**English 10: Our stories: The Roots that Bind Us**

Answer the following questions for discussion. They must be answered in full sentences. Include the question in the answer. Make sure you explain your answers with reasons, examples and explanations when needed. Questions that are underlined must be answered the way your answered your position/opinion statements for before and after the story.

**General questions**

1. According to the author, what do stories do?
2. What happens if schools don’t use first nations stories? Do you agree with this opinion? Why or why not?
3. How did the author’s mother use stories to make her kids behave?
4. How did the author’s father tell stories?
5. What did the author learn when she was in her twenties? What example does she give of this?
6. What does the author think is implied when first nations stories aren’t part of the curriculum? Explain using a reason, example and explanation.
7. What happened when the author brought in parents and grandparents into the school to tell their stories?
8. How did the author use stories to stop kids getting detention?
9. What does the author say must happen in order to get teachers to use first nations stories in school?
10. Why do you think the author and the other person at the conference got different impressions of the same story? Explain using a reason, example and explanation.
11. What do you think the author means when she says “I can successfully demonstrate my ability in the white man’s world but I cannot give up my Native identity without paying an unacceptable price? Explain using a reason, example and explanation.
12. What examples does the author give that show that first nations cultures were advanced and not uncivilized as was falsely believed by many?
13. What does the author believe too many stories about first nations peoples stress? Why does she feel this isn’t good? Explain using a reason, example and explanation?
14. How are the author’s people similar to the Black Spruce in the story?
15. Why does the author feel they need men to tell stories? Explain using a reason, example and explanation.

**Paragraph question:**

Agree or disagree with the author’s statement “By sharing our stories and traditions, our roots, we will be strong and we will stand straight and healthy.” You must use at least 2 reasons, examples and explanations. Use the format from the position/opinion statements for planning purposes.

**Narrative writing activities:**

Choose one of the following writing prompts and write a 1 1/2 - 2 page composition, following all the writing steps (brainstorm/organize/outline/rough copy/editing/good copy). All steps must be handed in.

*Choices*

1. Write about a time or series of incidents where being proud of who you are has helped you in life. (real or fiction)

2. Write about a time or series of times where being stereotyped has hurt you or someone you know. (real or fiction)

3. Write about how stories and traditions have helped you learn more about who you are. (real or fiction)

4. Write about a time or series of times where listening has helped you learn. (real or fiction)

5. Write about how you balance the positives and the negatives in your life, and how it helps you in your life. (real or fiction)

**Discussion activity preparation**-

Read the story Nanabush and the Rude Eagle on pg. 8-9, and Dream Winter on pg. 11-16. Make notes on what lessons you think first nations people would be meant to learn from listening and hearing these stories. Explain how these lesson would be learned – give specific examples.