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Fools crow study guide

Fools Crow is a story of dreams, honor, loss and change. It is a story of the coming of age that takes place in the midst of difficulties beyond anything that the Pikunis (part of the Blackfoot tribe) have faced in the past because of the encroachment of the Napikwans (white man). The 18-year-old white man's dog, who later earned the name Fools Crow when he won war honors, is a brave De Pikunis who struggles with his place in society. Without wealth, no woman finds him attractive as a husband. He prayed to the above for stronger medicine, but decides it is up to him to find his power. If he can get a several shots he can increase his wealth. He dreams of the pleasure of many wives, but has never touched a woman. For this reason, his friends laugh at him. Fast Horse, White Man's Dog's friend, invites him to take part in a horse-taking raid. This business becomes the springboard for the rest of the story, because on this trip White Man's Dog has a dream of a white-faced girl, while Cold Maker visits Fast Horse in a dream. Both dreams warn that the group should not continue. Fast Horse tells his dream, but Yellow Kidney doesn't trust the dream and decides to continue. The meaning of White Man's Dog's dream does not become clear until it is realized when Yellow Kidney finds himself in a lodge filled with the bodies of those suffering from white crust disease (variole). This fateful raid changes lives forever. White Man's Dog returns home with honor, Fast Horse returns sullenly and vexed, and Yellow Kidney finally returns home after a long absence without his fingers, his pock-marked body from white scabies disease. When Yellow Kidney recounts how fast horse's loud-mouth boasting leads to his capture, Fast Horse leaves the camp and joins Owl Child before he can be banished. The gang of young men who follow Owl Child are tired of nothing being done about the Napikwans who break their word. Owl Child's group kills, rapes and steals from the Napikwans. Their actions cause trouble for the rest of the peace-loving Pikunis. Dreams fuel the plot of this story. Through dreams, Fools Crow sees that the fight against the Napikwans is a necessary evil. For in his dream with the empty white landscape of animal life, white represents the Napikwans besieging their lands and no animal life represents the senseless murder of their food sources by the white man. When Raven appears in a dream, he tells Crow Fools that he must kill the great Napikwan who kills the animals unnecessarily. Fools Crow objects, but Raven convinces him that it is for the good of his people. He agrees and uses his wife to bait the white man. The plan succeeds, but Fools Crow gets shot. When they return to the camp, the men of the lonely eater camp listen to Fools Crow's story and agree that the murder was necessary, but no more murder of the white man should continue as it will cause great trouble to their people. However, owls and his disciples continue to kill the Napikwans who then blame all the Indians. The Napikwans gradually spread further into the land of Pikunis. The disease of the white crusts spreads faster than the fire weakening the Pikunis people. Right now Fools Crow is called into a dream to take a seven-day trip. He does not know his destination, only that he must dress as a beggar, take no food and make no stops. His horse carries him into a mystical canyon where he meets So-at-sa-ki (Feather Woman) who was once married to the god Morning Star. However, she was banished to earth when she unearthed the sacred turnip. She paints an image on yellow skin, images of changing scenes that come to life. Through the images, Fools Crow sees excerpts from the future of his peoples. He doesn't understand everything, but goes home and watches the story unfold. Even through difficulties, he looks to the future with renewed hope for So-at-sa-ki told him that he can do much good for his people. Story 371 Fall 2010 Devine Dramatis Personae Fools Crow - formerly White Man's Dog Rides-at-the-Door - The Father of Fools Crow Double Strike - Fools Crow's Mother Striped Face Rides-at-the-Door's 2nd wife Kills-close-to-the-Lake - Rides-at-the-Door's 3rd wife Running Fisher - Fools Crow's brother Mik-api - Medicine Man, Fools Crow's mentor, Fast Horse - Fools Crow's friend and rival Boss Ribs - the father of Fast Horse; Guardian of Beaver Medicine Yellow Kidney - Chief Warrior; Red Paint Heavy Shield Woman's father - Wife of Yellow Kidney Red Paint - Oldest of Yellow Kidney's three children Good Young Man - Yellow Kidney's son One Spot - Yellow Kidney's son Three Bears - Chief of the Lone Eaters Owl Child - Leader of the renegade band of Piku Pikuni mountain chief opposed to compromise with Whites Heavy Runner - Chief of Pikuni ready to compromise with the white terms Pikunis [Blackfeet] - Indian tribe in Montana Eaters - Pikuni Indians Crow Fools Band - Indian tribe; enemies of the bear Pikuni Skunk - a wolverine; Fools Crow's power animal Blackhorns - Buffalo Whitehorns - Cattle Napikwans/seizers - white people Above Ones/Cold Maker/Sun Chief - natural forces or Gods Sand Hills - the afterlife; where you go when you die grandfather in the East - President of the United States Many shots - rifle [prized by the Pikunis for hunting] the water of the white man - alcohol Seven people - Star Constellation [Big Dipper] Red Light at night - the moon Disease - smallpox issues to think you read 1. How were the Pikunis similar to whites? How were they different? 