**Sherman Alexie – The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

**1**

1. **The Black-Eye-of-the-Month Club (p. 11-16)**
   1. Characterise the narrator. Who is he? What is wrong with his way of speaking? Where does he live?

He’s an Indian who lived in a reservation in Wellpinit, Washington USA. He had an illness so his head was operated. He is stuttering and lisping

* 1. Why do people say he is a “retard” (p. 13, l. 27)?

Because he’s fourteen and is still stuttering and lisping

* 1. How does he see himself?

Same as the other people

**2**

1. **Why Chicken Means so Much to Me (p.17-24) and Revenge is My Middle Name (p. 25-34)**  
   **Pair work**: Describe the relationship between the narrator and Rowdy (p. 25-34) and take some notes:

1. Read p. 234-235 to inform yourself about Spokane American Indians. Now google Wellpinit, Spokane etc. on a digital map. Do you know where the places described in the book are?
2. **Because Geometry Is Not a Country Somewhere Near France (p. 35-42)**

**3**

* 1. How is the school described?

1. **Hope Against Hope (p. 43-55) / Go Means Go (p. 56-59)**
   1. What does this chapter reveal about the history of Indians?

* 1. What is Arnold’s plan now? Why?

* 1. How will Rowdy take the news?

1. **Rowdy Sings the Blues (p. 60-64)**

**4**

* 1. What does ‘I don’t know if hope is white’ (p. 62) mean? What is Junior talking about here?
  2. Inform yourself about another Indian reservation and the problems for young people (5:50 mins.):  
     <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hdt9ZBQy7WM>

What did you find interesting and surprising?

1. **How to Fight Monsters (p. 65-77)**
   1. How is Arnold Spirit received at the new school?
   2. Explain the joke on p. 75. What does the joke say about society?
2. **Grandmother Gives Me Some Advice (p. 78-83)**How does the chapter end? Give a summary in your own words.

**5**

1. **Tears of a Clown, Halloween, Slouching Toward (p. 84-107)**
   1. How is Junior now seen in the Rez? How does Junior develop?

* 1. What is a tautology (p. 101)? Give some examples!

1. Vocabulary exercise.

Fill in the missing words with vocabulary from the chapters you have just read.

1. Are you crying again? Stop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
2. You are such a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (weak person)!
3. Look at these girls. They are very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sweet, good-looking).
4. You have to show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Engagement, Verpflichtung) in order to succeed.
5. If you tell someone a secret you shouldn’t have you might be considered a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Verräter).
6. They gave us all their spare change. This was very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (grosszügig).
7. I don’t like talking to people very much. I don’t like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (übertreiben). The tour only took 2 hours, not 4!
9. You are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yourself. First you said, you liked this film, then you said you didn’t.
10. If you want this picture to stick to the paper, you have to use a lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Ice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the sun, i.e. it becomes liquid.
12. I was so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when I found out that you had not hurt yourself.
13. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! Get to the point! What do you have to say? I have to go soon.
14. **My Sister Sends Me an E-mail (p. 108-109)**

**6**

* 1. Write an email to Arnold’s sister from his perspective! How does he feel about her? Write ca. 100-140 words.

1. **Thanksgiving (p. 110-112)**
   1. What is the meaning of Thanksgiving to US-Americans? How is it usually celebrated? Do some research and note your findings in a different document.
   2. Work in pairs. Imagine that one of you is Arnold and one of you is Rowdy. You have a chat with each other. What would you say to one another? What are the problems that you face at the moment?
2. **Hunger Pains (p. 113-121)**
   1. We learn that Penelope is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. Arnold tells her not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   3. Arnold knows that Penelope’s father is a racist when he mentions the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a word for the possible kids) and that he is going to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his daughter if she gets pregnant.
   4. Hanging out with Penelope makes Arnold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   5. Penelope first says she wants to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the school and town. Then she admits to Arnold that she plans to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Rowdy Gives Me Advice About Love (p. 122-124)**
   1. Why do Rowdy and Gordy tell Arnold that he’s a racist?
4. **Dance, Dance, Dance (p. 125-136)**
   1. Why does Arnold not want to tell anyone about his poverty?
   2. What important realisation does Arnold come to at the end of this chapter (even if he is not kissed on the lips)?
   3. After the school-ball people wonder about Junior and Penelope being so close. Imagine some school kid comments on the couple on facebook. Create a poster/hand-out with his/her comments and come up with a thread of at least 5 comments.
5. **Don’t Trust Your Computer, My Sister Sends Me a Letter, Reindeer Games (p. 137-155)**

**7**

* 1. In your own words, summarise the events described in these chapters (only 1-2 sentence per sub-chapter!).
  2. Groups of 2 (or 3, if necessary): Cartoons are very important in Arnold Spirit’s life. They help him interpret and process his life.

