

BLM 2 – Novel Discussion Guide – Possible Discussion Prompts

1. Is this novel an authentic First Peoples text? Explain.
2. Who is the central character(s)? What motivates the central character's actions?
3. What are the central character's most important traits? Why are these traits important?
4. How is the main character changing? What is the character learning about life? About and the role the character plays in it? Who controls the character's actions? How does this make the character feel or react?
5. What would be "out of character" for the main character? (In other words, what would this character most likely never do?)
6. What is the central idea (theme) in the novel? What evidence from the novel supports this central idea as being significant?
7. Has the author included any words or phrases in Indigenous languages in the novel? Provide some examples. How does the inclusion of these words or phrases contribute to the story?
8. What is your view or opinion around this central idea? What would you be willing to do to defend your views? What problems may arise because of these views?
9. What is the most important mood so far? What techniques does the writer use to create this mood?
10. What have you learned about the time period while reading (e.g., names of people, laws, unusual situations, settings)? What historical information does the writer include? How is it supported?
11. What is the most interesting scene in the novel? What did the writer do to catch your interest?
12. What did you learn about the actual experience of Indian Residential Schools while reading the novel?
13. What did you learn about the after-effects of the trauma of Indian Residential School for survivors while reading the novel?
14. What did you learn about the effects of inter-generational trauma while reading the novel?
15. How are the characters who were impacted by Indian Residential Schools able or not able to move on with their lives?
16. After reading this novel, how have your opinions, views, or understandings about the Indian Residential School system been impacted?