

QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN
Part 3

Author Sherman Alexie tells the story of a Spokane Indian boy who tries to leave the reservation and enjoy the opportunities he sees the white folks in the neighboring town enjoying. These questions cover the book from the chapter headed WAKE to the end of the book (pages 159 to 230)

Wake

1. What is a *wake*? How many Indians come to Grandmother's wake?
2. How do the other Indians treat Arnold after his grandmother's death?
3. Why can't Arnold's sister come to the funeral? What does she do instead?
4. A rich white guy brings a suitcase to the funeral. What is in the suitcase? What story does he tell about the contents?
5. What does Arnold's mother say about those contents?
6. What do the Indians do after the rich man leaves?

Valentine Heart

7. Arnold's father's best friend is shot and killed. How does this happen?
8. Arnold misses two weeks of school grieving. What happens when he goes back to school? What does this teach him about people?
9. What does his grieving ceremony become after this?

In Like a Lion

10. Arnold says he is a *yucker*. What is a yucker?
11. Before the big game, Arnold is interviewed for TV. What does he tell the announcer?
12. What is Reardon High School's secret weapon?
13. What is Arnold's job during the game?
14. What happens on the opening play?
15. How does Arnold feel after his team wins the game? In the Biblical story of David and Goliath, David a young sheep herder representing the Isrealites kills Goliath the giant warrior sent out by the enemy army. Who in this basketball game is David and who is Goliath?

Rowdy and I Have a Long and Serious Discussion about Basketball

16. What happens in this chapter?

Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses

17. What, according to Arnold, is the biggest difference between Indians and white people?

18. Tolstoy wrote, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." What does Arnold have to say about this?

19. What happens to Arnold's sister?

20. Arnold cannot stop laughing when he hears the bad news. Have you ever experienced something really bad and laughed about it? Why do we react like this?

21. Why doesn't Arnold like cantaloupes?

22. Describe how Arnold's mother treats him after his sister's death.

23. What happens between Rowdy and Arnold? Who killed Arnold's sister according to these boys? Do you agree?

24. How do the Indians mourn his sister's death?

25. How do the Reardon High School students treat Arnold?

Remembering

26. Arnold's family spends a day in the cemetery. Whose graves do they take care of? What else do they do?

27. What does Arnold believe Indian reservations are meant to be? Do you agree?

28. Arnold will someday leave the reservation permanently. Millions of people have left their homes to come to America. What were they looking for? Is Arnold looking for the same thing?

29. According to Arnold, who will NOT leave the reservation to look for a new life?

Talking about Turtles

30. Rowdy says nomads travel for food, water, and grazing land. He says Arnold will do this but he won't. Which of them does Rowdy believe is the true, brave, traditional Indian?

31. Will Rowdy and Arnold always be friends?