

Discussion Questions

1. What do you look for in a novel?
2. How do you compare this novel to others you have read?
3. Which of the characters in this novel interest you the most? Why?
4. Is the device of the prologue effective? Why or why not?
5. Does the author use foreshadowing to effect in this narrative?
6. Which is your favorite scene? Why?
7. What does the narrative reveal about philosophical differences between tribal people and others?
8. Is the dialogue believable?
9. Why does the author make so much of the images of grocery sacks in some of his descriptions?
10. What do birds contribute to the narrative action?
11. Does the division of the book into named sections contribute to the overall effect?
12. What is the role of memory in this narrative? How is it evoked?
13. Is this a love story?
14. How might the nature versus nurture argument be applied to this narrative?
15. What does the story reveal about the nature of evil?
16. How is humor used to further the narrative action?
17. How effective is the metaphor of the cage in the story?
18. Is the recurring use of the story of the Goat Man an effective device?

19. Are the story's characters well-named? Why or why not?
20. Would you recommend this book to others? 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>