

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The
Absolutely
True
Diary
of a
Part-Time
Indian



A NOVEL BY

SHERMAN
ALEXIE

ART BY ELLEN FORNEY

Ch. 1 Black Eye of the Month Club

1. How does Junior describe himself in the opening chapter?
2. Do you feel sorry for him?
3. What reasons does Junior give for why he likes to draw?

Ch. 2 Why Chicken Means So Much to Me

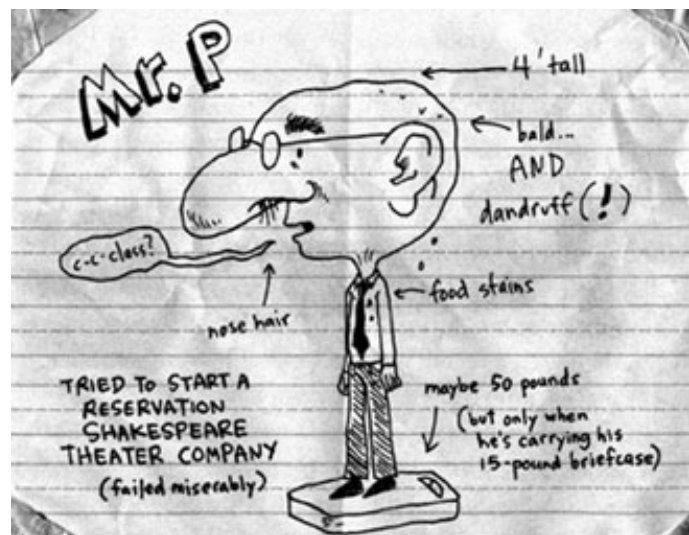
1. What does being poor mean to Junior?
2. Why won't his mother take his dog to the vet?
3. What happens to Oscar?

Ch. 3 Revenge is My Middle Name

1. What kind of person is Junior's best friend Rowdy?
2. Describe Rowdy's family homelife.
3. How does Rowdy's home life affect his behavior?
4. What happens to Junior at the pow-wow?
5. How does Rowdy get his revenge?

Ch. 4 Because Geometry is Not a Country Somewhere Near France

1. What happened to Junior's sister Mary after she graduated?
2. What incident sets Junior off during his geometry class?
3. What clues about character can you pick up from Junior's pictures of Mary and Mr. P?



Ch. 5 Hope Against Hope

1. What did Junior do with the geometry book? What is his punishment?
2. How do his parents react? Why?
3. Who shows up to talk to Junior? Why?

4. What does Junior learn from Mr. P. about his sister Mary?
5. Why does Mr. P think Junior should leave the “rez”?

Ch. 6 Go Means Go

1. Where does Junior decide he wants to attend school? Why?
2. How does Junior’s mom think the other Indians will treat Junior if he leaves?

Ch. 7 Rowdy Sings The Blues

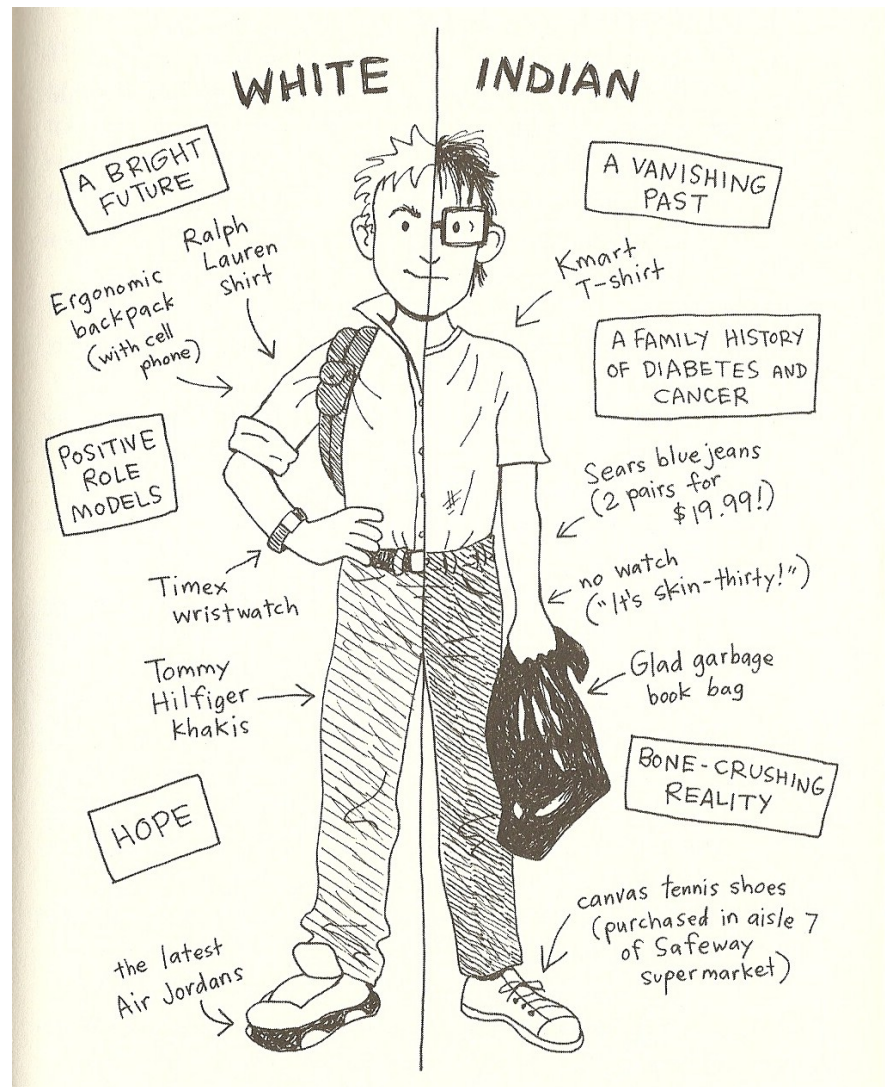
1. How does Rowdy take Junior’s news?
2. What does Junior’s drawing tell us that never came up in his conversation with Rowdy?

