

BLM 2 – *Keeper’n Me: Book One Response Journal*

Book One: Bih’kee-yan, Bih’kee-yan, Bih’kee-yan

Keeper’n Me explores the notion of identity through themes connected with family; separation; love; home; adversity; and place. In this unit, we are looking at texts and how they help us think about the following essential questions:

- How is our sense of self formed? What are the influential factors that help shape our sense of self?
- How do our family and community affect how we define who we are?
- How and why does our sense of self change over time?

Instructions:

1. Choose one of the quotations in the left-hand column from *Keeper’n Me*; in the right hand column, jot down in point form some of your ideas as to how it connects to one of the novel’s themes and/or essential questions. There is a choice option too where you can identify a quotation yourself to respond to. You can use the box provided or use your own paper.
2. Write a response where you can discuss your thinking in more detail.

Quotation & Page Number	Response (in point form)
<p><i>She said those were the last words she heard, and the last sight she had of me for twenty years was from the back window of that school bus. A little Ojibway boy all hunched over in the sandbox with a little red truck with one wheel missing, growin’ smaller’n smaller, till it looked like the land just swallowed me up. When she got home that night the sandbox was empty except for that little blue and red truck, the wind already busy burying it in the sand. When we met again twenty years later she grabbed me in that same big, warm hug and just held on for a long, long time.</i> p. 16</p>	
<p><i>... they just seemed to treat me like I was someone they’d always known. Like the twenty years didn’t matter to them or the way I was dressed, the Afro or anything. It was like I was already part of their lives and let’s get on with it all.</i> p. 60</p>	

How Do We Define Ourselves?

“Bih’kee-yan,” she sang, “bih’kee-yan, bih’kee-yan, bih’kee-yan.”

When she finished she looked over at me and smiled, rose up, walked to me and grabbed me up into a great big hug and held on for a long time.

“What does it mean, Ma?” I mumbled through tears and her hair. “My song, what does it mean?”

She breathed deeply one more time and said, “It means, come home. Come home, come home, come home.” p. 85

Your choice:

Response Journal: Write a response discussing your thinking in more detail. Your response should be approximately 200 words.

Reflection: Underline a sentence or two from your response journal that you are most proud of and then explain why.