

## Discussion Questions

1. What have been your predominant “ways of knowing”?
2. How might you compare and contrast your childhood experiences with the childhood experiences described in this book?
3. How might you compare and contrast your family relationships with those described in this book?
4. How might you compare and contrast the tones of the voices in these essays?
5. Which of these women might you be most interested in knowing on a personal level? Why?
6. How do you feel about how these essays are sequenced? Is it effective? If so, why? If not, what would be a better sequence?
7. What did you learn about family relationships among tribal people in reading these essays?
8. Could these essayists be characterized as “feminists”? Why or why not?
9. Many stories are told throughout this book? Which one might you remember the most? Why?
10. Are these essays “literature”? Why or why not?
11. Which of these essays might be most suited to expansion to book length? Why?
12. The historian Roy Harvey Pearce wrote, “We are not responsible for history but to it.” How might that statement be applied to this book?
13. How do the essayists in this book define “culture”? How do you define it?
14. Compare your ideas about “home” to the ideas expressed in this book.
15. Compare your ideas about the earth to the ideas expressed in this book.
16. Compare majority society ideas about healing to the ideas expressed in this book.
17. Compare majority society ideas about religion to the ideas expressed in this book.

18. What does language have to do with survival?
19. Memoir writing is an increasingly popular genre. Why do you think that is?
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>**