

Scanlan Center Freshman Students
English/World History
Summer Reading Assignment – 2009

1. Obtain and read the book Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson.
2. Answer the following items with complete and thoughtful responses in sentence form.
3. Answers must be typed, numbered and double spaced.
4. Use font size 12.
5. Answers will be collected on the first day of class and evaluated.
6. REMEMBER – All answers must be in complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. In one sentence identify Garvey.
2. Why is Cole being held at a detention center?
3. What personal characteristic does Cole consistently display?
4. In a paragraph, explain circle justice.

Chapter 2

1. In one sentence identify Edwin.
2. What type of person does Cole think he can trust?
3. What does Edwin mean when he says “up here you live and die by your actions”?
4. What does Garvey give Cole to take care of? What do the Tlingits call this?
5. What does Edwin tell Cole about his relationship to the animals?
6. What does Cole do when Garvey and Edwin drive away in their boat?

Chapter 3

1. What secret about his dad does Cole reveal to Garvey?
2. Explain what Garvey does with the contents of the brown bag. Why do you think he does this? What is the purpose?
3. What does Cole do to escape the island?

Chapter 4

1. The Keeper describes Circle Justice – she says that justice often fails because it punishes rather than what?
2. What is the purpose of Circle Justice?
3. What is the significance of the feather?

Chapter 5

1. Where does Cole end up swimming to? What happens to him to cause this?
2. When Cole awakens from his first night on the island what does he see?
3. Why does the bear make Cole so angry?

Chapter 6

1. At the Circle of Justice meeting Garvey says “Cole isn’t the only problem here tonight.” Who else represents part of the problem? Who will pay a “terrible price”?
2. What solution does Garvey suggest at the Circle Meeting to satisfy the Driscals’ lawyer and allow Cole’s sentencing to be delayed?

Chapter 7

1. What does Cole do when he sees the Spirit Bear at the mouth of the bay? Why does Cole do this?
2. Do Cole's actions frighten the bear? Why or why not?

Chapter 8

1. What does Spirit Bear do when Cole charges him?
2. Explain how Edwin (elder of Tlingit) told Cole to live with the other creatures on the island. Is Cole doing this?
3. How are Edwin's words proving to be true?
4. The entire chapter takes place with Cole in only one position. What is that position and what do you think he is learning?
5. What emotions does Cole find even more unbearable than the pain?

Chapter 9

1. Define the term, "vulnerable" on page 78.
2. What do you think Cole is learning from the attack and the storm?
3. The author says that Cole had to focus on the moon to help him "remain on this side". What does he mean by that?
4. Cole tried to remember what Garvey and Edwin had said about circles as he watched the moon. What had they told him? (See page 17)
5. What does Cole do at the end of the chapter that tells the reader he is beginning to learn and grow?

Chapter 10

1. When Cole finds the baby birds, what had happened to them? Why is he envious of them?
2. Describe the cycle that Cole finally understands – the circle Edwin had tried to explain to him.
3. Cole comes to the conclusion that he wants to live. Why do you think he chooses life over death?
4. How is Cole like the baby birds?

Chapter 11

1. Before Cole eats the mouse to give himself energy, he says he "pitied the little mouse". How is this different from his attitude earlier in the story?
2. Describe Cole's emotions when the Spirit Bear returns.

Chapter 12

1. Why does Cole cry when Spirit Bear first leaves him alone?
2. Define the term submission.
3. The Spirit Bear returns and this time Cole's response is different. How?
4. Why does Cole reach out and touch the bear?
5. What does the bear do that Cole doesn't expect?
6. What does Cole discover about the world just as he is growing delirious?
7. What does Cole mean when he tells Garvey he is okay?

Chapter 13

1. Edwin, Garvey and the nurse discuss Cole's condition and Edwin says that he'll be alright if he ever finds a reason to live. What does he mean by that?
2. Garvey admits that he is helping Cole for himself. Explain.

Chapter 14

1. If you were a part of the circle at this point, what would you have recommended be done with Cole?

Chapter 15

1. Why does Cole say that on the island he "realized he was dying and I had never really even lived yet"? (page 132)
2. What does Circle Justice decide to do with Cole?

Chapter 16

1. Explain how Garvey's meal is different from Cole's.
2. What does Edwin tell Cole to celebrate when Cole complained about nothing to celebrate about?

Chapter 17

1. What new experience does Edwin introduce Cole to at dawn? Why?
2. Explain Edwin's demonstration for Cole with the stick. What lesson does he want Cole to learn?
3. What do happiness and anger have in common? They are both a _____.

Chapter 18

1. What does each person do after his dance?
2. Explain what Edwin has Cole do to meet his ancestors and why he does it. What does this incident teach us about the purpose of the study of history?
3. Once the rock is set down it becomes Cole's _____. As Cole is rolling the rock down the hill, what is he to imagine?

Chapter 19

1. What happens when Cole announces that he is hitting the sack for the night?
2. What does Cole learn from his wolf dance?
3. What does Cole do the next morning?
4. What does Cole see at the end of the chapter as he is preparing to go back to camp?
5. What do you think Cole learns in this chapter?

Chapter 20

1. Explain what Cole learns in this chapter.

Chapter 21

1. What are totems?
2. According to Edwin, why do we live life?

Chapter 22

1. Why do you think Cole's rage keeps reappearing?

Chapter 23

1. Cole finally discovers the secret to becoming invisible, what is it?
2. Describe Cole's experience of becoming invisible.
3. Which dance is Cole finally able to perform? Describe what happens during this dance.
4. When Cole cries out, "I'm sorry!", to whom is he apologizing?
5. He also comes to a final point at which he begins to cry and cries loudly, "I forgive you!" Who did he forgive? Why?
6. What does Cole learn in this chapter?

Chapter 24

1. What do you think Cole should carve to show that he learned to forgive? Why?
2. What solution does Cole come up with the help Peter?

Chapter 25

1. What surprise do Edwin and Garvey bring to Cole?
2. When does Cole tell them was the turning point when he began to think about something besides himself?
3. Edwin forces Cole to tell the group why he hasn't carved the bottom of the totem yet. What does he tell them?

Chapter 26

1. Peter is confused about how to respond to Cole – he does some strange things. He is nasty and nice. What threatening things does he do? Why?

Chapter 27

1. What does Garvey tell Cole when Cole says that Peter would never forgive him?
2. How does Cole explain to Peter why he threw away proof that he had been mauled by a white bear?
3. What does Peter do to Cole's totem while he and Garvey are out looking for whales?

Chapter 28

1. Describe what happens when Cole and Peter reached the pond.
2. According to Cole, what is the purpose of the dances, the totems, and the ancestor rock?
3. According to Cole why does the Spirit Bear appear to him and Peter exactly when it did?
4. According to Cole what does the At. Oow represent?
5. According to Garvey, what does the circle represent?
6. What does Garvey mean when he asks "And everything is one?"
7. What do you believe is the most important lesson to be learned from Touching Spirit Bear?