

The Way to Rainy Mountain

Setting

Native American writers often have a strong sense of place. The land, the sky, and the rivers are often a special part of Native American consciousness. Make a list of all the places N. Scott Momaday mentions in the introduction to *The Way to Rainy Mountain*. Can you find 25 or more?

Places mentioned in the introduction to *The Way to Rainy Mountain*:

1. Rainy Mountain (a knoll rises out of the plain in Oklahoma, north and west of the Wichita Range)
2. Oklahoma
3. The Wichita Range
4. The open range from the Smoky Hill River to the Red River, from the headwaters of the Canadian to the fork of the Arkansas and Cimmaron (aka the southern Plains)
5. Smoky Hill River
6. Red River
7. Headwaters of the Canadian
8. Fork of the Arkansas and Cimmaron
9. Staked Plains
10. Palo Duro Canyon
11. Fort Sill
12. Old stone corral that now stands as a military museum (at Fort Sill)
13. North America
14. The high country in western Montana
15. The world
16. A hollow log / a sunless world
17. The Black Hills
18. Yellowstone
19. The highland meadows / the inland slope of the Rockies
20. The land of the Crows and the Blackfeet (northern plains)
21. Bighorn River
22. Devil's Tower
23. The Big Dipper / the night sky
24. Washita River, (later, the great bend of the Washita River)
25. Rainy Mountain Creek
26. Texas (the Goodnight herd)
27. Grandmother's home:
 - at the stove,
 - at the window,
 - by the side of her bed,
 - stone steps by kitchen door,
 - the handrail
28. The moon
29. Grandmother's grave on Rainy Mountain (Note: begins and ends at same place with but different perspective, from historical/legendary past to personal past)

Note: Teachers are welcome to use this handout in an educational setting. Any commercial use without permission is prohibited.

Copyright 2003, Carla Beard