

Answers for Discussion Worksheet

1. What might Chucky learn through his grandmother's stories?
(how to fish, how to prepare fish, what her childhood was like, what Celilo Falls was like year round, how to respect the salmon)
2. Who is the Creator?
(The being that created all the land, water, resources, and creatures for the Indian people. Explain that the Creator gave The People a great responsibility to care for all living creatures. People do not have dominion over the land; instead, they live with it, just as other creatures do. Explain that the respect for the salmon also stems from the belief that the salmon gives himself to The People for nourishment. This great sacrifice is not to be taken lightly.)
3. How does Chucky feel about his grandmother?
(He loves and respects her.)
4. Describe the sight and sounds of Celilo Falls
(The roar could be heard from miles away.)
5. Why is Celilo so important to Chucky's grandma?
(She has strong childhood memories about Celilo; it was also important to her grandmother; it was the place where her family harvested and traded salmon—where they celebrated, danced, sang, and played. Celilo was a way of life.)
6. Grandma says that “you could smell the fish water” when it was time to harvest fish in the spring. What might that smell like?
(Answers will vary. Some will say it must have stunk, but this is not the case. In the water, while salmon are living, they smell fresh and cold, a little metallic. Ask students if they have ever smelled a fish right after it has been caught. It will never smell “fishy.”)
7. Why did the Fisheries Chief warn them to take only the fish they needed?
(They were only “borrowing” the fish. They needed to make sure they were not disrupting the salmon runs in order to ensure that the salmon returned every year for them and for future generations.)
8. How big were the salmon that Grandma's father caught?
(Some reached one hundred pounds.)
9. Describe how the women would prepare the salmon for eating.
(From the text: The salmon would be placed on cedar boughs that were cut into long, thin pieces. The women would pierce the salmon flesh with the cedar sticks for support, and one long piece of cedar went up the center of the cut salmon. Then it would be placed near the fire by digging a small hole where the stick would be pushed into the ground.)
10. Why does Grandma say that eating fish is “brain food?”
(The omega-3 fatty acids in salmon are healthy and good for the brain. The salmon also helps Chucky remember his family and his culture.)
11. What are lamprey?
(Eels that were also harvested at Celilo.)
12. Describe the seasonal journeys of the salmon.
(The runs occurred spring through fall—different species of salmon spawned at different times. Some would swim as far back as eastern Washington and Idaho into Nez Perce territory.)