

“The Only Traffic Signal on the Reservation Doesn’t Flash Red Anymore”
Sherman Alexie

Directions: For the following quotes, do the following (bullet notes are okay):

- Describe the **context** of the quote; what is happening in the story at this point?
- Describe what you think the **meaning** is; what is Sherman Alexie’s comment on the Native American Experience?

1. “There’s nothing more unattractive than a vain man, and that goes double for an Indian man” (44).

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

2. “Little warriors looking for honor in some twentieth-century vandalism” (44).

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

3. “He looks good,” Adrian said.

“Yeah, he must not be drinking.”

“Yet.”

“Yeah, yet.”

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

4. “A reservation hero is a hero forever. In fact, their status grows over the years as the stories are told and retold” (48).

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

5. “When a glass sits on a table here, people don’t wonder if it’s half filled or half empty. They just hope it’s good beer” (49).

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

6. “Still, Indians have a way of surviving. But it’s almost like Indians can easily survive the big stuff. Mass murder, loss of language and land rights. It’s the small things that hurt the most. The white waitress who wouldn’t take an order, Tonto, the Washington Redskins” (49).

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

7. “But what happens when our heroes don’t even know how to pay their bills?” (49)

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

8. “I just can’t explain how much losing Julius Windmaker hurt us all” (52).

CONTEXT:
MEANING:

9. “Yeah, yeah, she’s a little warrior” (53).

CONTEXT:
MEANING: