

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS	PROFICIENT QUESTIONS	DEVELOPING QUESTIONS
<p>1. In his beginning, how was it that Alexie learned to “read”?</p> <p>2. State or interpret in your own words what Alexie means when he says, “As Indian children we were expected to fail in the non –Indian world.”</p> <p>3. How would you use Alexie’s life story to answer the essential question of this unit, “How can knowledge open doors?”</p> <p>4. Why do you think Alexie was never taught how to write poetry or short stories in school?</p> <p>5. Do you associate being literate with being successful? Explain.</p> <p>6. Did the author use literary devices and strategies that were effective in generating interest in this story? How so? If not, then what suggestions do you have for the author to strengthen his appeal to an audience?</p>	<p>1. There are several ways in which Alexie’s family and experience growing up was different from those around him. Identify a few ways this was so.</p> <p>2. What is meant when Alexie says, “A smart Indian is a dangerous person.”</p> <p>3. Alexie uses a metaphor to make his point about Native American culture in present day. He says, “I throw my weight against their locked doors.” Show your understanding of this metaphor by identifying what it means.</p> <p>4. Who is the intended audience for this essay? Cite specific passages to support your response.</p> <p>5. Alexie is described as a possible prodigy or an oddity. Which word do you think describes him best, and what information from the text supports your answer?</p> <p>6. Suppose you could go with Sherman Alexie to one of the schools he visits. What could you do as a teenager from DHS to help Alexie connect with students?</p>	<p>1. What is Alexie’s hope for the young students who attend schools on Indian reservations today?</p> <p>2. How would you compare and contrast the behaviors accepted in the “Indian” and “non-Indian” worlds the author describes?</p> <p>3. What do you think is the most important sentence in this essay? The most important paragraph? Why?</p> <p>4. At the end of the story, Alexie describes students who have given up. Why do you think those students resist learning?</p> <p>5. Think about your relationship to reading today. Do you read for enjoyment? Do you read as often as you should? Why or why not?</p> <p>6. Suppose you could design a “reading program” for elementary students. What 3 things would you include?</p>