

## Analyzing Character

*Fools Crow*, by Great Plains Indian writer James Welch, begins by introducing the protagonist, White Man's Dog, who later earns the name Fools Crow. Discuss the direct and indirect methods Welch uses to characterize him in the following passage.

from **Fools Crow**

James Welch

Now that the weather had changed, the moon of the falling leaves turned white in the blackening sky and **White Man's Dog was restless**. He chewed the stick of dry meat and watched Cold Maker gather his forces. The black clouds moved in the north in circles, their dance a slow deliberate fury. It was almost night, and he looked back down into the flats along the Two Medicine River. The lodges of the Lone Eaters were illuminated by cooking fires within. It was that time of evening when even the dogs rest and the horses graze undisturbed along the grassy banks.

made them strong in spirit and fortunate in war.

Not so lucky was White Man's Dog. He had **little to show for his eighteen winters**. His father, Rides-at-the-door, had many horses and three

White Man's Dog **raised his eyes to the west and followed the Backbone of the World from south to north until he could pick out Chief Mountain**. It stood a little apart from the other mountains, not as tall as some but strong, its square granite face a landmark to all who passed. But it was more than a landmark to the Pikunis, Kainahs, and Siksikas, the three tribes of the Blackfeet, for it was on top of Chief Mountain that the blackhorn skull pillows of the great warriors still lay. On those skulls Eagle Head and Iron Breast had dreamed their visions in the long-ago, and the animal helpers had wives. **He himself had three horses and no wives**. His animals **were puny, not a blackhorn runner among them**. **He owned a musket and no powder and his animal helper was weak.** ■

could hint  
at  
independence

son is different  
from father