**“Indian Education” by Sherman Alexcie- Questions**

Instructions: All of these questions, except for those that say “reading for information question”, must be answered just like the in the handout on *How to answer a question properly* in full sentences with reasons, examples and explanations to support your answers. (see example below) If it says “reading for information question”, then you can just answer the question in full sentences.

*Example:*

Question- “Why is it important to answer questions with reasons, examples and explanations?”

Reason- because it provides convincing evidence to support your opinion.

Example-reader might not agree with your opinion- such as teacher

Explanation- if you give specific example as proof, and explain how example provides valid support for opinion, helps them understand your point of view, makes answer more convincing

*Final Answer*: It is very important to answer questions with reasons, examples and explanations because it provides convincing evidence to support your opinion. For example, a person might not agree with your reason, such as your teacher. However, if you give a specific example as proof of your argument, and explain how that example provides valid support of your opinion, this will help someone understand your point of view and make your answer more convincing.

1. What overall impression does Alexie create of life on the reservation? Use specific examples in the text that contribute do this impression. (reading for information question)
2. There are many places in the essay where Alexie describes how Native Americans face prejudice and negative stereotyping. Stereotypes are a major theme in “Indian Education”. Identify some examples in the story and explain how Victor reinforces or demythologizes them. (Reading for information question)
3. What do you think Alexie’s focus on stereotypes suggest about the purpose or theme of his writing?
4. The title “Indian Education” refers to more than just the formal school education Alexie describes in the story. What are some other implications of the title? (In other words what other kinds of education does he and/or the reader receive from this story?) (reading for information question)
5. Alexie refers to his hair in the opening sentence of the essay and in the sections on second grade and twelfth grade. How, and of what, is his hair a symbol (something meant to represent something else)?
6. In the story, how does the narrator’s cousin Steven Ford’s experience differ from the narrator’s? (reading for information question)
7. How do you think the narrator’s school experience shaped /influenced him as a person and as a Native American?
8. Why do you think Junior refers to playing basketball as “beautiful”?
9. What does Junior mean when he says “There is more than one way to starve.”?
10. In this essay Alexie offers 13 scenes: one for each school grade and a post-script reunion. Why do you think the author has organized the essay in grades and labelled them as headings instead of having paragraphs starting with things like “During the first grade”? What is the Effect of this narrative technique? How does this contribute to a theme in the story?
11. Why does the headline mentioned in “Eleventh Grade” hurt Junior so much?
12. Describe the tone that Alexie uses in the story. What does this tell us about his attitude in the narrative?
13. Why do you think Alexie chooses to use the word “Indian” in the story instead of Native American or some other more politically correct term?
14. Each section of the essay ends with a brief paragraph, usually a single sentence. What common function do all of these conclusions perform? How do their functions vary and why?
15. Why do you think Alexie ends with the section “Postscript: Class Reunion”? What is the effect of this final image?
16. At several points in the essay, Alexie uses Comparison and Contrast. Locate at least two examples and explain how each contributes to the essay.
17. In paragraph 15, Alexie writes that his teacher said of him and his parents “Indians, indian, indians… without capitalization.” What is his point?
18. At the end of the seventh grade section, Alexie writes that “no one spoke to me for another five hundred years.” What does he mean? What is the effect of this hyperbole (exaggeration)?
19. Irony is when words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words or when a situation ends up in quite a different way that what is generally anticipated. What is the irony between the last two sentences in the “Eleventh Grade”?