**Keeper n me Novel questions**

**Bih’kee-yan (First Chapter)**

**Go back through the first chapter of the novel. Write down point form answers to the following questions for an in class discussion. Make sure you think of specific examples to support your answers.**

1. What is your first impression of Keeper? Do you think he is funny? Give an example of something he says near the beginning of the chapter that demonstrates his sense of humour.

2.    Describe Garnet’s experience with foster homes. (15-19) How does this make you feel?

3.    Describe Garnet’s return to a rural area on pages 5-7.  Predict how this urban-raised person will fit into rural life.

4.    What is Ma’s description of what it means to be Anishnabe? (p11-12)

5.    How did cultural differences in terms of an understanding of what makes a good upbringing for children factor into Garnet’s apprehension by the social worker? (p. 14-15)

6.    One of the major themes of this book is what it means to be Indian.  Up until this point, how had the world defined Indian-ness for Garnet? (p16-17)

7.    List some reasons that people try to be things that they are not.  Why do you think that Garnet tries to be things that he is not? (p18-19)

8.    According to Lonnie and his family, why is family important? (p31-32)

9.    What might Garnet learn from hanging around Lonnie’s family?  (p33)

10.  Explain the quote “see us, we know you can’t make a beaver from a bear” as it applies to Garnet’s life. (p.53)

11.  Many cultures adapt their lifestyle to suit the modern world, while keeping their values and beliefs the same.  Keeper says “If you got the spirit of the old way in you, well, you can handle most anything this new world got to throw around.”  Apply this concept of holding onto old spiritual or moral ways of being in modern society to other cultures or to your own life.  How many examples can you think of?  (p. 54-55)

12.   According to Keeper, what is the process of learning to become Indian? (p54-56)

13.   Explain the metaphor of the jigsaw puzzle with missing pieces.  How do you think Garnet will go about finding the missing pieces?(p. 64-65)

14.   Describe the role of children in Ojibway marriage. (p. 71) What might the impact of losing children have on a marriage centered on children?

15.   What does *bih’kee-yan* mean?  (p. 84-85) Why did the author choose to use this word as the name of the chapter?

16.   Explain how the entire community was effected by the apprehension of children from the community.