

Discussion Questions

1. How does Black Elk's life parallel the historical developments that changes his people's way of life?
2. What was Black Elk's experience at the Little Big Horn, and how did it shape him?
3. How did Black Elk develop a sense of mission about the intertwining of his own experience and that of the fate of his people?
4. How did Black Elk's experience as a visionary begin? What was the import of his first vision?
5. What was the reaction of Black Elk's family and friends to his visions?
6. What was Black Elk's "great fear"?
7. How did Black Elk overcome his fear?
8. What was Black Elk's experience at Wounded Knee? Why did the event convince him that his people's traditional way of life was over?
9. What controversies exist concerning the writing of *Black Elk Speaks*?
10. How does Neihardt's poetic voice serve to advance the power of Black Elk's visionary voice?

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