

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS – *THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY...*

---

### *Book Groups*

#### **JOURNAL**

On your own, you will select one of the journal prompts below. On a separate sheet of paper, write your response to your selected prompt.

- (1) Write about a time when you felt you had to act a certain way because of the social group you were in, your heritage, your family expectations, etc.
- (2) Write about a time when you felt like you were a traitor, or a time you were identified as a traitor.
- (3) Write about a time when your own self-esteem prevented you from doing something.
- (4) Write about a time when you hid something about yourself, your family, or your past from your friends.

#### **COVER ANALYSIS**

As a group, you will analyze the cover of your novel. Then, you will make predictions about the text using your analysis. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

- **COLORS**
  - Why do you think that these colors were used?
  - What might they represent?
  - Why might there be a contrast between the background and letters?
- **IMAGES**
  - What images are used? What might they symbolize?
  - How are the images positioned? What might this positioning symbolize?
- **CHARACTER**
  - How do you think the cover represents the main character?
- **TITLE**
  - What do you think it means to a “part-time Indian”?
  - Why do you think the writer included the words “absolutely true”?
  - How does “diary” shape your expectations about the text?

## PASSAGE ANALYSIS

As a group, you will read the passage below. After, your group will discuss the passage questions. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

*So I stood alone on the sidewalk and watched my father drive away. I hope he'd drive right home and not stop in a bar and spend whatever money he had left. I hope he'd remember to come back and pick me up after school. I stood alone at the front door for a few very long minutes... Then the white kids began arriving for school. They surrounded me. Those kids weren't just white. They were translucent. I could see the blue veins running through their skins like the rivers. Most of the kids were my size or smaller, but there were ten or twelve monster dudes. Giant white guys. They looked like men, not boys. They had to be seniors. Some of them looked like they had to shave two or three times a day. They stared at me... Those white kids couldn't believe their eyes. They stared at me like I was Bigfoot or a UFO. What was I doing at Reardan, whose mascot was an Indian, thereby making me the only other Indian in town? So what was I doing in racist Reardan, where more than half of every graduating class went to college? Nobody in my family had ever gone near a college. Reardan was the opposite of the rez. It was the opposite of my family. It was the opposite of me. I didn't deserve to be there. I knew it; all of those kids knew it. Indians don't deserve shit.*

1. How does the speaker feel about the situation being described? How do you know? (Meaning, what words and/or phrases make you think this?)
2. What does this passage reveal about the speaker's home life? How might these realities affect the speaker?
3. How would you describe the speaker's self-esteem? (Meaning, what words and/or phrases from the passage reveal his perception of himself?)
4. "Indians don't deserve shit." Why do you think the speaker feels this way? What could be contributing to his feeling that way?
5. How does this being a first-person perspective shape the narrative? Would it be different if we heard from a third-person omniscient perspective? From multiple perspectives?

## RESEARCH

As a group, you will research the questions below. You are not just guessing" answers. Instead, you are using online resources to find information about each question. Write your responses on your journal piece of paper. These responses do NOT need to be in complete sentences; they can be in bullet-point or shorthand form.

1. Who are the Spokane Indians? Where are they located? What are some of their traditions?
2. Why were Native American reservations originally set up in America? How many still exist today? What is life like on these reservations?
3. What are common issues facing Native Americans today?