

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian:***  
**Chapter Questions**

- Your task is to complete the following questions on a separate piece of paper in full sentences as we finish reading each chapter. Be sure to indicate the chapter name and write your name/date/block.

**“The Black-Eye-of-the-Month Club” (pg. 1-6)**

1. Why is Junior a member of “the Black-Eye-of-the-Month Club”?
2. Why does Junior draw cartoons? What do the first two cartoons depict? What does this tell us about Junior?
3. Describe the style of writing in the first chapter.

**“Why Chicken Means So Much to Me” (pg. 7-13)**

1. What does Junior identify as the worst thing about being poor?
2. Arnold says, “And hey, in a weird way, being hungry makes food taste better” (pg. 8). What does this statement show us about Junior?
3. What happens to Oscar? What does this illustrate to the reader?
4. How is poverty a cycle for Junior’s family?
5. Use five adjectives to describe Junior’s personality so far.

**“Revenge Is My Middle Name” (pg. 15-24)**

1. Describe Rowdy and Junior’s relationship. What do they do for each other?
2. What does Rowdy do to the Andruss brothers? Why? What does this demonstrate about his friendship with Junior?

**“Because Geometry Is Not a Country Somewhere Near France” (pg. 25-31)**

1. Why is Junior so cynical about white teachers?
2. What angers Junior about his geometry book?

**“Hope Against Hope” (pg. 32-43)**

1. Why does Junior throw his geometry book? What does it signify?
2. What is Mr. P’s advice to Junior? Why does he give him this advice?

**“Go Means Go” (pg. 44-47)**

1. How do Junior’s parents react to his decision to change schools? What does this show about them?

**“Rowdy Sings the Blues” (pg. 48-53)**

1. How are sporting results used to compare the two schools?
2. Why is it significant that Rowdy performed well at most competitions?
3. How does Rowdy react to Junior’s decision to move schools? Why does he react in this way?
4. How does Rowdy disguise his pain?

**“How to Fight Monsters” (pg. 54-66)**

1. Why is Junior deemed to have betrayed his tribe?
2. Describe the cartoon on page 57. What does this symbolize about Junior’s insecurities?
3. How does the confusion over Junior’s names demonstrate his change in culture?
4. How do the students react to Junior at Reardan?
5. How does the fight illustrate the differences in social codes?

**“Grandmother Gives Me Some Advice” (pg. 67-73)**

1. How does Junior learn to stand up for himself?
2. What is Junior’s grandmother’s advice?

**“Tears of a Clown” (pg. 74-76)**

1. What does Junior’s story about Dawn illustrate to the reader?

**“Halloween” (pg. 77-81)**

1. How does Junior try to establish a connection with Penelope?
2. How does trick or treating remind Junior of Rowdy?

**“Slouching Toward Thanksgiving” (pg. 82-98)**

1. How does the author illustrate Junior’s loneliness?
2. How does Mr. Dodge reply and how does this make Junior feel?
3. Examine the cartoon of Junior’s journey to school. Describe how similar or different his journey is from your journey to school.
4. What does Mary do? Why?
5. How does Junior become friends with Gordy? What do they have in common?

**“My Sister Sends Me an E-mail” (pg. 99-100)**

1. Summarize Mary’s email.

**“Thanksgiving” (pg. 101-103)**

1. Why does Junior think of Rowdy at Thanksgiving time?
2. Describe the cartoon Junior draws.
3. Why is Rowdy’s respect still so important to Junior?
4. How does Rowdy’s father regard the cartoon?

**“Hunger Pains” (pg. 104-113)**

1. How does Penelope and Junior’s friendship develop?
2. What advice does Junior give Penelope?

**“Rowdy Gives Me Advice About Love” (pg. 114-117)**

1. Why does Junior refer to how ‘white’ Penelope is? What is the effect of this?

**“Dance, Dance, Dance” (pg. 118-129)**

1. Why is the novel called *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*?
2. Examine the cartoon on p. 120. Analyze each of the pictures. Why do you think Alexie presents the information in this way?
3. How do Penelope and Roger react to Junior’s admission that he is poor?
4. What does Junior learn by the end of the chapter?

**“Don’t Trust Your Computer” (pg. 130-132)**

1. What does Junior email Rowdy and how does he reply? Why does this make Junior laugh?
2. What does Gordy say about the role of the tribe? How is this applicable to Junior?

**“My Sister Sends Me a Letter” (pg. 133-134)**

1. What does Junior think of Mary’s “gorgeous new place”?

**“Reindeer Games” (pg. 135-149)**

1. What happens at try-outs? Why does Junior get in?
2. What happens during the basketball game?

**“And a Partridge in a Pear Tree” (pg. 150-151)**

1. Describe Junior’s Christmas.

**“Red Versus White” (pg. 152-158)**

1. What good things about his culture does Junior realize?
2. Why does Junior describe his grandmother as tolerant?

**“Wake” (pg. 159-168)**

1. Who is Billionaire Ted and what is his story?
2. Junior explains, “We lived and died together” (pg. 166). What does this show about Junior’s community?

**“Valentine Heart” (pg. 169-178)**

1. How does Junior cope with his grief?
2. What do Junior’s cartoons (pg. 170 & 171) reveal about his emotions?
3. What happens in Mrs. Jeremy’s class? Why is this so significant to Junior?

**“In Like a Lion” (pg. 179-196)**

1. How does Junior explain his improvement in basketball?
2. What does the cartoon on pg. 182 demonstrate about his feelings?
3. How does Sherman Alexie build tension towards the game?
4. What happens during the game? What does Junior realize at the end of it?

**“Rowdy and I Have a Long and Serious Discussion about Basketball” (pg. 197-198)**

1. Why is the chapter title humorous?

**“Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses” (pg. 199-213)**

1. How does Junior react to Mary’s death? Why does he react in this way?
2. Why does Junior feel responsible in some way for Mary’s death?
3. How do the students at Reardan show they care?

**“My Final Freshman Year Report Card” (pg. 214)**

1. Describe Junior’s report card.

**“Remembering” (pg. 215-218)**

1. What realizations does Junior arrive at?
2. What tribes does Junior belong to? How does this help him feel better?
3. Identify and describe the tribes that you belong to.

**“Talking About Turtles” (pg. 219-230)**

1. Why do Junior and Rowdy climb the tree? What does this symbolize?
2. How does Rowdy compare Junior to a nomad?
3. What does the final line (“We didn’t keep score”) signify?

