

Discussion Questions

1. What does poetry mean to you?
2. What are some of your favorite poems and why?
3. What is the underlying philosophy of Evans' "The Bull Rider's Advice"?
4. What can one learn about the power of descriptive writings from Roripaugh's "Octopus in the Freezer"?
5. How does Whirlwind Soldier use metaphor to effect in "New Age"?
6. What might one learn about the art of poetry from Emmons' "The Genesis of a Poem"?
7. How does Hicks use irony to effect in "Lipstick Traces"?
8. Why is Hedge Coke's "The Change" more effective as poetry than it would be as prose?
9. How does Nystrom use history to address the present in "Regardless of the Final Score"? What are the implications of the title of that poem?
10. How does Dangel use colloquial language to effect in "Farming in a Lilac Shirt"?
11. In "In This," to whom might Cook-Lynn be speaking, and why?
12. Which of Driving Hawk Sneve's poems is the strongest affirmation of her Lakota Culture? Why?
13. Why does Stewart-Nunez number the stanzas in "Seven Spills"?
14. Which poetic techniques does Hasselstrom use in "Butchering the Crippled Heifer"?
15. How does Hasselstrom use itemization to effect in "Much"?
16. William Blake invited readers to "See a World in a Grain of Sand,/ and Heaven in a Wild Flower." Which of the poems in this collection is the best demonstration of that way of seeing?
17. Which of the poems in this collection might be most likely to promote cross-cultural understanding? Why?

18. Which of the poems in this collection best characterizes the way things are in South Dakota? Why?
19. Which of the poems in this collection is your favorite? Why?
20. Would you recommend this book 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>