

Name _____ Grade _____
Due _____

Sing Down the Moon

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use the back of the sheet if you need more room.

Chapter 1

1. What does Bright Morning say is "...a wonderful day?" Describe it and explain why it is wonderful.
2. Why does Bright Morning hide her happiness? What do you think about this?
3. What had Bright Morning done the year before that made her unable to drive (lead) the sheep to pasture anymore?

Chapter 2

1. Look up the word "mesa" and find a picture. Write the definition and include a picture or sketch.
2. Based on the three girls' conversation, what do you think Bright Morning looks like. Describe her and draw a sketch.

Chapter 3

1. Who is Tall Boy? How did he get his name? Why doesn't Bright Morning's mother like him?
2. Why did the warriors leave the village?
3. Who are the Long Knives? Describe them. Why do they come to the village?

Chapter 4

1. Look up the word “hogan” and find a picture. Write the definition and include a picture or sketch.
2. Based on the last few chapters, describe a typical day for Bright Morning. Does she enjoy her life? How do you know?
3. Who comes to the mesa where Running Bird and Bright Dawn are grazing their sheep? What happens?

Chapter 5

1. How does Bright Morning react to her initial captivity?

2. Why do you think Bright Morning refused to eat? What does it show about her personality?
3. What does Bright Morning and Running Bird see during the second night? Describe it. What do you think this means?

Chapter 6

1. Bright Moon's dog shows up. What is the importance (significance) of this? How do the Spanish treat him?
2. What is the girls' first impression of the town? How do you know?
3. What happens at the Jicarilla Apache's house that is offensive to Bright Morning? How does this make her feel?
4. What message does the Nez Perce girl (sweeping on the street) seem to give to Bright Morning as their eyes meet? What does that seem to indicate about the rest of the story?

Chapter 7

1. “A surly miss,” the woman said in Spanish. “Can't you bring me one with a better disposition?” page 32. What does “surly” mean? What does “disposition” mean? So, how do these people feel about Bright Morning?
2. Why was Bright Morning captured? What job was she brought to this house to do? Do you think she will do it? Why/why not?
3. “I told her one of my names, but not my real name.” page 34. What does this statement tell you about the Navaho culture? Why didn't Bright Morning reveal (tell) her real name?
4. Describe Rosita's personality. How do you know?
5. Describe some of the other “cultural norms” of the Navaho that are discussed in this chapter. How do they contrast with the white cultural norms?

On the back of this paper, make a list of all the characters' names you have read so far. Then, briefly describe them; physically and/or by their relationship to Bright Morning.

Chapter 8

1. Based on what Bright Morning thinks at the beginning of the chapter, how does she feel about her captivity? How do you know?
2. What message does the Nez Perce girl have for Bright Morning? How do you think Bright Morning feels about this? Why?
3. Why does Rosita tell Bright Morning to avoid Nehana? What do you think about Rosita's warning? Why?
4. How does Rosita feel about her captivity? Why?
5. After dinner, what plan does Nehana tell Bright Morning?

Chapter 9

1. What holiday does Bright Morning learn about? Therefore, what time of year is it?
2. Although they don't talk, what plan does Nehana indicate to Bright Morning at the church?
3. How does Bright Morning get out of work and then out of the house?
4. How do the three girls get out of the church?

5. Why do the girls steal horses?

Chapter 10

1. What is the problem with meeting the woodcutter?
2. What deal does he try to make with the girls? Do they take it?
3. Why is important that Nehana is with Bright Morning and Running Bird? How does she help them?
4. What are the three girls worried about at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 11

1. How does Nehana continue to help the girls?
2. What wakes Bright Morning? What does she fear?
3. Who do the girls meet?
4. What does Tall Boy plan, if the Spaniards catch up to them?
5. What actually happens when the Spaniard catch up to them?

6. What happened to Tall Boy?

Chapter 12

1. How did the village react to Bright Morning's return?
2. How did the medicine man, Bitter Water, treat Tall Boy?
3. Why don't Bright Morning's mother and sister want her to see or spend time with Tall Boy anymore?
4. How does Bright Morning feel about Tall Boy?
5. What is it "time for" at the end of Chapter 12?

Chapter 13

1. What is the ceremony called?
2. List the tasks (jobs) Bright Morning has to do during the first day. Why does she have to do them?
3. What does Bright Morning have to do each morning of the ceremony? Why?
4. After the fourth day, what was the next thing Bright Morning had to do? Why?

5. Why does Tall Boy get angry with Bright Morning during this task?

6. Now that Bright Morning is considered a woman, what does she have to do?

7. How does Tall Boy feel about Bright Morning? How do you know?

Chapter 14

1. What demand do the Long Knives make of the village? Why, do you think?

2. How does Tall Boy react to this demand?

3. Why do most of the villagers agree to leave?

4. How long did the people think they would be gone?

5. Why did Tall Boy return to the villagers and not fight the Long Knives?

Chapter 15

1. What happened to the villagers' hogans?

2. How do the villagers react to this?

3. What other things did the Long Knives do to the village?
4. What do the villagers finally realize?

Chapter 16

1. How did the villagers survive with very little food and water?
2. After the food ran out, what did the villagers decide to do?
3. The Long Knives found them again. What did Tall Boy do? How does he feel about it?
4. What happened to the villagers?
5. What happened to the other villages?

Chapter 17

1. Where were the Long Knives taking the Navahos?
2. Who is Little Rainbow and what does Bright Morning do for her?
3. How did the Long Knives treat the Navahos?

4. What differing opinions do Bright Morning's mother and father have about the situation?

Chapter 18

1. How many people are being forced to march? How are they organized?
2. Who was the second old woman to die on the trail? How did she die?
3. What two things did Bright Morning worry about? Why?
4. What is Bosque Redondo? Describe it.
5. What happened to Little Rainbow's daughters?

Chapter 19

1. How did the Navahos try to make houses?
2. Why did the flour make the Navahos sick?
3. What was the conflict between the Apaches and the Navahos?
4. How were the lives (daily routines) very different here for both the women and the men? How do the men changes as a result?

Chapter 20

1. How did Tall Boy and Bright Morning's relationship change?
2. Describe the wedding ceremony.
3. What does Bright Morning and Tall Boy argue about at the river?
4. What decision does Bright Morning make?

Chapter 21

1. How does Bright Morning get blankets from the Long Knives?
2. What frustrates Bright Morning about Tall Boy and all the Navaho men?
3. What did Tall Boy do to an Apache man? What happened because he did this?
4. What does Bright Morning do about the situation? Does it help?

Chapter 22

1. How does Tall Boy make it back to Bright Morning?
2. Why does Bright Morning insult Tall Boy?

3. What finally convinced Tall Boy that they must leave?
4. Where did Tall Boy and Bright Morning settle? How did they survive?

Chapter 23

1. Why did Tall Boy and Bright Morning leave their new home? Where did they go?
2. Where do they now decide to settle? Why?
3. Why was Bright Morning happy at the end of the chapter?

Postscript

Describe the historical event this novel is based upon.