

Please choose one of the questions below, or a question of your own, and write a 4 to 6 page essay about it. You will need a strong topic sentence and examples from the novel to support your claim. Use directed quotations from the book as well as paraphrases, being careful not to retell the plot.

You will need to do some research, too, though because the book is so recent, I will not be requiring literary criticism. We'll talk in class about what kind of outside sources you might use.

#### Questions for Essay Three

1. In this novel, characters are often seeing reflections of themselves (in mirrors, windows, a dark TV screen). What do you think the purpose of these scenes is? What is Orange suggesting about how we see and understand ourselves and, perhaps, how others see us?
2. The end of the novel is unresolved. In fiction, we call this an open ending. What purpose does an open ending serve in this book?
3. Many of the characters in the novel are trying to understand what it means to be Indian. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield tells her grandson Orvil, "You're Indian because you're Indian because you're Indian," but this explanation isn't really enough for him or others in the book. What do the characters learn about what it means to be Indian? Do they find an answer to the question?
4. The Bear Shield/Red Feather family has an interesting and at times confusing relationship with spiders and spider webs. What might spiders symbolize for the family?
5. A question of your own.

#### Important Elements:

- ✓ A strong thesis
- ✓ Well-developed paragraphs that provide evidence for your thesis
- ✓ An interesting title
- ✓ 4 to 6 pages
- ✓ At least two outside sources (we will discuss in class)
- ✓ MLA in-text citations and works cited page
- ✓ Rough drafts/outlines/etc turned in with final draft
- ✓ Due November 7