

# The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

## by Sherman Alexie

Access *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* **Topic Page** from your assigned Gale resource. Use the **Topic Page** before, during, and after reading the novel to help answer the questions below.

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### BEFORE READING:

Use *Gale In Context* to answer the following:

1. How does Sherman Alexie's personal background and experiences shape his storytelling? In what ways does he draw from his own life and Native American heritage in his writing?

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2. What are some of the challenges or barriers that Sherman Alexie has faced as a Native American writer? How has he addressed or overcome these challenges in his career?

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3. Are there any controversies or debates surrounding Sherman Alexie's work? What are some different perspectives on his writing and its portrayal of Native American experiences?

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**From Your Own Knowledge and Experiences:**

1. Have you read any books or stories that explore themes of identity, culture, or coming-of-age? If so, what were they, and what impact did they have on you?

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2. What do you know about Native American culture and history? What specific aspects or events do you find particularly interesting or important to learn more about?

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3. How do you think the experiences of marginalized individuals can shape their identity and worldview? Can you think of any examples from real life or other literature?

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4. What are some challenges that young people face while growing up? How do you think these challenges can influence their choices and opportunities?

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5. Have you ever felt like an outsider or struggled with fitting in? How did you handle those situations, and what did you learn from them?

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6. How do you think humor can be used to address serious or sensitive topics? Can you think of any examples where humor has been effectively used in storytelling?

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7. What are your expectations or assumptions about the book based on its title or cover? What do you think the story might be about?

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8. What specific themes or issues do you hope this book will explore? Why are those topics important to you?

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**DURING READING:**

As you read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, take notes on the developments of the characters in the novel, how do you meet each character, how does your understanding of them change as they go through the book, why does it change. Make sure to be specific with examples (include page numbers).

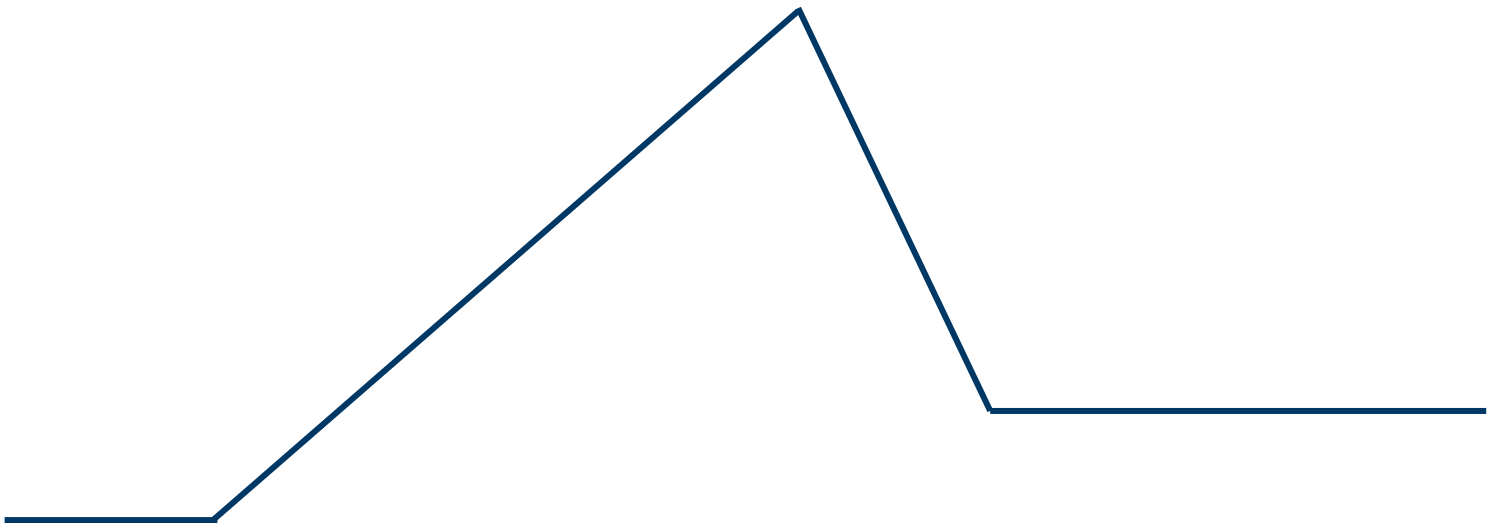
<b>CHARACTERS</b>	
<b>Arnold Spirit Jr.</b>	
<b>Rowdy</b>	
<b>Mary Spirit</b>	
<b>Junior's Parents</b>	
<b>Gordy</b>	
<b>Penelope</b>	

**DURING READING:**

The following are the themes depicted in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. As you read, take notes (including page numbers) of how you see these themes portrayed in the book.

THEMES	
<b>Identity &amp; Belonging</b>	
<b>Socioeconomic Inequality</b>	
<b>The Power of Education</b>	
<b>Friendship &amp; Support</b>	

Complete the plot diagram below, filling in events for each element of the story including the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.



**AFTER READING:**

1. How does Junior's experience as a Native American living on a reservation compare to your own experiences or what you have learned about Native American communities? What aspects of his story surprised you or challenged your assumptions?

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2. How does Junior's pursuit of education impact his personal growth and his relationship with his community? What broader messages about the value of education does the book convey?

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3. How does Sherman Alexie use humor to address serious and sensitive topics? What effect does humor have on the reader's engagement with the story and its themes?

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4. Consider the impact of racism and prejudice on the characters in the novel. How do they navigate and respond to discrimination? What insights does the book provide about the consequences of racism and the importance of empathy and understanding?

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5. Reflect on the ending of the novel. How does Junior's journey of self-discovery and personal growth resonate with you? What lessons or messages do you take away from the story?

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