

BLM 5 – *Keeper’n Me: Book Four Response Journal*

Book Four: Lookin’ Jake

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>Lose that connection you lose yourself, according to most people around here. Lose that connection you lose that feeling of being a part of something that’s bigger than everything. Kinda tapping into the great mystery. Feeling the spirit of the land that’s the spirit of the people and the spirit of yourself. That’s what I was learning all along, but I needed to get a lot closer to it...</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 224-225</p>	
<p><i>I could hear their voices there. The ghosts of voices that filled those shriveled timbers with love and hope and happiness. The voices of an Ojibway family alive forever in a time beyond what the world could do and did not so far from them. Voices from a history that got removed. A past that never got the chance to shine in me. A glittering, magic past that was being resurrected right there in</i></p>	

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the crumpled heap of an old cabin that had given itself back to the land a long time ago. It was part of me. And there in those rotted lengths of mossy, gray-black timbers was the thing I'd been searching for all my life. The hook to hang my life on. The hook that hung on the back of a cabin door amidst the rough and tangle of the land, the past, the heritage that was my home, my future and mine alone forever. I cried.

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She hugged me again. As I unfolded the shirt the material felt familiar. It wasn't until I had it all held out in front of me that I knew what it was. It was the balloon-sleeved yellow shirt I had on the day I arrived at White Dog. The sleeves were cut back regular, the long, pointed collar was gone, and the ribbons ran across the chest and back and down the arms. It was beautiful.

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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.