

Reading Response Journal - *Three Day Road* (Joseph Boyden)

DIRECTIONS: Write a separate journal response to each of the following. Length for each journal response is minimum 200 words, but you are encouraged to go deeper and to write more.

Plan to complete the three journal responses in the order given, and to write them during the course of your reading (rather than completing the book first and then returning to the writing).

Note that each of these journal writings is a personal response. Be engaged. Own your feelings and opinions. Show your reasoning. **(5 marks for each)**

1. Characterization/Relationships

Boyden uses the relationship between Xavier and Elijah to show how they depend on each other as they adapt to the brutality of war. Find three scenes in the novel that show aspects of their friendship and describe one of them in detail. (**Text Annotation:** taking notes in the text as you read is a skill students are helped to develop in grade 11. You can begin to develop this skill by marking those passages that deal with the relationship that develops between Xavier and Elijah).

2. Two Worlds: Native and White

This novel has an interesting structure, one that skillfully moves the action back and forth between the war in Europe and the native world in Canada. Find at least two passages that dramatize these two worlds and compare and contrast them. Pay attention in particular to how Xavier and Elijah appear to have adapted to each, very different, world. Also, take note of any examples of racism you encounter as you read.

3. The War

There are many passages that bring to life the drama and pain of World War I. Find three passages in the novel that describe an aspect of war and write about it in detail. You do not necessarily have to focus on the brutality, for there are humorous ones as well. In this journal entry, select an aspect of the war and treat it personally, imagining how you might respond to the demands of war. How would you behave? In what ways could you see yourself adapting to war? Are there some aspects of the experience that, like Elijah, you might find exciting, or would you be more likely to respond like Xavier?

4. Bonus

You may wish to go beyond the three journal entries above to express your understanding and appreciation of the novel in another way. You may create a visual representation (drawing or sketch, etc.) of some aspect of the novel. Use your imagination to bring some aspect of the work to life that you found especially interesting. Since this work will be studied in conjunction with Socials 11, any effort that enriches your understanding of *Three Day Road* will assist you in your work in history.