

Erdrich switches the narrative between the narratives of the two main characters, Thomas and Patrice. How did this affect the overall story? Did you like the alternation between the narratives?

The story uses magical realism throughout, such as Patrice's experience sleeping by the bear, and Thomas's viewing of beings in the sky after falling outside the factory. How do these experiences enhance your understanding of the characters' connection to the land around them, their culture, and history?

What stereotypes about Native Americans does Senator Watkins lay out in his testimony questions? How does the memory and presence of Roderick help Thomas deal with the stereotypes and insinuating questions?

How does the House Concurrent Resolution 108 bill frame its words to make it sound like a positive, empowering change for the tribes? What words does Thomas use to explain his view of the actual purpose of the bill?

5. "But every so often the government remembered about Indians and when they did they always tried to solve Indians, thought Thomas. They solve us by getting rid of us." What do you think would have happened to the members of the Turtle Mountain Tribe if the bill had passed?
6. What do you think Patrice's future will look like? Do you think she will go to school, leave her home, or stay put in the future?
7. How has the experience of traveling back to the tribe and testifying for them changed Millie? What do you think she will do in the future?
8. How did caring for Vera's baby change Wood Mountain?
9. Were you familiar with the history of Native American tribes in the U.S. before this book? What about the attempts to terminate them? What new information or perspectives has this book given you?
10. How did Patrice's experience of going to the city, where she was very naive of the dangers, and ending up as the water jack, parallel or different from the way Native American tribes have been treated in our country?

