Monkey Beach Novel questions

1. Why do you think the author called this novel Monkey Beach?
2. What do you think the author is trying to convey or teach us about each of the following topics:
	1. Growing up
	2. Spirituality and magic
	3. Haisla village/community
3. What types of events did the little red man appear before? Give examples.
4. Monkey Beach is teeming with symbolism, particularly because the main character has a gift that involves seeing and interpreting symbols through her dreams and because here Haisla culture has traditionally viewed the natural world as highly symbolic. Lisamarie herself may serve as a symbol for the challenge of growing up in a first nations culture, particularly in a village where old ways are rapidly changing to new ways, and the dilemma of reconciling spiritualism and values of the old ways with the need to be modern in a larger society. Explain how Lisamarie is a symbol of the challenge of growing up in a first nations culture, using specific examples from the novel to illustrate your points.
5. What do you think the following elements symbolize in the novel? Explain with specific examples.
	1. B’gwus
	2. The speedboat Lisa uses
	3. Ma-ma-oo
	4. Uncle Mick
6. What role you think the impact of residential schools has on the lives of the people in the community, and on their relationships?
7. They say a picture says a thousand words. Describe the picture that Lisa found and its relevance to the story.
8. What do you think happened to Jimmy? Explain your answer.
9. We are given enough information to suspect that Josh sexually assaulted Karaoke. Do we have any clues that he may have impacted the life of more than one person in the community by abusing them?
10. Describe the role drugs and alcohol play in the lives of the different characters in the story.
11. Contrast the mood of Vancouver with the mood of Kitimat.
12. Describe how Lisa’s relationship with her parents changes as she moves from childhood to adolescence.
13. Describe how the relationship between Lisa and Jimmy changes as they move from childhood to adolescence.
14. What is the pattern of the little man’s visits? Is there a relationship between his appearances and Lisa’s emotional/spiritual well-being?
15. Look at Lisa’s dreams in the book. Can you see any rhyme or reason for them?
16. What is the role of crows in the book?
17. Why do you think Lisa’s mother denies her gift?
18. How does the author use the setting to enhance and amplify the themes of the novel?
19. What do you think the significance is of the sasquatch and seal figures in the novel? What is the effect of these transforming, shapeshifting figures on the novel, and what do you think the author is trying to help us understand?
20. What does the novel teach us about the following issues in first nations culture?
	1. Place and relationship to the natural world-Interedependence and connectedness
	2. Family (extended family)
	3. Dreams and visions
	4. Resilience and healing
	5. Addiction (alcohol/drugs)
	6. Conflict and conflict resolution (abuse)
	7. Racism and stereotypes
	8. Grief and loss