

WEEK ONE: CHAPTERS 1-8

1. Sal says her story is hidden beneath Phoebe's. What do you think she means by this?
2. Why is Phoebe's father so upset when the man at the state fair incorrectly guesses his age?
3. Why is Phoebe so defensive about her father's age? In what ways does Phoebe's father act like he is 52?
4. What does Sal mean when she says that it was an "act of defiance" for Grandmother Pickford to name Sal's mother "Chanhassan"?
5. What do you think has happened to Sal's mother?
6. What makes Sal think Mrs. Winterbottom is unhappy?
7. Contrast the way Gram and Gramps speak with the way the Winterbottoms speak.
8. Do the same with Phoebe and Mary Lou. What do we learn about the characters from their speech?
9. Sal says she feels "betrayed" by her mother. What does she mean by this?
10. Why does Sal's mother react the way she does to Sal's father's giving them flowers?
11. In what ways is Sal conflicted about her mother's leaving?
12. Why does Gram's smell make Sal sad?

WEEK TWO: CHAPTERS 9 – 16

1. In what ways is Mary Lou's house different from Phoebe's?
2. In what ways is it different from Sal's home in Bybanks?
3. Whose family would you most like to live with?
4. Phoebe gets a message that says, "Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins." What does this mean?
5. Why do Sal and her mother prefer the term Indian to Native American?
6. What does "Everyone has his own agenda" mean?
7. Who do you think is leaving the messages?
8. Why did Gramps hit his best friend in the jaw?
9. Does Phoebe's mom really like to put the groceries away by herself?
10. Why does Sal think Phoebe's mom is upset?
11. Why does Phoebe think she (her mother) is fine?
12. What does Phoebe's mom mean by "tiny life"?
13. Why does the boy go with the Hiddles to the hospital?
14. By the end of chapter 16, what are the whispers saying to Sal? Why?

WEEK THREE: CHAPTERS 17-24

1. Why does Sal feel bad about yelling at her mother?
2. Why does Sal's father's being good make Sal's mother unhappy?
3. Why did Sal's mother leave?
4. Why did Sal's mother get upset at being called Sugar?
5. In what way does Mr. Birkway remind Sal of her mother?
6. How does Sal feel about "The Little Horse is NewLY," the poem that Mr. Birkway reads?
7. When Phoebe tells her mother about the Lunatic, why doesn't her mother call the police?
8. How does Phoebe's family react to her mother's leaving? How does Sal react?
9. In what ways are their reactions different from each other? How are they the same?
10. Why does Sal think the drawing of a tear is Phoebe's?
11. Why does Phoebe feel sick?
12. Why did Phoebe's mother leave the freezer full of meals?
13. Why did Sal's mother want to see her cousin?
14. After crossing the Badlands, what does Sal dream about?

WEEK FOUR: CHAPTERS 25-32

1. Why does Phoebe make such a big deal about what she eats at the Finneys?
2. When Phoebe spends the night, why do she and Sal fight?
3. What does Sal dream about?
4. Why are Sal's grandparents so happy that she knows Phoebe's mother's leaving wasn't Phoebe's fault?
5. Why do you think Sal is afraid of cars?
6. Why don't Sal and her grandparents like Mount Rushmore?
7. Why does Sal think the Sioux might be upset about the monument?
8. Why does Sal find the poem "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" by Longfellow so upsetting?
9. How does Ben feel about it?
10. In what ways does Sal think she and Phoebe are alike?
11. "We never know the worth of the water until the well runs dry." In what ways so far has the story illustrated this?
12. Why is the class so upset when Mr. Birkway reads their journals out loud?
13. Mrs. Cadaver and Mr. Birkway are twins – in what ways are they alike?
14. What does the picture of the vase that Mr. Birkway shows the class have to do with poetry?

WEEK FIVE: CHAPTERS 33-40

1. Why does Mr. Birkway apologize to Phoebe?
2. How does Sal feel when she walks in Mrs. Cadaver's moccasins?
3. Why does Gram tell Gramps about the egg man's letters?
4. Why does Sal run after seeing Phoebe's mother?
5. What makes Sal feel like a newly born colt?
6. In what way is Ben's situation like Phoebe's or Sal's?
7. Why doesn't Phoebe tell her family about seeing her mother?
8. Why does Sal agree to go to Phoebe's house?
9. Why didn't Mrs. Winterbottom tell her husband about her son?
10. How does Mrs. Winterbottom feel about Mike?
11. How does he (Mike) feel about Mrs. Winterbottom?
12. Why do Phoebe and Sal spit?

WEEK SIX: CHAPTERS 41-44

1. In what way is Sal's mother leaving like Moody Blue and the puppies?
2. Why does Gramps give Sal the keys to the car?
3. Why does Sal want to go onto the bus?
4. Why do the police take Sal to her mother's grave?
5. Why doesn't Sal look for the singing bird?
6. How does Sal's father and Mrs. Cadaver know each other? Why are they friends?
7. What does Sal mean when she says that Phoebe needs the lunatic?

Walk Two Moons Anticipation Reaction Guide

Statement	Evidence	Pg. #	Commentary
You should support your friends, no matter what.			
Sometimes you must judge someone in order to make a good decision.			
It is important to struggle through conflict in your life.			
At some point, everyone acts like someone/something they are not.			
People can be braver or stronger emotionally than they first believed.			

Map Sal's Journey Across the U.S.



Bybanks, Kentucky	Ohio River
Euclid, Ohio	Lewiston, Idaho
Washington, D.C.	Philadelphia
South Bend, Indiana	Illinois
Lake Michigan	Chicago, Illinois
Madison, Wisconsin	Pipestone, Minnesota
Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Lake Mendota
Wyoming	Montana
Mitchell, South Dakota	Chamberlain, South Dakota
Badlands, South Dakota	Missouri River
Mount Rushmore	Yellowstone Park

Walk Two Moons Character Chart

Name	Physical Description	Personality Traits	Mental or Psychological Quirks	Relationship to Protagonist
Salamanca Tree Hiddle				
Phoebe Winterbottom				
Gram				
Gramps				
Sugar Chanhassen Hiddle				
Mrs. Winterbottom				
Mr. Winterbottom				
Margaret Cadaver				
Mr. Hiddle				

Mr. Birkway				
Mrs. Partridge				
Prudence Winterbottom				
Mary Lou Finney				
Ben Finney				
Sgt. Bickle				
Mrs. Finney				
The Pickfords				
The Lunatic				