

Name: _____ Date: _____ American Studies

Cultural Identity
Figuring Out Who I Am So I can Cross Boundaries

Visual Text Analysis: Analyze the visual text by George Longfish called “Who’s Gonna Ride Your While Horses?”. Explain what you understand about this work using the following guiding prompts: (Write in complete sentences).

- List what you see.
- What do you recognize? Describe why it is familiar and the context in which you understand it.
- What confuses you? Ask questions about those elements of the text.
- Think visually: what choices has the artist made about color? positive and negative space? composition (placement of each element)?
- To what part of the text are you drawn? Why?
- Do you have an emotional reaction to the text? Is it alarming? funny? sad? etc. Explain your reaction

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Critical Analysis.

According to an art critic this piece "affirm[s] the creative survival of Indigenous consciousness, offer[s] insights into the concerns of a Native perspective and shatter[s] many of the stereotypes associated with Indians." Longfish is "critically engaged with the problem of decolonization." His work is "concerned with discerning truth from lies, the acknowledgement of spirit and memory, communication and dialogue — often expressed with humor and irony." In this work can you find evidence of each element of this criticism? Explain by replying to each of the following concepts:

- Survival of Indigenous consciousness
- Native concerns
- Shattered stereotypes
- Decolonization
- Truth separated from lies
- Spirit, memory, communication and dialogue
- Humor and irony