

**Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.**

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

## **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Tradition and Custom**

In *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Arnold comes from the Spokane Indian Reservation in Wellpinit, Washington, a place built on tradition and custom. Arnold describes his culture for us in full detail: powwows, fry bread, and many, many funerals. What is Arnold's relationship to these traditions and customs? Arnold also tells us that Indian families tend to stay in one place, a tradition that makes it hard for Arnold to leave the reservation.

What are the traditions and customs of the folks in the white town of Reardan? Do Reardan and Wellpinit share any traditions or customs? What about basketball?

### **Questions About Tradition and Custom**

1. Why doesn't Junior want to go to the powwow?
2. What is significant about Junior's grandmother's funeral?
3. How are Indian families different from white families, according to Arnold?
4. Why does Billionaire Ted collect Indian art? Why does Arnold dislike Billionaire Ted?
5. Why is basketball important to the reservation and to Reardan?

**Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.**

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Education**

Reardan High School is a wonderland of chemistry labs, brand new basketball courts, and computer labs. The place is a regular learning hotspot. Arnold leaves the reservation to get a better education in Reardan, but, as we find out, the things that he needs to learn aren't always found in those fancy classrooms. In *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, so much of what Arnold learns has simply to do with attitude. From Gordy, the Reardan brainiac, Arnold learns about the joys that knowledge can bring. From Coach, the head of basketball at Reardan, Arnold learns about the power of positive thinking – and how a simple phrase ("you can do it") can completely change who you are. Why could Arnold not learn these things at his high school in Wellpinit?

#### **Questions About Education**

1. Why doesn't Junior want to use his mother's geometry book? Why does he throw the book at Mr. P?
2. Why does Mr. P tell Junior to leave the reservation?
3. What does it mean to "kill the Indian to save the child" (5.40)?
4. How is Gordy important to Arnold's education? What does Gordy teach Arnold?
5. What does Arnold learn from his basketball coach at Reardan?

**Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.**

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Hopes, Dreams, and Plans**

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian is a novel about hope, and how important it is to have it and how it helps us stay afloat. In this novel, we see the consequences of people and even whole communities that lack hope. Why is it important to hope? Who has the most hope? Why do only white people seem to have hope? Why does Arnold have hope?

#### **Questions About Hopes, Dreams, and Plans**

1. Did Arnold's parents have dreams, hopes, and plans? What were they? Did they come true? Why or why not?
2. Think about Mary and her dreams. What happens to them?
3. Why did using his mother's geometry book crush Arnold's dreams?
4. What are Penelope's dreams?
5. Why are the words "you can do it" (25.140) so powerful for Arnold?

**Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.**

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Friendship**

Arnold's main friend – and only friend – on the reservation in Wellpinit is Rowdy. Once he moves to Reardan, though, he becomes friends with a whole host of people: Penelope, Gordy, Roger, even the school basketball coach. Why is it important that Arnold meet new people and make new friends? What does he learn from these people? Why is it important that he reconcile with Rowdy in the end of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*?

#### **Questions About Friendship**

1. Junior says that Rowdy is more important than his family (3.123). Can your best friend be more important than your family? Why?
2. Why do Roger and Arnold become kinda sorta friends?
3. How is Gordy's friendship important to Arnold? What exactly does Gordy teach him?
4. Though they reconcile at the end, do you think Rowdy and Arnold can ever really be friends again? How is Rowdy both an enemy and a friend?

**Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.**

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Poverty**

One of the most compelling aspects of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* is that we see firsthand how devastating and totally awful poverty is not only for an individual, but for an entire community. We see how poverty has squashed hope on the reservation: how alcoholism is everywhere, a condition that leads to tons and tons of senseless death. (Arnold loses his grandmother and his sister.) Though poverty may not teach us anything (as Arnold is quick to tell us), Arnold's fight for a better life inspires us – and gives us hope that things can change.

#### **Questions About Poverty**

1. Why does chicken mean so much to Arnold?
2. Can you learn anything from poverty? What does Arnold think? What do you think?
3. Why is Junior so upset about using his mother's geometry book? Would you be upset?
4. Who did you root for during the Reardan v. Wellpinit games? Why?

**Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.**

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

## **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Identity**

Arnold starts *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* feeling like the reservation outcast, but once he transfers to the fancy white school in Reardan, he becomes a basketball star who gets carried around on people's shoulders. How does Arnold go from zero to hero?

Well, the journey to a new identity is not an easy one for Arnold, trust us.

When Arnold transfers to Reardan, he sees himself as having two different selves: Junior from the outcast from the reservation and Arnold from the white high-school at Reardan. The rest of the novel is really all about reconciling these two different selves.

So how does he do it?

Well, Arnold learns to see himself not simply as Junior the Indian or Arnold the traitor, but as someone who belongs to many different tribes (24.31-24.44). He becomes a multi-tribal kind of guy. He moves between locations, kind of like a "nomad" (30.182). By seeing himself in this way, Arnold resolves his split personality crisis and finds a meaningful, less restrictive form of identity.

### **Questions About Identity**

1. Why does Arnold belong to the "Black-Eye-of-the-Month-Club" (1.42)?
2. Why does Arnold go by two different names: Junior on the rez and Arnold at school? Do you have different names you use in different settings? Why?
3. Why do people on the rez start calling Junior an "apple" (18.18)? Why don't they support his choice to go to school in Reardan?
4. Which tribes does Arnold belong to? (29.31) Which tribes do you belong to?

Turn in whatever you have completed by the end of the hour today. I will not accept this assignment on Monday.

**STEP 1:** Your table has been assigned a theme from *The Absolutely True Diary*. Read through the information about your theme and answer the questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Only one set of answers needed per group. Staple to your answers to this page.

### The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Theme of Race

Race is a pretty huge deal for The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Why? Because it gives Arnold Spirit, Jr. a good deal of trouble in his search for self. Arnold feel like he's only half an Indian – or as he says a "part-time Indian" – once he transfers to the white school of Reardan. He then gets split into two: Junior on the Indian reservation and Arnold in his white high school. This all suggests that one's racial or ethnic identity can change depending on place or social setting.

#### Questions About Race

1. How are being a Native American and being poor related in Junior's mind?
2. What does it mean to "kill the Indian to save the child" (5.40)?
3. Why do Junior's parents say that white people have the most hope (6.10)?
4. Do you think Junior idealizes white people and the culture at his white school (7.34, 22.1)?
5. What does Gordy mean when he says "White girls are privileged" (16.26)?
6. What does it mean to be a part-time Indian?
7. How can one's racial identity change? What does it mean to "become" white (18.15)?
- 5.

**STEP 2:** Find five quotes from the book that demonstrate your theme and complete the Double-Entry Diary below.

| Quote and Page Number | What does this quote say about your theme? Your answer needs to be at least 2-3 sentences. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #1                    |                                                                                            |
| #2                    |                                                                                            |
| #3                    |                                                                                            |
| #4                    |                                                                                            |
| #5                    |                                                                                            |

**STEP 3:** Using your theme and quotes you chose, write two factual questions, two interpretive questions and two evaluative questions

Factual Question:

Factual Question:

Interpretive Question:

Interpretive Question:

Evaluative Question:

Evaluative Question: