

The Circle of Life in Touching Spirit Bear

At the end of chapter 9, Cole starts thinking about the moon's shape and remembers something important; although he's not remembering exactly what it is:

Cole focused his blurred vision on the full moon. It helped him to remain on this side. As he stared, he puzzled at the moon's shape. Something in that hazy shape held meaning. Edwin had said something about a circle. So had Garvey. What had they said? Cole could not remember, but he kept staring up.

In chapter 2, Edwin tells Cole:

The potbellied elder nodded with a knowing smile. "Animals feel the same way. Don't forget that." He turned to Cole and placed a hand on his shoulder. Cole tried to pull away, but Edwin gripped him like a clamp. "You aren't the only creature here. You're part of a much bigger circle. Learn your place or you'll have a rough time."

#1 - Draw a large circle so that it fills most of your paper.

#2 Answer the following questions, either around or inside the circle. Make sure to explain how your response relates to the idea of the circle of life that Cole is beginning to understand.

#3 - Use at least FOUR images to illustrate the circle and your responses. You can decorate the circle to accompany your responses. Use color!

1. Why is Cole irritated by the mother sparrow and the baby birds? How does the mother bird's actions relate to the circle of life?
2. Cole comments that "Nobody else cared about him, so why should he care about himself?" Is it true that nobody else cares about him? Even if nobody cares about Cole, why should he care about himself? Does Cole have a place in this circle?
3. When does Cole start realizing that he doesn't possess the control he's always imagined he has? How might this help him find his place in the circle of life?
4. What happens to the sparrow's nest during the electrical storm? What is a sign that Cole is changing? How does this show that he might be finding his place in the circle of life?

**** EXTRA CREDIT**** Why does Cole imagine the at.oow is covering him when it actually is not? Why is he able to sleep soundly when he dreams it's covering him? How does the at.oow relate to the circle of life?