

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Writing Prompts

### Part 5: Battle of the Greasy Grass

#### MISSION 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey"

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#### **A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:**

*You will need to decide how best to share these writing prompts with your students. You might share them all and ask students to choose one to respond to. You may assign one or more to the entire group. You might make one or more of the topics the basis for in-class discussions. Make your decisions according to the needs of your group.*

*You may notice that many of the topics contain some version of the phrase, "Write about a time in your life..." The intention of these prompts is twofold: first, since students remember the content of their own lives, they can more easily respond to the questions, and they are more likely to want to express themselves if they feel competent to do so; second, these questions can form a meaningful bridge between what happens in the lives of ordinary people today and the lives of people in history or in historical events. For these reasons, you might decide to use some of the prompts before students encounter the history, because thinking about them sets the students up to understand and relate to it better.*

*Since students vary in their degree of comfort and skill in writing, you should decide when and how much students should write. We suggest that since students need to share their writing with each other to make personal and historical connections, you should encourage them to focus on content rather than mechanical skills. Pieces can be revised and edited later if you decide they should be shared formally, such as on a bulletin board or in a newsletter.*



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Read through all the topics first, and then choose one of them to write about. Write the title of the piece at the top of your page. Write in complete sentences. After you are finished, proofread your work for correctness.

- 1. Deciding to Fight.** At the beginning of Part 5, Little Fox explains that the Lakota, led by Sitting Bull, have been fighting the white soldiers, and that many Cheyenne have joined the war. Little Fox and the other members of his band do not join the fight, until they hear about a Cheyenne girl who saved her brother in battle. Why do you think this event would inspire Little Fox and other Cheyenne to join the battle?
- 2. Many Battles.** Little Fox refers to several battles that took place in the months and years before the Battle of the Greasy Grass. What were these battles about? How would Little Fox explain the causes of these battles to his grandchildren? How would a white soldier explain the causes of these battles to his grandchildren?
- 3. Preparing for Battle.** How does Little Fox prepare for battle? What is the purpose of the eagle feather and earth pigments? Why does he take his father's shield? What does this tell you about the power of traditions in Northern Cheyenne society in the nineteenth century?
- 4. Family Ties.** Before Little Fox heads off to battle, he meets his sister, who presents him with a dilemma: should he help her find her missing daughter or should he ride into battle at once? Which decision did you make for Little Fox? Why did you make that decision? Have you ever been in a situation in which your loyalty to your family conflicted with your sense of duty to the larger community? Describe the situation. What decision did you make, and what were the consequences of your decision?
- 5. A Great Victory?** Why did the Cheyenne consider the Battle of the Greasy Grass their greatest victory over the white men? Given what you know happens within the next year, do you think it was really a great victory? Why or why not?
- 6. Reservations.** After the Battle of the Greasy Grass, the Northern Cheyenne are forced to join their southern relatives on the Darlington Agency in present-day Oklahoma. Why does he describe the reservation as a place of sickness? What other reasons does he give for wanting to go home? What do you think "home" means to Little Fox?



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7. **Different Paths, Different Ending?** At the end of Part 5, you are asked to decide whether Little Fox should follow Chief Dull Knife or Chief Little Wolf. What did you decide, and why? Find a classmate who made the other decision. Share your stories. Which decision do you think was best – to follow Dull Knife or Little Wolf? Why?

8. **Many Journeys.** An "odyssey" is a journey, or a series of travels. Why is the game called "A Cheyenne Odyssey"? What journeys does Little Fox take throughout the game? What journey do the Northern Cheyenne take in Part 5?