

BLM 4 Reader Response Questions: Dream Wheels

Section One: Prologue and Book One, “The Arena”

1. “The world exploded” is a phrase used to describe events in the lives of both Claire Hartley and Joe Willie Wolfchild. Compare these events, using examples from the novel to support your response.
2. Aiden Hartley gets involved with a group of other youth who use drugs and commit crimes. What challenges does Aiden face in his life, and how do those challenges contribute to his choices?
3. Throughout the Prologue and Book One there are aspects of First Peoples belief systems. Discuss examples of these aspects and connect them to the relationships evolving in the novel.

Section Two: Book Two, “The Road”

4. One major theme emerging in the novel is the relationships between mothers and their children. Discuss some examples of this theme as well as what you think Wagamese is trying to say about this relationship.
5. Why do you think Joe Willie loses Darlene? What else has he lost? How do you think all of these losses will impact him?
6. Marcel Golec goes well beyond the call of duty as a police officer for Claire and Aiden. Why do you think he does this? Using examples from the novel to support your response, discuss his character.

Section Three: Book Three, “The Challenge”

7. Joe Willie mentions that “the old people regarded the land as a relative”. How are the Wolfchilds, and Joe Willie in particular, connected to the land?
8. The time in the juvenile detention centre has a lot of impact on Aiden’s spirit. Discuss, using examples from the novel to support your response.
9. Joe Willie and Aiden struggle to come together. What do they give to each other by developing a relationship? Discuss, using examples from the novel to support your response.

Section Four: Book Four, “Dream Wheels,” and Epilogue

10. The truck has a lot of symbolic meaning for the Wolfchild family, and later for Aiden as well. Discuss, using examples from the novel to support your response.
11. “A dream wheel is the sum total of a peoples’ story. All its dreams, all its visions, all its experiences gathered together. Looped together. Woven together in a big wheel of dreaming.” Discuss this quotation and the significance of the title, using examples from the novel to support your response.
12. The term “all my relations” is the strongest set of words Joe Willie knows. Why do you think he believes this? Discuss, using examples from the novel to support your response.