“The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me” by Sherman Alexie

Answer the following questions and submit to BbLearn by 10/18 Tuesday 8:00am

1. What is the setting of “Superman and Me”?
2. What is Superman doing in the comic book panel Alexie remembers? Why is it important to remember this detail at the very end of the essay?
3. An extended metaphor is a metaphor developed at a great length or occurring frequently in or throughout a piece of work. What is the extended metaphor in “Superman and Me”?
4. In paragraph 7, Alexie repeats a certain verb 14 times. What is this verb, and what effect does this repetition have?
5. Why does Alexie claim that “a smart Indian is a dangerous person”? Who thinks a smart Indian is dangerous and why?
6. Alexie claims that Indian children were “expected to be stupid.” Explain how expectations can impact children’s literacy learning. Can you think of examples from your own life where expectations of you – positive or negative – shaped what you did or didn’t do.
7. Alexie lists a variety of ways that Indian children failed inside of school but excelled outside of school. Using this list, consider what it meant to be “literate” on the Indian reservation where Alexie grew up. What literacy skills did the Indian children have that were not valued or seen inside school?
8. What do you think Alexie’s life might have been like if he had had access to more powerful literacy sponsors when he was growing up, or if had grown up in a different setting?