

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***

| <b>Ch</b> | <b>Pgs</b> | <b>Chapter Title</b>                                  | <b>Question</b>   |
|-----------|------------|---|---|
| 1         | 1-6        | The Black-Eye-of-the-Month Club                       | By the end of Chapter 1, we realize Junior (Arnold Spirit) has some challenging circumstances to deal with. What ones did you especially notice, and what does his drawing habit suggest about his personality and desires?   |
| 2         | 7-14       | Why Chicken Means So Much to Me                       | What effects of being poor does Arnold highlight in this chapter? (see especially page 13)  |
| 3         | 15-24      | Revenge is My Middle Name                             | What is Rowdy like? Why? What is his relationship with Arnold like? Give examples. (See esp. 16, 20, 22)  |
| 4         | 25-31      | Because Geometry Is Not a Country Somewhere in France | How does Arnold react to the book he gets? What does the book represent to him? Why does it hit his heart “with the force of a nuclear bomb” (31)?  |
| 5         | 32-43      | Hope Against Hope                                     | How does Mr. P react to Arnold’s behavior? Why? Also, how is Mary like Rowdy? Give an example. (See esp. 35, 37-38)   |
| 6         | 44-47      | Go Means Go   | Compare the pictures on page 43, 47, and 237. The pictures seem to have the same basic message—what is it? Even so, how are the three pictures slightly different in the way they make us think about Arnold’s situation?   |
| 7         | 48-53      | Rowdy Sings the Blues                                 | When Rowdy yells, “Don’t touch me, you retarded fag!” (52), the language is offensive. It’s hurtful, ignorant, and crude, but it’s not uncommon to hear young boys talk that way. Why does Rowdy use that language, and what does he really feel here? (see esp. 48 & 52) |
| 8         | 54-66      | How to Fight Monsters                                 | Why is Arnold’s first week at Reardan disorienting? (see esp. 56, 65-66)  |
| 9         | 67-73      | Grandmother Gives Me Some Advice                      | What’s unexpected about the respect Arnold gets from Eugene and from Roger? What are their different reasons for respecting Arnold? (esp. 71-72)  |
| 10        | 74-76      | Tears of a Clown                                      | Why does Alexie include this brief chapter about Arnold and Rowdy? What’s the point of the chapter, and what depth does it add to the novel?  |
| 11        | 77-81      | Halloween   | What’s Arnold for Halloween, and how is he treated (78-9). Also, when Arnold imagines asking Rowdy for advice at the end of the chapter (81), what’s Rowdy’s point? What does it suggest about Rowdy’s attitude toward change?  |
| 12        | 82-98      | Slouching Toward Thanksgiving                         | What examples of poverty are mentioned (86-7)? Also, what do we learn about Arnold’s sister Mary in this chapter, and in what ways are Arnold and his sister alike (90-91)? Moreover, what does Gordy teach Arnold about education (94-)?                                 |
| 13        | 99-100     | My Sister Sends Me an E-mail                          | What’s the point of including the e-mail from Arnold’s sister? (99-100)   |
| 14        | 101-103    | Thanksgiving  | What does Rowdy do when he gets Arnold’s picture? Why? (101-03)   |
| 15        | 104-113    | Hunger Pains  | Why does Arnold say, “Don’t give up” (108), and what effects does it have?  |
| 16        | 114-117    | Rowdy Gives Me Advice About Love                      | In this chapter, what’s the implied message about media coverage in America, and how is it connected to Rowdy’s point?  |

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| 17 | 118-129 | Dance, Dance, Dance   | Why does Arnold say, “If you let people into your life a little bit, they can be pretty damn amazing” (129)?   |
| 18 | 130-132 | Don’t Trust Your Computer                                       | According to Arnold, what do some Indians think of as the price of success, and why does this create a dilemma—an identity crisis—for Arnold?  |
| 19 | 133-134 | My Sister Sends Me a Letter                                     | What do you think is the main point of this brief chapter?   |
| 20 | 135-149 | Reindeer Games  | In Arnold’s match with Roger and in his match with Wellpinit High, what examples show us his “commitment to excellence” (148)?   |
| 21 | 150-151 | And a Partridge in a Pear Tree                                  | Why does Arnold say, “It was a beautiful and ugly thing” (151), and what does it suggest to us about his relationship with his dad? Also, what more do we learn about his sister and dad on pgs 152-3?   |
| 22 | 152-158 | Red Versus White  | Why does Arnold admire his grandmother? Provide examples and consider why some might consider the section on gays and tolerance offensive instead of open-minded. (See esp. 155-57)  |
| 23 | 159-168 | Wake  | Summarize the story about Billionaire Ted. What do you think is the point of that story? (See esp. 162-65)   |
| 24 | 169-178 | Valentine Heart   | This chapter is about death, loss, hardships, struggling with faith, and is about resilience. What tragedy occurs and how do Arnold and his friends deal with it? Give examples. (See esp. 173 & 175-76)   |
| 25 | 179-196 | In Like a Lion  | Describe (and give examples of) Arnold’s mindset going into the big game, and explain what Arnold realizes after the game’s over.  |
| 26 | 197-198 | Rowdy and I Have a Long and Serious Discussion About Basketball | Offensive words such as “faggot” are often used casually among young teens. In this chapter, how does the use of the word call attention to the kind of unspoken codes of conduct Kimmel says boys learn early on?   |
| 27 | 199-213 | Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses                    | In contrast to Arnold’s other friends, Rowdy responds differently to the tragedy. Give examples. See 210-12.   |
| 28 | 214     | My Final Freshman Year Report Card                              | How did Arnold do, and what does it seem to prove?   |
| 29 | 215-218 | Remembering   | Why does Arnold cry, and what does he realize about tribal affiliations (connections)? (215-18)  |
| 30 | 219-230 | Talking About Turtles   | What does the air conditioner scene teach us about Arnold’s and Rowdy’s personalities? (See 221). What does Arnold’s account of his summer teach us about his friends? (See 227). Even though he won’t totally change, what does Rowdy realize at the end? |