

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

By Sherman Alexie

Study Questions Part One, pages 1 -81

The Black-Eye-of-the-Month Club

1. What is hydrocephalus? Who had it?
2. What other abnormalities did Junior have because of his hydrocephaly?
3. How did the Indian Health Service treat its patients? Give examples.
4. Why did Junior draw?
5. Explain what Junior means by: "...the world is a series of broken dams and floods, and my cartoons are tiny lifeboats."

Why Chicken Means So Much to Me

6. Why does chicken mean so much to Junior?
7. What happened to Oscar?
8. What does Junior feel about his poverty?
9. What does he feel his parents would have been?

Revenge Is My Middle Name

10. Describe Rowdy.
11. What happens to Rowdy and Junior at the Spokane Tribal Pow Wow?
12. Describe the relationship between Rowdy and Junior.

Because Geometry Is Not a Country Somewhere Near France

13. Why is Junior's sister called Mary Runs Away?
14. Why does Junior throw his geometry book at Mr. P.?

Hope Against Hope

15. Why does Mr. P come to visit Junior while Junior is suspended from school?
16. Describe how the whites treated the Indians on the Rez in the not so distant past.
17. What does Junior learn about his sister?
18. What does Mr. P advise Junior?

Go Means Go

19. Why did Junior want to go to Reardan High School?
20. What will the tribal members think about Junior going to Reardan?

Rowdy Sings the Blues

21. How does Rowdy react to Junior's telling him that he is going to Reardan?

How to Fight Monsters

22. How does Junior get to Reardan on his first day?
23. Who is Penelope?
24. Summarize the rules for fist fights on the Rez.
25. Why does Junior punch Roger and what happens?

Grandmother Gives Some Advice

26. How does Grandma explain what happened to Junior with Roger?
27. Describe Eugene.

Tears of a Clown

28. Why did Junior cry after he confessed to Rowdy that he liked Dawn?

Halloween

29. Why does Penelope come dressed as a homeless person for Halloween?
30. What happens to Junior trick or treating?
31. How does Junior feel about Penelope?

Discussion Question

Compare your childhood to the childhood of Junior.