

## Discussion Questions

1. What seems to be the predominant tone of voice throughout this book?
2. Which of the characters in this book interest you the most? Why?
3. Character pairings are important characterization devices. Which of the character pairings in the book are especially good examples of that?
4. How effective is the book title, and how revealing are the titles of the individual stories?
5. What are some of the truths of male-female relationships dramatized in these stories?
6. What are some of the truths of youth-age relationships dramatized in these stories?
7. Which images recur throughout the book? Why?
8. How effective is the author in her use of dialogue?
9. What might Christians learn from the Christianity depicted in this collection? To what extent is that understanding of Christianity still operative in today's world?
10. What does this text reveal about attitudes toward military service among tribal peoples? Given their histories, what might motivate tribal people to enlist in the military as frequently as they do?
11. Why are horses so central to some of the narratives in this collection? How might tribal attitudes toward horses differ from the attitudes of mainstream society?
12. Which other creatures are important to the action in this collection? What are their roles?
13. What does this collection suggest are some of the consequences of loss of earth relationship?
14. Which story in the collection is your favorite? Why?
15. Which is your least favorite? Why?
16. Which story has the most potential for development into a novel? Why?

17. How do you feel about how these stories are sequenced? Is it effective? If so, why? If not, what would be a better sequence?
18. What does humor contribute to the total effect of this collection? Where it is employed, how appropriate is it?
19. What does the collection suggest are the biggest philosophical differences between tribal people and non-Indians? Can these differences be resolved? If so, what might be some strategies for resolving them?
20. Would you recommend this text to other readers? Why or why not?

**Note: Information was attained from one of the South Dakota Book Bag Study Guides (a project supported with funding from the South Dakota Humanities Council).**

**<http://library.sd.gov/PROG/sdbookbag/index.aspx>**