Sec. V English Language Arts D’Arcy McGee High School

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian



By Sherman Alexie

Directions: The novel has been divided into five groups of chapters. **Choose two options from the provided list *per each group of chapters*.** Write a paragraph (five to eight sentences long) for each option you choose. I will stop marking after the eighth sentence. Each sentence in a quote counts as a sentence in your paragraph. Do not over-use quotes.

 Use your commentary to analyse and appreciate and evaluate the novel. Defend your points with textual support (examples and quotes from the book). Each paragraph is worth five marks.

1. The Black-Eye-of-the-Month Club 16. Rowdy Gives Me Advice About Love

2. Why Chicken Means So Much to Me 17. Dance, Dance, Dance

3. Revenge Is My Middle Name 18. Don’t Trust Your Computer

4. Because Geometry Is Not a Country

Somewhere Near San Francisco 19. My Sister Sends Me a Letter

5. Hope Against Hope 20. Reindeer Games

6. Go Means Go 21. And a Partridge in a Pear Tree

7 .Rowdy Sings the Blues 22. Real Versus White

8. How to Fight Monsters 23. Wake

9. Grandmother Gives Me Some Advice 24. Valentine Heart

10. Tears of a Clown 25. In Like a Lion

11. Halloween 26. Rowdy and I Have a Long and Serious Discussion About Basketball

12. Slouching Toward Thanksgiving 27. Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses

13. My Sister Sends Me an E-Mail 28. My Final Freshman Year Report Card

14. Thanksgiving 29. Remembering

15. Hunger Pains 30. Talking about Turtles

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**GROUPS**

Group One (Chapters 1-6) Group Four (Chapters 19-24)

Group Two (Chapters 7-12) Group Five (Chapters 25-30)

Group Three (Chapters 13-18)

**OPTIONS LIST**

**Native issues**: life on the reservation,Native/Non-Native relationships, traditions, education,

change, tribal identity, and tribal relationships, role models, mythology/superstition/religion

**Native identity:** Wellpinit,Spokane, pan-Native and **KEY QUESTION**: "What does it mean to live as an Indian in this time? What does it mean to be an Indian man? Finally, what does it mean to live on an Indian reservation?" Quirk, Sarah A. (2003). ["Sherman Alexie (7 October 1966-)"](http://galenet.galegroup.com.proxy2.ulib.iupui.edu/servlet/DLBC_Online/iulib_iupui/BK1560155002). *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Seventh **278**: 3–10. Retrieved 2012-04-07.

**Social issues:** poverty, racism, homophobia, abuse, education, minority rights, misogyny, alcoholism, bullying, mental illness

**Topics (for themes):** family, relationships, friendship, sports, romance/love, hope, double-identity, dreams, gender-identity (women/men), self-identity, ambition, death and loss, forgiveness, sexuality, mythology/superstition/religion, optimism, honesty, rebellion, *wanderlust,* health, curiosity, loneliness

**The Reading and/or Writing Experience:** process, philosophy,importance of, value of

**Allusions:** historical, Native, popular culture, literature, media, arts, science, medical, sports

**Genre:** novel, epic, autobiography, monologue, graphic novel, stand-up, romance novels, the bildungsroman, young adult literature

**Voice:** narrator’s, author’s, other characters’, purpose, tone, pov, authorial intrusion

**Language:** slang, syntax, figurative, diction, tone, dialogue, irony, stream of consciousness, inappropriate, technical/scientific

**Structure/Design:** title, organization, layout, size, font, use of capitals, sentence, paragraph, and chapter structure/length, magic realism

**Art (cover, drawings, layout and themes):** style, content, medium, purpose, size, placement AND/OR process, philosophy,importance of, value of

**Humour:** puns,self-deprecation, over- and under-statement, irony, satire, incongruity, double-entendres, bawdy, slapstick, dark humour, wit

**Characterization/characters:** direct and indirect, speech, clothing, actions, static/dynamic, round/flat, philosophy, values and beliefs, stereotypes, physical, behavioural quirks, archetypes

**Settings:** place - the reserve and its locations, Reardan and its locations, other places

 time – the school year (chronology), holidays, flashbacks, seasons, time of day

**The Connection:** Write a paragraph in which you connect to the novel as you would in a writing response.