Ch. 8 How To Fight Monsters

1. What does Junior do while he waits for the school doors to open?
2. What kind of self image does Junior have?
3. Compare the white/Indian kid profiles from Junior’s cartoon.

Physical differences

Psychological differences



Which differences do you think matter more to a young person's success?

4. Do you agree with the SPOKANE INDIAN RULES OF FISTICUFFS? Can you identify with any of the rules?
5. Why do you think Roger decides to tell Junior a racist joke?
6. How does Junior react? Why is this a critical moment for him?

Ch. 9 Grandmother Gives Me Advice

1. What is Grandma's theory about Roger?
2. How does Junior get to school the next day?
3. How does his arrival at school contribute to his image?
4. How does Roger treat Junior today?

Ch. 10/11 Tears of a Clown, Halloween

1. What does Junior decide to be for Halloween?
2. What are Penelope's plans for Trick-or-Treat?
3. How does Junior's plan go wrong?
4. What is the positive lesson Junior takes away from his Trick-or-Treat experience?

Ch. 12 Slouching Toward Thanksgiving

1. What positive discovery does Junior make about himself?
2. How does Junior demonstrate he is gaining self-confidence in class?

3. Who defends Junior against the teacher?
4. What is different about how the teacher treats Gordy?
5. Why is getting to/from school so difficult for Junior? How does he handle it?
6. Where does Junior's sister go? With whom? Why is this unusual? What is junior's opinion about her decision?

Ch. 13 My Sister Send Me An Email, Thanksgiving

1. How does Arnold (Junior) try to mend his friendship with Rowdy? How does Rowdy's father see it?

Ch. 14 Hunger Pains

1. Why does Penelope decide to "date" Junior? How does this change the way he is perceived by the other students?
2. What does Penelope dream for her life?
3. How is the drawing of Penelope different than most of Junior's other drawings?

Ch. 15 Rowdy Gives Me Advice About Love

1. What is Rowdy's advice to Junior? How is Gordy's advice different?

Ch. 16 Dance, Dance, Dance

1. How do Junior's parents try to support him in his studies at Reardon?
2. What secret is Junior hiding from the other students?
3. What dilemma does Junior face when he takes Penelope to the dance?
4. Why does Junior wear his father's old suit? What do the other kids think of it?

Ch. 17 Don't Trust Your Computer

1. Why do people on the rez call Junior an apple?
2. What's Junior's theory on why weird people get banished?

Ch. 18 My Sister Sends Me A Letter

1. Does Mary's new house look "gorgeous" to you? How would you describe it?

Ch. 19 Reindeer Games

1. Why doesn't Junior want to try out for the basketball team?
2. How does his father encourage him?

3. How do basketball tryouts go for Junior? Who does he have to play?
4. Who is Junior facing for his first game? How do the fans treat him?
5. How does the game go for Junior? Were you surprised?
6. How does the evening turn out for Junior? What is the one positive thing he gains from the whole experience?

Ch. 20 And A Partridge In A Pear Tree

1. How does Junior's father spend Christmas?
2. What does Junior get for Christmas?

Ch. 21 Red Vs. White

1. How does Junior feel about his parents? Are they doing a good job?
2. What's the worst thing a parent can do according to Junior?
3. What makes Junior's Grandma so great?
4. What was the Native Americans' attitude toward gay people?
5. Why did Grandma think Junior's attending Reardon was a 100% good idea?

6. How did she die? What was her last wish?
7. What seems the most ironic about the way she died?

Ch. 22 Wake

1. How many Indians came to Grandma's wake to pay their last respects? What changes for Junior after her wake?
2. Who is Billionaire Ted? Why does he show up at Grandma's funeral?
3. What does Junior's mom tell Ted about the outfit he brought?

Ch. 23 Valentine Heart

1. What happened to Eugene?
2. Are you starting to see any patterns about life on the rez? What are they?
3. How do the deaths of Grandma and Eugene affect Junior?
4. What insensitive comment does Mrs. Jeremy make to Junior?
5. Who stands up for him? Why is this so important?
6. How does Junior eventually navigate through all of his grief?

Ch. 24 In Like A Lion

1. How does Junior become a good basketball player?
2. Why is the Wellpinit/Reardan game so important to Junior? What does he need to prove to himself?
3. What advice does Coach have for Junior? What does he ask Junior to do?
4. Describe Junior's first play of the game with Rowdy.
5. What does Junior realize when the game is over?

Ch. 25/26 Rowdy & I Have a Long Serious Discussion About Basketball/Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses

1. What is the biggest difference between Indians and white people according to Junior?
2. What is the main reason for the Indians' unhappiness?
3. Why does Miss Warner pull Junior out of chemistry class?
4. How does Junior handle the news?
5. How did Mary die?

6. Why can't Junior stop laughing?
7. What does Junior's mom make him promise to her?
8. What does Rowdy accuse Junior of doing? Why? How?
9. Why does Junior choose to attend school the following day?
10. How do his classmates and staff treat him?

Ch. 27 Remembering

1. Why does Junior cry? For whom is he crying?
2. What does Junior finally realize about himself?

Ch. 28 Talking About Turtles

1. Why is Turtle Lake a scary place for Junior?
2. What seems different about Junior at the end of his first year at Reardan?
3. Who stops by to see Junior? Where do they go?