Draw a cartoon like Arnold: You reflect your first year at BM and draw a cartoon of only 5-6 pictures to summarise your feelings, events, highlights as well as lowlights of the last year. Comment the cartoons with bubbles (thoughts also possible) and speech. Scan the cartoon and send it to your teacher.

1. **And a Partridge in a Pear Tree Red Versus White (p. 156-164). Answer the following questions with complete sentences!**

**8**

* 1. What does Mary’s life look like now? (p. 158)
  2. What’s the worst thing a parent can do to their child, according to Arnold? (p. 158)
  3. What was the best thing about Arnold’s grandmother? (p. 159-160)
  4. How was his grandmother killed? (p. 162)
  5. What are the grandmother’s last words and who is she speaking about? (p. 162)
  6. How long did Gerald spend in prison? (p. 163)

1. **Wake (p. 165-173)**
   1. What helpful thing happens after the death of Arnold’s grandmother?
   2. Who is Ted and what does he want? Does he succeed?
2. **Valentine Heart (p. 175-183): What happens in this chapter? Tell your neighbour in your own words.**
3. Alcohol is a big problem in many societies, but especially in Indian reservations in the USA. Read some facts about alcohol abuse on p. 236 in the book and look up unknown words. What have you learnt?
4. How do you think the story will end? Write an ending of 150-200 words in pairs.
5. **In Like a Lion and Rowdy and I Have a Long and Serious Discussion About Basketball (p. 184-202)**

**9**



Are the following statements false (x) or correct (✓)? Carefully read the text and then decide. Where do you find evidence for your answers? Write down the page number as well.

* 1. Arnold is an extremely big and fast basketballer.
  2. Arnold wins ten games in a row with Reardan after losing against Wellpinit.
  3. Arnold first is reluctant (not very open) to talk about his feelings to a sports guy.
  4. Roughly 2000 people are watching Arnold’s basketball game.
  5. The Wellpinit basketball team usually scores 100 points a game.
  6. Arnold’s task in the game is to cover and shadow Rowdy.
  7. Arnold’s coach smells of chocolate and cigarettes.
  8. Unfortunately, Arnold’s dad couldn’t come to see the game.
  9. Arnold fouls Rowdy to stop him from scoring and winning.
  10. Arnold made two epic jumps to stop Rowdy.
  11. Arnold’s mum loses consciousness when Arnold scores points.
  12. Arnold in the end feels guilty for winning against the Indians.
  13. Rowdy and Arnold are still the worst of enemies at the end of the chapter.

1. **Because Russian Guys Are Not Always Geniuses, My Final Freshman Year Report Card (p. 203-218)**

**10**

* 1. Tell your neighbour what happens on p. 203-218.
  2. Even though Arnold feels absolutely terrible, there is one good aspect to all of the tragedy he experiences. How would he put this into one picture? Make a drawing.

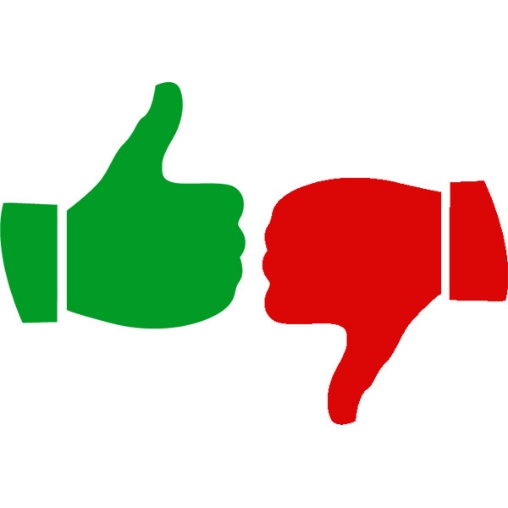
**11**

1. **Remembering (p. 219-221)**
   1. What are the reasons for Arnold’s crying at the cemetery?
   2. Why is it important for you and for Junior to belong to certain groups?

1. **Talking About Turtles (p. 222-233)**

In a separate document (don’t forget a heading with your name and class!), write a personal review of the book. Use the following questions to help you write your text:

* 1. Who are the main characters? What are their main personality traits? Which characters do you most identify with? Why? Which characters do you reject most? Why?
  2. How does it relate to other books you know?
  3. What do you think of the book? What did you like about it? What did you not like?
  4. Would you recommend this book? (Why/Why not?)
  5. How many stars out of 5 would you give?
* Write 120-180 words.
* Time: 20 minutes
* Hand the text in to your teacher (USB stick)!



**After reading**



1. Create a soundtrack for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*! You will find all the necessary instructions on Moodle, BM-Reading, Topic 1 in the document “How to soundtrack a book”! Work in groups of 3-4.