Flying Woman*. Having answered these questions will support our classroom discussion and serve as a springboard for individual projects.

1. The Ojibway are known in their own language as:
2. The basics of Ojibway language and culture is:
3. What acts (treaties) were of particular impact on Ojibway reservations?
4. When was White Earth Reservation established?
5. Why is the name "White Earth"?
6. What was the impact of the Nelson Act, 1889?
7. By 1930, ____ of the Indian land in the U.S. passed into white hands.
8. By 1971, ____ percent of the original White Earth reservation was Indian-owned trust land.
9. The story of *Night Flying Woman* describes the basic tenets of Ojibway life, which are:
10. How was it that Indian people got established in urban areas, such as the Twin Cities? Was it simply due to strong individuals overcoming the odds?
11. What is the Mi-de-wi-win society?
12. The author writes of a "brotherhood" which formed among Indian people during the war years. What is this brotherhood?
13. Why was it that no Indian family used the services of the welfare agencies of the Twin Cities?
14. The author encounters many young Indian people who refer to themselves as "I am an Indian." Why is the author concerned with that distinction?
15. What is the worth of telling Ojibway tales, other than entertainment?
16. Describe the Ojibway prophesy of five generations of Ojibway who will make a circle.
17. The author talks about the "people with the books." Who do you think that these people are?
18. Describe the custom which occurs three weeks after birth of a baby.
19. What were the unique circumstances under which Tiny Girl was born?
20. The Ojibway believe that the first learning experiences is:
21. Other than keeping the child out of harm's way, what is the significance of a child being strapped in a cradleboard?
22. Why did Oona approach her grandparents with downcast eyes and wait to speak?
23. Why did Oona's family leave their village?
24. Why did the Strangers want the Indians' land?
25. Oona's mother describes how the forest will weep when the Ojibway are gone. What will happen when the forest weeps?
26. Why was it important that the children spend a lot of time exploring the woods, and meadows surrounding their new village?
27. What is ma-no-min?
28. What is the meaning of the custom of a young girl being given a piece of charcoal?
29. What dream did Oona have which she told to her grandparents? What did her dream actually predict?
30. What is a do-daim?
31. Of what do-daims are Oona's fellow village dwellers?
32. What is Gitchi Manito?
33. What were the seasonal patterns and activities that comprised a typical year for the Ojibway? What foods and materials were especially important?
34. What is offered by the Ojibway with every rising and every setting of the sun?
35. What did A-wa-sa-si mean when she said that "we believe that all returns to its source"?

36. Shortly after A-wa-sa-si's death, who came to the village? What did they tell them?
37. Oona and her village moved from the Rainy Country to _____.
38. Why did Oona's people decide to move their forest camp to the big village of the white man?
39. How was Oona's father to pay for the lumber necessary to build their house in the big village?
40. Oona's mother worked as a housekeeper/maid for the agent's wife. What are some of the things she learned which she then passed on to other Ojibway?
41. The agent wanted to outlaw the _____, who he felt were heathen.
42. Oona was disturbed by some of the teachings of her instructor. What was her teacher saying?
43. Why was Oona confused by some of her Christian learnings?
44. Other than utility, why did many Ojibway continue to make crafts?
45. What happened at the "pay party"?
46. Who did Oona bring to her new home when she married Michael?
47. What happened when Oona, her husband, and his little brother went south on a trapping expedition?
48. How was it that Oona lived up to her namesake?
49. How did the increasing use of government boarding schools impact the Ojibway culture?
50. How did the harvesting of the ma-no-min change?
51. Government nurses said that soap and water were needed to stop disease among the Ojibway. The author believed that something other than hygiene was to blame for the epidemics. What did she feel was the culprit?
52. In 1910 and in 1930 major changes occurred in the logging industry on the reservation. What were these changes?
53. This is an essay question. What are key lessons that you learned from reading "Night Flying Woman"? How could these lessons (and values and attitudes) inform our lives and choices in the 21st century?