

English 11

Novel Study

***Three Day Road***

***By Joseph Boyden***

**Chapter Questions 5-9**

Three Day Road does not have numbered chapters. Instead each chapter has a name but no number. Some chapters feature Niska’s voice in the first person while some feature Xavier’s voice in the first person.

**Some of the main themes and concepts to keep an eye out for include in these early chapters:**

* Friendship
* Identity
* Good v. Evil
* Sacrifice
* Survival
* Modernity v. Tradition

**Pasitew (‘Fire’)**

1. Discuss the following quotation and how it reflects the theme of cultural conflict and colonialism.

*‘The old Cree are heather and anger God. The Cree are a backwards people and God’s displeasure is shown in that He makes your rivers run backwards, to the north instead of the south like in the civilized world.’ (p. 56)*

**Ntawi Nipahiwewak (‘Raiding Party’)**

2. Why was Gerald, a young soldier in Xavier and Elijah’s company, executed by firing squad?

3. Why have the Canadians (soldiers) ground off the ‘wicked and sharp teeth’ along the spine of their knives? What does this suggest of the laws of war on the Western Front?

Define -

Sentry -

Parapet -

4. Early in the novel, Thompson asks Elijah if he likes combat and killing, to which Elijah responds: "It's in my blood." But Thompson doesn't ask Xavier, who thinks: "Does he sense something? How am I different?" (p. 75). How is Xavier different from Elijah? How do they each feel about combat and killing? In what ways are they alike?

**Kiskinohanaasowin (‘Learning’)**

5. How does Xavier explain the poppies of Flanders’ Fields?

6. How are Elijah and Xavier treated differently by their section?

7. What two criticisms about the Canadian Army does Xavier make in this chapter?

**Kipwahakan (‘Captive’)**

8. Why does Niska choose to tell Xavier the story of her life?

9. How did The Hudson’s Bay Company change the lives of many Native Canadians?

10. Describe Niska’s experience at the residential school.

11. What does ‘assimilation’ (in the context of the story) mean? How did Rabbit, by choosing to go to residential school and accept a new, non-Aboriginal name, symbolize this? What do Rabbit’s choices represent to her mother in terms of culture?