2. What do the Pikunis like? What was important to them? 3. Would the Pikunis have defined a good society? How would their definition differ from the 4. Did the spiritual beliefs of the Pikunis help or hurt them as they tried to reconcile with the Napikwan incursions? What kind of advice do their beliefs provide? 5. What was the best course for Pikunis to take in treatment with whites? Compromise? Conciliation? Violent opposition? 6. How would you describe the relationship of the Pikunis with other Native American tribes? Do you think the author wants us to learn from the lessons of this story? These notes were provided by members of the GradeSaver community. We are grateful for their contributions and encourage you to make your own. Written by Polly Barbour In 1870, White Man's Dog and his friend Fast Horse raided the Crow Indians at night. White Man's Dog doesn't perform very well. It looks weak and is useless in battle. He visits Blackfeet's medical man, Yellow Kidney, to see if he can help. Yellow Kidney gives him a mission to lead; he and a group of young Blackfoot will steal a herd of horses. He gave White Man's Dog a series of warlike songs that aimed to give him courage and courage. White Man's Dog sings the songs and gradually feels less suspicious of his task. The group manages to take the horses, but as they drive them away from the village, they are spotted by a scout they know will call for reinforcements. White Man's Dog kills the scout and in a hurry, Fast Horse calls his men, which is a huge mistake because he wakes everyone in the village. The Raven responds to the call and murder. The yellow kidney hides under a young girl's sleeping bag in a dwelling. He finds it exciting and rapes the girl before he realizes that she is lying alone because she has smallpox, and is dying. He tries to escape, but is seen by the crow and is shot. The Raven ties him up and cuts off his fingers, before tying him to one of the horses the young warriors were trying to steal and send the horse to face the incoming blizzard, dragging the yellow kidney behind. Although the raid seemed fruitless, it brought new respect and accolades to White Man's Dog. He feels both pride and sadness for what happened to the yellow kidney. When Yellow Kidney finally returns to the village of Blackfeet, he tells everyone about Fast's mistake shouting during the raid. Fast Horse is ashamed and leaves the village. Thanks to his courage during the raid, White Man's Dog is a new name, Fools Crow. This is done because he pretended to be dead while in Crow village, then took Bull Shield and shot him three times when his guard was down, thinking the young warrior was no longer alive. He had deceived Chief Crow, hence his new name. Fools Crow gets his first spiritual animal at Sun Dance, when he frees a wolverine from a trap. He also begins a sexual relationship with a woman named Red Paint, who becomes pregnant. They name their child after the butterfly that Red Paint saw flit by when she realized she was pregnant. Crow Fools is led by a crow that comes to him in a dream and he kills a mountain man who has been hunting and killing animals for fun, not for food or clothing. Fools Crow kills him but is seriously injured in the fight. He begins to learn the ways of the medicine man, who is lucky because the yellow kidney has become depressed and feels that he cannot live properly in society with his mutilated hand. He leaves the tribe but returns later, determined to adapt to life without the use of his fingers. He was shot as he returned home; his body is later found by Fast Horse, who takes him back to the village, but who does not stay, and spends the rest of his life living alone. When Fools Crow visits the mystical Feather Woman, she shows him three things that will happen to the Black Beast. They will suffer many deaths from smallpox that has already ravaged the village of Crow. They will be colonized by white men. The earth will dry up and become unproductive. The Feathered Woman makes Fools Crow promise to pass on the stories and wisdom of the ancestors that will be taken from them. You can help us by reviewing, improving and updating this section. Update this section Once you have requested a section, you will have 24 hours to submit a draft. An editor will review the submission and publish your submission or provide feedback. provide feedback.

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