

BLM 3 – Lit Circle Prompts for *The Night Wanderer*

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

Section One: “Who Am I?”

Quotation	Prompts
<p>[Grandfather] said, “Inside of me, a fight is going on. It is a terrible fight between two wolves.</p> <p>“One wolf is evil – he is fear, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, competition, superiority and ego”</p> <p>The other wolf is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, wisdom, friendship, empathy, generosity, caring, truth, and faith.</p> <p>“The same fight is going on inside you and inside every other person too.” (p. v, Prologue)</p>	<p>Explain what the grandfather means by the fight between the two wolves that happens in everyone.</p> <p>Do you believe that this same fight is going on in everyone? Why or why not? Provide an example from your own life to support your thinking.</p>
<p>“Everybody else at school wears them!” As much as Tiffany thought of herself as being independent and a rebel more often than not she obeyed the governing laws of high-school style. (p. 6)</p>	<p>Why do you think Tiffany wants to have the same shoes as everyone else, but at the same time wants to be “independent”? Does this desire to be like everyone else change after high-school? Explain.</p>
<p>“Hey, look,” said Tony. “It’s one of those new Camrys.”</p> <p>Tiffany was not normally a car person, but if Tony was, then she’d learn. (p. 42)</p>	<p>Do you think Tiffany can really learn to like cars just because Tony does? Have you ever learned to like something mostly because it was important to a new friend of yours? Discuss.</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 Two: How do experiences shape my identity?

Quotation	Prompts
<p>It was the same with her language. She spoke Anishinabe like she remembered it as a child. In her long years of existence, she had seen it weaken, wither and then go life support. Now Granny Ruth was on the last fluent speakers of the language on the reserve. (p. 50)</p>	<p>How is Granny Ruth’s sense of identity connected to the Anishinabe language? How might her identity be affected by the fact that fewer on the reserve speak it? Can you connect any examples from your life to this quotation? Discuss.</p>
<p>[Tiffany’s] mother had been a chain-smoker, and the smell of smoke constantly coming off her mother’s clothes, their couch, even their curtains had dimmed Tiffany’s interest in smoking of any kind. (p. 63).</p>	<p>Tiffany suggest that she does not want to smoke because of the smell that she experienced from living with her smoking mother. Is it also possible that it is too painful for Tiffany to remember her mother? Is there something that you don’t do, eat, or drink because of a negative experience or memory? Explain.</p>
<p>All the time he was unaware of a set of glowing red eyes watching him through the kitchen window. That is, until some instinct of self-preservation made him suddenly turn to the window, where he was sure he caught some floating red dots out of the corner of his eye ... they had vanished. And so had any chance of James falling back to sleep tonight. (p. 80)</p>	<p>James intuitively recognizes that he is danger. Do you think his intuition saved him from Pierre? Explain. Have you ever “sensed” you were in danger? How did you respond? Is having a certain amount of fear essential in our lives? Explain.</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?

Quotation	Prompts
Tiffany glanced at Kim, who merely nodded, sadly acknowledging Darla’s news flash. And what if that was the bracelet Tony had said was for his mom? News like this deserved direct action. And Tiffany was in the mood to take it. (p. 107)	Tiffany responds to speculation about her boyfriend by confronting him with what she has learned. What does this suggest about Tiffany’s character? How might someone else respond to such gossip? What do you feel is the best way to handle such a relationship challenge?
This guy wasn’t acting the way we should. He should be trembling, stammering, trying to find a way to escape. Hell, Dale would even accept the man peeing himself. But instead the man just sat there. Almost like he wasn’t afraid of them. (p. 121)	Pierre does not need to fear physical harm from Dale and Chucky, though they don’t know that. How might another character in the novel respond to the threatening behaviour of Dale and Chucky? Discuss.
“My father keeps talking about that thing with your status card and he says you get a lot of freebies. My father hates that.” (p. 136-137)	Tony’s father has shared some racist views with Tony, who is young and impressionable. How would you respond to Tony (or his father) if you were Tiffany?
Free Choice: Find a quotation that connects to the idea of “identity.”	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?

Section Four: How might others' actions or ideas shape who we are?

Quotation	Prompts
<p>Another pause, then a more hesitant voice responded. "Honey, I really want to see you too. But I have to tell you something first." There was another pause. "Tiffany, I'm going to have a baby. But I don't want you to think..." (p. 151)</p>	<p>Tiffany's emotional response is understandable. Do you think she'll ever feel differently? If not, why not? If so, what needs to happen for her to do so? Provide examples from the text that support your answer.</p>
<p>"... You're just different. Come on. What's your story?" She paused as she studied him closely. She wanted an answer to her questions. "Well?"</p> <p>The woman was indeed intuitive. Perhaps a little too intuitive. (p. 167)</p>	<p>Why do you think Granny Ruth is able to see that there is more to Pierre than most believe? Would other characters be able to see Pierre as Granny Ruth does? Why or why not?</p>
<p>"Sometimes I don't know what being Anishinabe means," she confessed. "According to Tony and his father, it has to do with taxes. For my father, its hunting and fishing and stuff like that. My grandmother believes it's about speaking Anishinabe ..." (p. 201)</p>	<p>Do you think Tiffany's uncertainty about her Anishinabe identity is just teenage uncertainty? Or, is it more complex than this? In what ways are all of our identities shaped by the ideas of those around us? Discuss.</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>