

Appendix 4 - Study questions for “This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona”

Plot:

1. Give a short summary of the plot (action).
2. Does the story have a 1st person or 3rd person narrator/point of view?
3. Do you think it would be a different story if the point of view was different? For example if Thomas told the story or someone outside the story?

Structure:

4. Is the plot told chronologically? Do you see any examples of foreshadowing or flashbacks? Is there only one line of action or do you find several lines of actions that interfere with each other? How are they connected? Do you see examples of other linguistic devices the author uses, like for example metaphors, repetition, irony or exaggeration?

Character:

5. Who is the main character?
6. Write a short description of the main character’s personality. Can you read descriptions of him literarily or do you sense a use of irony?
7. Does he change? If so, how?
8. How does Victor react to his father leaving the family? Do you think he reacts like this because he is a Native American? Do you think his reactions would be different if he was a white American or a Norwegian guy from Tromsø?
9. Do you think he reacts to his father’s death the way he does because he is a Native American? What if he was a white American or a Norwegian guy from Tromsø?
10. How is the relationship between Victor and Thomas? Has it always been like this? Does it change during the story?
11. Have you ever had a friendship that changed and where you felt like Victor? Or like Thomas?

Setting:

12. Where and when does the story take place? Are you confused about time and place? If so, where?
13. Do you think setting is important in the text? Could any of the things that happen in the text have happened here in Tromsø? Why? Why not?

Theme:

14. What is the theme (or themes)? Is it easy to see it or do you have to read between the lines?

15. What examples of Native American culture can you see in the story "This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona"?
16. In what ways are Victor and Thomas different from you? In what ways are they similar to you?
17. Comment on the title. Is it a good title? Why/why not? Does it fit the theme? Why/why not?