

BLM 3 – Lit Circle Prompts for Code Talker

Response prompts are adaptations from a 2012 NOII Collaborative Project in partnership with educator, Leah Hubbard and Jamaine Campbell

Section One: “Who Am I?” (pages 1-48)

Quotation	Prompts
<p>“My parents and their parents before them had not gone to school to be taught by strangers. They had learned all they all knew from our own relatives and from wise elders who knew many things, people who lived with us. People just like us” (p. 8).</p>	<p>Share a time when you had the opportunity to be taught something from someone older than you. Think about a time your parent, grandparent, or other family member taught you how to do something. Do you think there is a benefit to being educated by people who are “just like us”? Do you think there is place for elders in today’s society and if so what would you like to learn? If no where do you think we should acquire the knowledge necessary to navigate in the world?</p>
<p>Kii Yázhí states, “I could run up there and hide. But I did not do so, for I had always obeyed my mother - whose love for me was as certain as the firmness of the sacred earth beneath my moccasins” (p. 5).</p>	<p>Kii Yázhí is remembering the day he was sent to the boarding school and how he knew he could have run away. What do you think is Kii Yazhi’s motivation for staying? Have you ever had the feeling that what you wanted and needed were different than what your parent wanted for you? How do you find a balance between the two? Do you feel that you always obey your parents? What motivates you to obey or disobey? How do you decide? Does how your parents treat you influence how you make your choice? Do you feel they respect you and have your best interest in mind? Give a specific example of when you obeyed or disobeyed your parents and your reasons for your choice.</p>
<p>www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ScLeBqH9jY “Stereotypic” by Litefoot</p>	<p>What is a stereotype? If you are unsure of the definition for “stereotype” visit at least two websites in order to define what a stereotype is. After watching the video Stereotypic list three stereotypes in the video and identify why they are stereotypes. Identify two stereotypes Ned encounters in the story (pages 12-48) and reflect on Ned’s response to how he is stereotyped. Why do you think Ned responds that way?</p>

Section Two: How do experiences shape my identity? (pages 50-104)

Quotation	Prompts
<p>“That dangerous, steamy island was their beloved home. They saw it the way we saw our dry land of Dinetah. It was a sacred place given to them by their gods and they knew how to survive and be happy there.” (p. 102)</p>	<p>Recall Ned’s thoughts as they approach the shore of the island (p. 101). He finds it strange to be experiencing so much rain being from such a dry climate.</p> <p>Consider where you live or have lived: What is something you value or cherish? Is it something that is unique to you and your family or the area that you live in? What connects us to our home territories? Is one’s identity shaped by one’s connection or experiences with their ancestral traditional territories (history, names, place names, climate, language, food, family genealogy/lineage?). Does one’s past experiences and knowledge shape how one forms new experiences? How so?</p>
<p>“I think it was probably harder for young white men to be abused like that by their drill sergeants than it was for us Navajos. Being Indians, we were used to having white men shout at us and tell us we were worthless and stupid.” (p. 61)</p>	<p>Ned feels that his experiences of being treated poorly by white people enabled him and the other Navajos to easily adapt to the drill sergeants abuse. Can you think of a time in life when an unfortunate event later lead to something positive? Or when a person (teacher/parent/friend) pushed you to do something you didn’t feel that you could achieve, but in the end, you did?</p> <p>Do you think it is justifiable to treat a person or group of people (race, gender, sexual orientation, religion) unfairly if it ends up being beneficial for them? Please justify your response.</p>
<p>“He understood that the land of my own heart was there, far across the wide ocean. He placed his left hand on my chest and I did the same. We stood there like that for a while feeling each other’s hearts beat with love for our sacred homelands. It was one of the best conversations I ever had.” (p. 103)</p>	<p>Even though Ned and JonJon did not share the same language, they were able to communicate because of a shared experience. What do you think connects Ned and JonJon? In what ways does “knowing who you are and where you are from” enable Ned to survive as a Marine and while overseas? Do you think there are other factors that contribute to his strength of character?</p>
<p>Free Choice: Find a quotation that connects to the idea of identity.</p>	<p>Why did you pick this quotation? How does it connect to identity or one of our inquiry questions? What insight does it give us on identity and/or one of our inquiry questions?</p>

Section Three: How do people deal with challenges? (pages 105-145)

Quotation	Prompts
<p>www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg_hO2Jii-o Navajo Code Talkers</p>	<p>How you deal with life’s challenges says a lot about the type of person you are. Despite the assimilation policy enforced upon them and the traumas experienced in the Boarding school many Navajo men enlisted as Marines. What do you feel this response to previous trauma says about the Navajo Codetalkers? Why do you think Navajo men enlisted? What are your personal thoughts on the length of time between the end of the war and the official recognition of Navajo Codetalkers by the American government?</p>
<p>www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwN3qq4At1Q The Navajo in WWII</p>	<p>Watch the video on The Navajo in WWII. When faced with an obstacle how do you decide what path is right for you? What do you think helped Ned make the choice to join the Marines? How do you think Ned felt about the choice he made? Do you think Ned felt that he had made the right choice by joining the Marines? Please support your answer with evidence from the book. Do you think the Americans felt that the Code Talkers made the right choice? Please support your answer with evidence from the video and the book.</p>
<p>Free Choice: Find a quotation that connects to the idea of identity.</p>	<p>Why did you pick this quotation? How does it connect to identity or one of our inquiry questions? What insight does it give us on identity and/or one of our inquiry questions?</p>

Section Four: How might others actions or ideas shape who we are? (pages 146 to end)

Quotation	Prompts
<p>A Peacock in the Land of Penguins" www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNeR4bBUj68</p>	<p>What are some differences to Perry the Peacock and Ned’s situation in the novel? Did Ned choose to join America like Perry chose to join the Penguins? What are some similarities between the video and the book? Use specific examples from the book to support your thinking. Do you feel that it is important to respect people’s differences? Do you feel there is a value in celebrating differences? Please support your opinion with evidence either from the book or your experiences. How has reading this book added to your knowledge about First Peoples?</p>
<p>“Never forget, grandchildren, that we must always see all other people as human beings, worthy of respect.” (p.148)</p>	<p>How does Ned’s previous experience allow him to have empathy for the Natives on the islands that the Japanese were attacking? Do you feel that it is important for us to have empathy to others plights (problems) in life? Why or Why not? How can a lack of empathy cause problems in society? Please use specific examples from the book or from your own experiences to support your answer. In what ways has reading this novel deepened your thinking and understanding?</p>
<p>Free Choice: Find a quotation that connects to the idea of identity.</p>	<p>Why did you pick this quotation? How does it connect to identity or one of our inquiry questions? What insight does it give us on identity and/or one of our inquiry questions?</p>