

***Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* – Reading Questions – Chapters 6, 7, and 8**

Chapter 6 – “Go Means Go”

When Arnold approaches his parents about transferring schools, his parents remind him that “the Indians here will be angry” (47). What possible reasons might the Indians in Wellpinit have for being angry about Arnold’s decision to change schools? What does his decision imply about life on the reservation? Do you think he is making a good decision to change schools? Why or why not?

Chapter 7 – “Rowdy Sings the Blues”

Rowdy responds to Arnold’s decisions to transfer to Reardon by beating him to a pulp. Why does Rowdy respond in this way? Has there been a time when you (or someone you know) have responded to news you did not like by resorting to violence? What does violence allow a person to express? Are there times when that kind of reaction or response is justified? When? Why?

Chapter 8 – “How to Fight Monsters”

When Arnold first arrives at Reardon, he is immediately aware of his status as an outsider, as an Indian in a community of whites. When Roger insults him by telling a racist joke, Arnold follows “the rules” that operate on the rez and punches Roger in the face. But Roger does not fight back, and so Arnold realizes that “the rules” at Reardon are not the same as “the rules” on the rez. Look at “the rules” listed on pages 61-62, and then brainstorm a list of “the rules” for getting along in one of the communities (family, team, neighborhood, friend group, etc.) you belong to. What are the rules? Try to be as detailed and specific as Arnold is with the list of “Spokane Indian Rules of Fisticuffs.”