

Potential Questions for Fools Crow Exam

- One of the dominant narrative devices used by James Welch in *Fools Crow* is the exploration of dreams/visions and their connection to the events of the lives of the Pikuni. Discussing at least three dreams/visions of the novel, show how Welch uses them to discuss the cultural and religious values of the Lone Eaters.
- From the assault on the women in the Crow tribe to the threatened mutilation and exile of Kills Close to the Lake, some critics of *Fools Crow* have argued that the novel does not treat its female characters well. Others argue that women in both the real lives and the myths of the Lone Eaters are depicted as the strength of the band. Using examples from the text, argue whether female characters are depicted as powerful and important or weak and insignificant.
- James Welch told audiences that the ending of *Fools Crow* was hopeful, despite the death of so many Pikuni at the hands of the Seizers and the white scab disease. Tracing the novel from beginning to end, make an argument that the novel was hopeful or disagree with Welch's view and argue that the book offers readers little hope.
- Why is the legend of Morning Star and Feather Woman so central to the text of *Fools Crow*? How does it convey the beliefs of the Pikuni and foreshadow the experiences of the Lone Eaters?
- James Welch writes *Fool's Crow* to bring recognition to his culture and the oppression it faced against the white people; however, the plot of the book follows a repeating sequence of Pikuni culture being disproven by failing to combat Western beliefs. Does James Welch actually honor his Pikuni culture in *Fool's Crow* or rather contradict its fundamental beliefs?
- A dominant theme in *Fools Crow* is spirituality and how the Pikunis lives are deeply intertwined with nature. Discuss as least three examples of this theme to explain how their strong belief in the natural world failed them in the end.
- How are the family relationships in *Fools Crow* comparable and dissimilar to the family relationships in *Things Fall Apart*. Compare and contrast three points, each supported by evidence from the text.
- The depiction of Fast Horse and Owl Child suggests that even if someone decides to abandon their tribe, they can never fully cut their ties. Does the novel argue that the culture of the Pikuni people is their destiny? Can one ever escape the culture he/she was born into? Elaborate.