

English 11

Novel Study

***Three Day Road***

***By Joseph Boyden***

**Chapter Questions 1-4**

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

**‘Feathers’** (Opening)

1. What point of view is the story being told in the opening? And from who’s point of view?

**Ekiiwaniwahk (‘Returning’)**

Describe the following Cree terms:

Wemistikoshiw –

Hookimaw –

2. Who is narrating the story in this chapter?

3. What is the ‘iron toboggan’?

4. On the riverbank, as Niska approaches, what does she see Xavier do?

**Takoshininaaniwan (‘Arrival’)**

Define the following Cree term:

Mushkegowuk -

5. Describe the setting of this chapter. What conditions do Xavier and Elijah face in the trenches?

6. Why does Joseph Boyden use two narrators to tell this story? What effects do you think he creates by interweaving Niska's and Xavier's narratives?

**Monahikewinan (‘Trenches’)**

Draw a trench system –

**Noohtaawiy (‘My Father)**

7. Discuss ‘the needles in his arm’ that Niska observes Xavier injecting himself with. She says, ‘But something far worse is consuming Xavier from the inside.’ What is ‘consuming Xavier from the inside?’

8. Niska tells Xavier about the stories her father told her family. "Sometimes his stories were all that we had to keep us alive" (p. 35). What role do you think stories (will) play within the novel?

Describe the following Cree terms:

Askihkan -

Windigo –

Manitou –

9. Why is cannibalism considered such an offence to Niska’s people? And what happens to Niska at the execution of Micah and her baby?