

BLM 3 – *Keeper’n Me: Book Two Response Journal*

Book Two: Beedahbun

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 does 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>Anyway, I’d been back here for about four months. My ma had cut my Afro off about three days after I was home and around that time I was one scruffy-looking Indian. Funny how fate turns things around, eh? I told Ma about the Pancho Santilla gaffe I used to run on people before I became a black man and she just looked at me and laughed. “Good thing you don’t try that now, my boy,” she said. “People see you with no hair now they be callin’ you one a them Mexican hairlesses!”</i> p. 88</p>	
<p><i>Mind kinda cleared up too but that hollow feelin’ wouldn’t go away. Made me afraid. Made me wanna run, go have a drink, feel that burnin’ in my belly instead a hollow. Told one of them counselors one day an’ se took me into her office, put a blanket on the floor, laid out a bowl and cedar. Lit up an’ said a prayer for both of us on accounta I was too</i></p>	

How Do We Define Ourselves?

<i>ashamed an' scared to say one for myself. Then she smudged me with that cedar. The smell hit something deep inside me I hadn't felt in a long, long time an' I cried real deep an' long. Cried for Harold, cried for my shame, my fear, all them years. When I was done that hollow feelin' was gone. p. 111-112</i>	
<i>"Gotta lot of the bear in him, like I said. Bear's a good warrior. Doesn't show fear. But the bear learns how to live with it though, an' that's what Jackie never learned. How to live with it." p. 144</i>	
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.