

The Case of the Rigged Race

Discussion Questions:

Name: _____



1. *The author uses the word “shenanigans” a number of times throughout the novel (for example, pgs. 34, 61, and 62). What do you think this word means? Can you think of some other examples of “shenanigans” from your own life or from stories that you have read or watched?*
2. *The words galunked (p. 9) and galunk-gunk (p. 89) are used to represent the sound of loosely-tied snow boots. This is an example of onomatopoeia, when a word sounds like the noise it describes. List some other examples of onomatopoeia to describe the environment where you live.*
3. *What are some of the Cree traditions and teachings that you have learned about through reading this novel? In what ways are they similar to and/or different from those of your own?*
4. *What observations can you make about the relationship between the Muskrats and the Elders in their lives? Is there anyone in your life who might fill a similar role for you?*
5. *On page 56, Grandpa says, “Anger is often a luxury. It is rarely a need.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?*
6. *The activists make some arguments about why they are protesting the dogsled race. Do you agree or disagree with their arguments? Why or why not?*
7. *Grandpa gives some guidance on how to deal with the protesters. What are some of his suggestions? How does his guidance help the Muskrats get closer to solving the mystery?*
8. *The Mighty Muskrats’ keen observation skills help them collect important information and clues that lead them to solve the crime. Identify some of the situations where they found clues because of their observations.*
9. *On a number of occasions, the characters refer to differences between city living and life in Windy Lake. Do you know more about living in a city or living in a rural environment? What are some of the benefits of living where you do? What might you like to know about living in a different setting than you do?*
10. *Why might the book have been given the title “The Case of the Rigged Race”?*