

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Chapters 20, 21, 22

Chapter 20 - “Reindeer Games”

In the first basketball battle between Wellpinit and Reardan, Arnold literally risks his life to try to help his team win the game. Why do you think it is so important to him to win--so important that he would risk his physical well-being? Do you think his decision to continue playing was justified? Why or why not? Are there any conflicts that are so important to you that you would risk your life? What are they? Why are they so important to you?

Chapter 21 - “And a Partridge in a Pear Tree”

For Christmas, Arnold’s father saved \$5 to give Arnold as a gift. “He could have spent that five bucks and stayed drunk for another day or two. But he saved it for me. It was a beautiful and ugly thing,” Arnold says (151). Describe your best or worst holiday memory (any holiday, including your birthday). What made it “the best” or “the worst”? What were your hopes or your expectations? In what way did the day surpass or fall short of those hopes or expectations?

Chapter 22 - “Red Versus White”

“I mean, yeah, Indians are screwed up, but we’re really close to each other. We KNOW each other. Everybody knows everybody. But despite the fact that Reardan is a tiny town, people can still be strangers to each other. I’ve learned that white people, especially fathers, are good at hiding in plain sight” (153). Arnold realizes that his parents are not doing such a bad job of raising him. To what extent is it important to have a relationship to your father? What can a father teach you or help you understand that a mother cannot? Or are fathers not essential, after all? Use examples from your own life to support your ideas.