

WORKSHEETS

CHAPTER ONE

- In what states of mind are Chiara, Matteo and their father in, during the flight to Canada, regarding their imminent visit to their relatives?
- What is Kateri's attitude on their first meeting?
- As they arrive home, Chiara goes to bed, feeling exhausted. Who takes her to her room?
- Do the narrative steps deal with Canada's geographic features?

CHAPTER TWO

- What is Chiara's first wake-up like? Write/Talk about it.
- Who is Babik?
- Which character has been brought up by the Quakers? Find in the narration the distinctive features of this religion.
- What is a Reservation? Do some quick research and present it to your classroom.
- Why does Luigi claim that an hour's travel in Canada is "nothing"?

CHAPTER THREE

- Why does Kateri adopt Asa, the dog?
- How do Chiara and Matteo imagine the so called *Redskins*?
- Which of Kateri's words disappoint their expectations in this respect?
- Chiara is proud of having Kateri as her aunt. Why?
- How do tourists behave within the Indian Reserve?
- Towards the end of the chapter, Chiara makes out a particular figure for an instant. How does it show itself before the girl's eyes?

CHAPTER FOUR

- What strange habit does Valentina have at night?
- During their night banquet, the children are discovered by Luigi. What is the man's attitude?

- Valentina tells a story that could have had very serious consequences. Summarize it!
- What does Valentina's story turn into, in Matteo's dream?
- How does Matteo imagine Babik's future to be like? Why?

CHAPTER FIVE

- The lunch scene is very interesting. What happens to the various characters, when they are asked to pray aloud?
- Discuss this with your class under your teacher's supervision, trying to understand why the main characters feel so awkward. Do people normally feel embarrassed when they are asked to show their religious beliefs?
- Kateri speaks of a new character in the novel. The reader already knows quite a lot about him, even though he hasn't been formally introduced yet. Who is this character?
- How does Kateri introduce Aigle Noir?
- The family decides to visit Kateri's grandparents. Where do they live?

CHAPTER SIX

- How are Kateri's grandparents described?
- What hi-tech devices do they use in everyday life?
- At last Chiara meets Aigle Noir. What are her conflicting feelings?
- New characters are introduced. Who is Brother Novak?
- Novak knows about Europe and Italy. Why?

CHAPTER SEVEN

- After dinner Novak starts telling his adventures. Summarize Novak's narration.
- Grand-père tells his stories too. Summarize these as well.
- The two men's adventures highlight the fact that some typically human feelings and behaviours can be found in nature too. What are these feelings and behaviours?
- Do you think that stories dealing with solidarity have symbolic value? Discuss this issue under the guidance of your teacher.

- What thoughts crowd Chiara's mind before she falls asleep?
- Comment on Chiara's statement "How far away are we from Italy!"

CHAPTER EIGHT

- Night is the time of loneliness. What are Chiara's feelings when she wakes up in the middle of the night?
- Do you think Chiara's feelings are normal in her situation?
- What is Chiara's attitude towards her brother Matteo?
- A wind and hail storm make the night in the forest even more tense. What does Kateri do?
- What does grand-mère do while Kateri reassures the children?
- What additional information does Chiara receive about Aigle Noir?

CHAPTER NINE

- The following morning, a new adventure begins. Which?
- How do they manage to get back to Kateri's house?
- What means of transport do they use to travel from the grandparents' house to the platform?
- How does grand-mère say goodbye to Chiara?
- As the helicopter takes Chiara and Kateri back home, the pilot rescues somebody. Who is taken on board?
- What is Aigle Noir's reaction after the rescue? Think about his state of mind.
- How does Kateri behave with Aigle Noir?
- As soon as they arrive at the destination, Aigle Noir silently disappears. What is Chiara's state of mind on this?

CHAPTER TEN

- Chiara decides to call her mother. What mood is she left in after the phone conversation?
- Valentina lives an incredible experience. Talk about it.
- What are the two girls, who help Valentina, described as?
- What does Valentina say to Matteo, in a low voice?

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- What is the atmosphere like in Kateri's Reservation school?
- Chiara walks along with Jade and witnesses a fight between two motorized bullyboys and Aigle Noir. What are they fighting for?
- Is Aigle Noir a savage in Chiara's opinion?
- You can notice some inconsistencies in the narration; in fact it seems that life in the Reservation follows the typical rules of the industrialized Western world. Discuss this possible inconsistencies under the guidance of your teacher.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- Describe Chiara's feelings and states of mind during the boat trip, when she arrives at the camping site and after Aigle Noir's fleeting show-up.
- What sort of natural environment and life style are recalled in the two brothers' words? Do you find that Valentina is a spoiled girl?
- Why does Valentina need both the top of the wardrobe and the drawer?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- The whole party goes angling by the river. What are the attitudes of the various characters?
- What does Chiara do?
- Chiara walks away to take some pictures. What is her first weird encounter?
- Beside the enchanted surroundings, the narration refers to several animal species that are typical of North America (striped skunks, wapitis, beavers etc.). Find the main features of some of these.
- Chiara falls, becomes injured and then lost. Talk about the girl's state of mind.
- Aigle Noir rescues her. Summarize Chiara's feelings during their ride back to the camping site.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- Chiara is left alone at the cottage and is visited by Aigle Noir. The dialogue between the two young people represents a serious social denunciation. What does the young man accuse the whites of?

