

Waterlily - Discussion Questions

1. Who is the intended audience of *Waterlily* and why?
2. What was the status of Blue Bird and her grand mother while in the camp of Star Elk?
3. What roles did Star Elk, Allia and Leaping Fawn play in the novel?
4. What roles did religion/spirituality play in the lives of Dakota people? Provide specific examples of displays, both private and public, of religion/spirituality.
5. Provide examples of the idea of reciprocity and how it fits into Dakota belief system.
6. What is a tiyospaye and how does it affect Dakota life?
7. What are the roles of men and women? How are these roles viewed by Dakota people?
8. What factors affect the status of men and women within Dakota society?
9. How are marriages conducted? Provide examples of various types and how they affect the status of women.
10. How are children educated? Provide examples.
11. What are the ideas behind gift giving?
12. What are examples of desirable and undesirable behavior for men and women?
13. What are the Hunka, Buffalo and Sun Dance ceremonies? How did they affect the status of the life of *Waterlily*?
14. What is the Virgin Fire and what roles does it play within Dakota society?
15. What are Ghostkeeping rites and what importance does it play within the society?
16. What roles does kinship plays within Dakota society?
17. How was life different for *Waterlily* in the camp of her first husband Sacred Horse?
18. How did Dakota tradition and culture assist to spread the smallpox epidemic?
19. What effect did disease have on Dakota society?
20. What part do the "strange people" (beginning of page 213) play in the novel? Why were they viewed as "strange"?
21. What were the main arguments made by Ella Deloria?
22. In what ways was Ella Deloria successful in arguing her points and in what ways was she not as successful.
23. What is the importance of this novel today?
24. Would her intended audience change if she wrote it in 2009? If so how so, if not why not.