

Fools Crow
By James Welch

Discussion Questions

1. What is the background of James Welch?
2. Who are the main characters and how are they portrayed?
3. In what ways do the Pikunis (Blackfeet) personify the world in which they live?
4. In what ways is song and prayer used in their lives?
5. Why did Heavy Shield Woman cut her hair? (page 41)
6. What role do dreams play in their society?
7. In what ways do the Natives work together collectively? Why?
8. Who are the “stand around the fort Indians” and why are they called as such?
9. Who are the Napikwans? How have they affected the lives of the Pikunis?
10. Who was Little Dog and how was he portrayed?
11. What is the role of storytellers? How does oral tradition differ from the one time telling of an event?
12. What items are traded with the Napikwans and why?
13. How was General Sully portrayed and why?
14. How did contact with Whites affect medicine people and their role within Native society?
15. Who is Yellow Kidney and what is the story of his life?
16. In what ways does Fools Crow transform during the course of the novel?
17. What part does disease play in the lives of the Native people in the novel?
18. What do you believe are some of the main themes of the novel?