- What would he like his life to be like?
- Under your teacher's supervision, discuss the negative socialization and homologation processes of Native Americans – experienced by all minorities in the last centuries .
- Do family, school and social environment play a relevant role in the formation of a boy's or girl's personality? If so, why?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

- This chapter is a kind of full immersion into nature. Where is Chiara and Matteo's seaplane heading for?
- The chapter presents a new encounter between Chiara and Aigle Noir. Once again, he expresses his critical opinion about the United States. What does he say and why?
- What animal does Chiara compare Aigle Noir to?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

- What values did Aigle Noir's great- grandfather fight for?
- What merits does Kateri attribute to Aigle Noir?
- Comment on Kateri's words "I hope that Aigle Noir will finally accept the laws of history, that he'll stop wondering along the paths of a past that will never return, to live his present life with courage."
- Accepting Aigle Noir's invitation, Chiara is accompanied by Kateri to visit Chieftain Bella Bella's village. Where do the chieftain and his people live?
- Why has Bella Bella become an object of consumer tourism?
- Once more Aigle Noir shows his fury on the lack of respect the whites have for his people's traditions. What is Chiara's opinion about this issue, after she has seen with her own eyes how difficult it is for them to survive?
- Why does Chiara feel a pang in her heart, whenever she talks or thinks about going back home?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

- The chapter opens with a portrait of poverty and abandonment. Babik's parents have come back. What news do they receive?
- How are Yapani and Vika, who are respectively Babik's father and mother, described?

- What do Babik's parents - that were officially missing – take home with them?
- What is Vika's first plan as soon as she gets back home?
- What does Vika demand of her husband before leaving?
- The dialogue between Yapani's parents is the expression of despair, decadence and weakness. Summarize the reasons for and the consequences of their behaviours.
- With the help of the Authorities – and therefore of the whites – Yapani and Vika are able to travel to the south. Could this make Vika change her mind about the power and the laws of the whites? Discuss.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

- Talk about the encounter of Vika and Yapani with Babik, Asa and Kateri, detailing the feelings and states of mind of the various characters.
- Vika's resolution to leave her son with Kateri for the following winter is moving. Why does she make this decision?
- What does Kateri's world represent to Vika?
- What is Yapani's opinion instead?
- With your teacher's help, think about the relationship between development and tradition, as well as the consequences it has on human growth.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

- Thanks to whose good offices can Babik's parents travel hundreds of kilometers to see their son?
- Are there actually laws in favour of ethnic minorities? Find information on it and discuss your outcomes.
- The night meeting between Chiara and Aigle Noir is tender and moving. Talk about the two young people's feelings.
- Comment on the Navajo Chant. Read it through and try to find Aigle Noir's feelings in its verses. What message does he want to convey to Chiara?
- What are Chiara's tumultuous feelings before falling asleep?

CHAPTER TWENTY

- The chapter opens with an unexpected event. Which?
- What is Chiara's first reaction?
- What is Ernesto's reaction on his daughter's position?

- Chiara decides to give evidence for Aigle Noir. What do you think about this choice?
- What do you think about Luigi's relationship with Kateri?
- Can Luigi and Kateri be defined as model parents? If so, why?

CHAPTER TWENTYONE

- Another psychological chapter. Jade thinks that Aigle Noir is guilty; why?
- Why is Jade so tired about her life?
- What is Kateri's reply?
- What is the turning point that makes Jade change her life perspective?
- Kateri feels she has a duty in life regarding her people. What?
- What mysterious strength supports Kateri in the performance of her mission?

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

- This is the farewell chapter. Summarize the general mood and the states of mind of the various characters upon leaving.
- Why does Chiara seem to take time before going-on to the departure lounge?
- Aigle Noir arrives at the airport just in time to say goodbye. What do they promise before leaving each other?
- What is the symbolic meaning of the fact that Aigle Noir finally asks to be called Pierre?
- Write a short essay on this novel, focusing on the following points:
 - o Did you like it?
 - o What did you like about it?
 - o What characters did you find most attractive and why?
 - o Which characters could you identify with?
 - o Write about the novel's setting.
 - o Write about the themes that are dealt with.
 - o Write about the narration style.
 - o Talk about your personal questions and perplexity about the story.