

"BIG IDEAS" TO DISCUSS



1. Can you picture yourself in this situation?
Why or why not? What would you have done differently?

2. What are some mistakes the main character makes? How does he or she learn from these errors?

3. What are some of the good things that happen? What effect do they have?

4. Compare the student's perspective at the beginning and end of the book. How and why does it change?

5. Which of Mr. Leonard's Big Ideas best describe your own perspective? Why?

6. What additional Big Ideas are important to consider when you think about connections with the world around you?

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

1. Reflect on the main character's experiences. Write a new chapter of your own. Either add an additional wilderness element or continue the story after the student returns home.
2. Write from a different perspective. Choose some part of the natural world (a specific plant or animal, natural feature, larger system, etc.). Brainstorm words or phrases describing what you chose, then write a poem from that perspective using words from your list.
3. Start your own journal of observations, sketches and creative writing!