

Absolutely True Diary Reading Questions - Chapters 25, 27, 28, and 29

Chapter Twenty-Five

“In Like a Lion”

When Rearden and Wellpinit face off for the second basketball game of the season and Rearden prevails mightily, Arnold initially rejoices: “We have defeated the enemy! We had defeated the champions! We were David who’d thrown a stone into the brain of Goliath!” Who are David and Goliath? Why does Arnold use that **allusion** to explain the relationship between the two teams? In what ways does this allusion work as an appropriate **metaphor**?

Chapter Twenty-Seven

“Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses”

In this chapter, Arnold learns of his sister Mary’s tragic death, and he decides that Leo Tolstoy was not exactly right when he wrote, “every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way” (200). In what ways does Arnold see the unhappy families around him as being the same? Give specific examples to support your points.

Chapter Twenty-Eight

“Remembering”

In this chapter, Arnold and his family honor their dead, and in the process Arnold realizes that he belongs to more than just one tribe. Make a list of all the “tribes” you belong to. Which are the most important to you? Choose three or four. Why are they the most important?

Chapter Twenty-Nine

“Talking about Turtles”

As Rowdy and Arnold talk in the final chapter of the novel, Rowdy observe that Arnold is “nomadic,” whereas most Indians they know stay in one place. What are the benefits of being a nomad? What are the losses? In other words, what does Arnold gain by leaving the rez? What does he lose?