

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ American Studies

Discussion Preparation: "Imagining the Reservation" and "Indian Education"

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Directions: Read each of the stories (reread "Indian Education" in full) and respond to each of the following questions.

**"Imagining the Reservation"**

- 1) Where do you see allusions to "Elegy for the Forgotten Oldsmobile" in this story? Note each allusion below. Then, explain (as best you can) how Alexie is using these allusions to tell his own story.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Make meaning out of the following line from the story:  
"Survival = Anger x Imagination. Imagination is the only weapon on the reservation."  
*What does this mean? Explore it and make connections to other Alexie stories we've read. You may also make connections to George Longfish's work or Louis' poem.*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Look closely at the final paragraph in the story. Choose at least three of the imaginings that the narrator explores. *What is the power of imagination? How can it create change? Why is it important?*

**“Indian Education”**

Directions:

4) For this story, **select and analyze** (make notes that reflect all three steps—explain; infer and evaluate devices; draw conclusions) an important detail from **at least four** vignettes within the story. Format your detail in the following way:

- Label the title of the vignette (“First Grade”); cite the detail (may be a direct quote or paraphrase); then take analysis notes (see the three steps listed in the directions above.)

5) What do you think Alexie learns from his “Indian Education”? Consider not merely what is taught in the classroom, but what he begins to understand about his identity and culture. Explain briefly below: