‘Monster’ by Dennis Saddleman Questions

1. What monster is the poet referring to? Why do you think he calls it a monster?
2. What does the poet mean in lines 7-9?
3. Based on what you have learned about residential schools what do you think the poet is referring to in lines 19-20? Why?
4. What do you think the poet means in lines 22-23? Why?
5. What do you think the poet means in lines 24-28? How could residential school be following him?
6. Read the lines 32-41. What do you think the lines mean? Why do you think the poet used the image of a monster devouring him to describe these things?
7. Read lines 44-48. What do you think the poet is referring to in these lines? Why?
8. Read lines 49-52. How do these lines represent the pride of the speaker?
9. Read lines 55-58. What experiences in residential school do you think these lines refer to? Why?
10. Read lines 59-64. What do you think the poet was trying to say in these lines? What is his message? Why?
11. What is meant by line 64? Explain your answer.
12. Read lines 67-69. What do you think the poet means? Why?
13. Read lines 72-82. Why do you think the author uses the image of the monster expelling him as waste?
14. Read lines 72-82. What does the poet say the monster did to him in these lines? Why do you think he believes that?
15. Read lines 85-87. What does the poet say the monster did to him in these lines? Why do you think he believes that?
16. Read lines 90-94. What happens in these lines to the poet?
17. In line 91, what do you think the “chevy pony” is that the poet refers to? Why do you think he refers to it in that way?
18. Read lines 94-97. What do you think made the poet stop, even though he wanted to drive on?
19. Read lines 98-102. What happens in these lines? Why is this important for the poet? How does it make you feel?
20. Read lines 103-105. Why do you think the poet has the monster cry? What do you think this means in terms of his message in the poem?
21. Read lines 106-107. Why do you think the poet has the monster motion him to come to him and sit?
22. Read lines 108-121. What happens in these lines? What is the importance to the poem?
23. Read lines 108-121. How does the poet show how the first nations peoples have changed the monster?
24. Read line 120. What do you think the poet means in this line?
25. Read lines 123-124. What do these lines mean? In your opinion, how has stopping helped the poet move on?
26. Read lines 125-128. What do you think these lines mean? Who is the ghost child? How has confronting the monster helped the poet?
27. Read lines 129-130. Why is the poet surprised? What has helped him see the monster differently?
28. Read lines 131-132. What does he mean when he says he has “earned…[his] diploma of survival”?
29. Read lines 133-134. Why do you think the poet calls the school the “elder of…[his] memories.?
30. Read lines 135-139. What do you think the poet refers to the four stories of the church the way he does? How has the author used a pun (play on words) in this section with regards to the word “stories”?
31. After reading the poem identify 5 places where the poet uses description of human/living creature characteristics/features to help us identify with residential school as a real living monster? For example, in line 5 it describes the monster as having “steel bones”, and bones are a characteristic of a living thing.