***Walk Two Moons***

***Chapter 44***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Brief Summary***

In Chapter 44, Sal and her father have returned to the farm in Kentucky. Gramps is now living with them. Gramps lets Sal practice driving around the farm. They often play “the moccasin game” in which they say what they would do if they were in someone else’s moccasins. Sal says she now knows that the trip was a gift from her grandparents. She also realizes that her father had been trying to spare her the grief of the trip to Idaho and it wasn’t until much later he realized she needed to see the grave for herself.

Sal says she is jealous on several points. She’s jealous that Ben wrote about someone else in his journal and that Phoebe’s mother came back while Sugar did not. She’s also jealous that her mother wanted more children but has come to realize that Sugar had wanted a bigger family because she loved Sal so much and wanted the chance to love more. Sal says she knows Phoebe, Ben, Margaret and Mrs. Partridge will be visiting soon and she can’t wait to show them around the farm. She says she hopes for the chance to kiss Ben again but she is happy now with the way things are.

***Brief analysis (Chapter 41-44):***

The end of Chapter 41 is another instance of foreshadowing. The man tells Sal that only one person survived the bus wreck, but Sal already knew that. She doesn’t say the name of the survivor, and the reader may jump to the conclusion that it’s Sugar. Sal has learned, by this point, that it was Margaret and that her surviving the wreck is why her father feels a connection to Margaret.

Sal says that it’s not until she sees her mother’s grave marker that she truly believes Sugar is dead and isn’t ever going to return home. Sal has needed this closure from the time of her mother’s death, It’s interesting that her grandparents were the ones to see that need and set out to fill it.

Sal, truly in tune with nature, is pleased with the setting of her mother’s grave. She asks for a few minutes to sit near her mother’s tombstone where she sets out to memorize the sights and sounds. This is important to Sal because she’ll hold to those memories for years to come as she continues to deal with the loss of her mother.

As Sal is thinking back on the trip with her grandparents from the security of her home in Bybanks where she and Gramps have begun to recover from Gram’s death, she reveals some key points. She says that her father had determined that there was no need to return Sugar’s

body to Bybanks. He said he is reminded of her in every inch of their farm in Kentucky, meaning it didn’t matter where her grave was. Sal says John had been caught up in his own grief in the days after her mther’s death and he’d refused to take her to Idaho because he’d anted to keep her from the harsh reality of her mother’s funeral. He didn’t realize that Sal would be unable to find closure in the situation until she’d seen her mother’s gravesite. Sal notes that her grandfather’s situation after Gram’s death was somewhat different. Gramps needed to have Gram’s grave nearby so that he could visit it regularly.

***Summary in detail:***

Sal resumes her narration a few months later. She, along with her father and Gramps, are back in Bybanks. Gram is buried in a nearby aspen grove, and Gramps continues to give Sal driving lessons. The pair now practices "walking in other people's moccasins"—routinely imagining how they would feel if they were one of their friends or family members. Sal shares one other Native American myth—that of Estsanatlehi, who is born, dies, and is reincarnated ad infinitum. Sal and Ben exchange letters, and Sal looks forward to an upcoming visit from all her Euclid friends: Ben, Mrs. Cadaver, Phoebe, and Mrs. Partridge. Sal closes her story, content with what she has, accepting of what has been, and anticipating what will come.

Sal switches to present-tense narration. She, her father, and [Gramps](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Walk-Two-Moons/character-analysis/#Gramps) are living on the farm in Bybanks, Kentucky, where Gram is now buried.

After Gram died, their old friend Gloria came to visit Gramps, and they "talked about Gram for four hours straight." Sal and Gramps often play "the moccasin game," where they imagine what it would feel like to be in someone else's position. Sal understands the trip she took to Lewiston, Idaho, was "a chance to walk in [her] mother's moccasins."

Phoebe's story helped Sal "to think about and understand [her] own mother." She realizes that people make up stories to "explain all the truly awful things in the world," and that bravery means being willing to look at everything that is bad as well as everything that is beautiful.

Sal corresponds regularly with Ben and Phoebe and anticipates an upcoming visit by Ben, Phoebe, Mrs. Cadaver, and Mrs. Partridge. Sal "can't wait to show Phoebe and Ben" the place she loves so much.

***Analysis in Detail (Chapter 43- 44):***

In these last two chapters, everything comes full circle for Sal. She is back on her beloved farm in Bybanks, Kentucky, a place teeming with life that is full of her mother's presence. Sal has returned home, but with greater wisdom than she had when she left. Her time in Euclid, Ohio, and her trip with her grandparents have taught her many things. She has learned how to be empathetic—as evidenced by her playing "the moccasin game"—and she has learned to accept the hard parts of life along with the good parts, which requires bravery. Sal has made peace with the past, is enjoying the present, and is happily anticipating the future. Her connection to nature is as strong as ever: "the sugar maple tree is [her] thinking place." The past is all around her, just as her mother's hair and postcards are buried underneath her floorboards, but the past does not pain Sal. Her painful journey away from home gave Sal the strength to live life with greater joy and less fear.