

SETTING

Ketchikan is well known as the salmon capital of the world and a paradise for sport fishermen and naturalists alike. During the summer months, our town bustles with visitors from all over the world. While the rustic boardwalk on Creek Street preserves a distinct historic feel, the town hums with new construction to keep up with the everexpanding wave of tourism.

Ketchikan has a population of 14,500 and is built along a steep hillside, with sections of the town built right over the water on pilings. An outstanding collection of totem poles make a visit to Ketchikan essential for anyone interested in Native art. Ketchikan's name supposedly comes from the native term "Katch Kanna", which roughly translates: "spread wings of a thundering eagle" and rightly named, for you only need to look along the water line and you're likely to see many bald eagles on waterside perches.



Our beautiful town is located on the western coast of Revillagigedo Island, near the southernmost boundary of Alaska. It is 679 miles north of Seattle and 235 miles south of Juneau. The 2.2 million acre Misty Fjords National Monument lies 22 air miles east of Ketchikan. Ketchikan is the first Alaska port of call for northbound cruise ships and State ferries. It lies at approximately 55° 20' N Latitude, 131° 38' W Longitude. The area encompasses 3 sq. miles of land and 1 sq. miles of water. The area lies in the maritime climate zone noted for its warm winters, cool summers, and heavy precipitation. Summer temperatures range from 51 to 65; winter temperatures range from 29 to 39. Ketchikan averages 162 inches (13.5 feet) of precipitation annually, including 32 inches of snowfall.

Established originally as a fishing camp, Ketchikan today bustles with activity. Ketchikan almost seems today like it had been built for its many visitors. The Ketchikan Airport is located on its own island, Garvina Island. From Ketchikan's airport it is a short ferry ride across Tongass Narrows to the city of Ketchikan. We also welcome one or more Alaska State Ferries nearly everyday and cruise ships grace our harbor from May through September. On a busy day, we could have as many as 6 large cruise ships at a time in our harbor.

Explain how Ketchikan received its name.		sent to a remote island off the coast of Ketchikan, e of climate does Ketchikan have?	Alaska.
	Explain	ow Ketchikan received its name.	

PREDICTING

Directions: Think about the ideas listed below and freewrite on each of the ideas. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts with other students and the class. Can you predict what is going to happen in the novel?

- 1. bully
- abused child
- Spirit Bear
- 4. Tlingit Indians
- totem poles
- forgiveness
- 7. circle of life

Character Tracking

Name	Static or Dynamic (Circle One)	Quotes/Character Description
Cole	Static Dynamic	
Garvey	Static Dynamic	
Edwin	Static Dynamic	

Peter	Static Dynamic	
Other Characters	Cha	racter Traits/Important Information

Touching Spirit Bear Prereading Vocabulary – Chapters 1-6

Directions: Use the context clues in the following sentences to determine the meaning of the underlined words.

The <u>probation officer</u> was concerned that Billy would steal a <u>skiff</u> from the harbor.

1. probation officer

- a) person monitoring convicted criminals who are out of custody
- b) guard or night watchman
- c) police officer in plain clothes
- 2. skiff
- a) a lamp
- b) a flat-bottomed boat
- c) a small car

The kidnapper's detainees were cowering in the corner of the locked room, afraid of him.

3. detainees

- a) accomplices
- b) victims
- c) prisoners

4. cowering

- a) crouching from something frightening
- b) humming
- c) following along

The <u>prosecutor</u> for the court case believed that there should be an immediate <u>sentencing</u> for the crime.

5. prosecutor

- a) the representative of the government who pursues formal charges against the accused
- b) the lawyer who defends an accused criminal in court
- c) the judge who makes a decision on whether a person is innocent or guilty

6. sentencing

- a) a hearing to determine if an individual is innocent or guilty
- b) a hearing to determine consequences for a crime
- c) a hearing to determine if an individual should be released from prison

The tight handcuffs <u>chafed</u> against the wrists of the criminal when he was brought into court to <u>plead</u> to the charges against him.

- 7. chafed
- a) to cut
- b) to tickle
- c) to rub and irritate
- 8. plead
- a) to deny any wrongdoing
- b) to claim guilt or innocence in a court
- c) to hire a lawyer

The juvenile delinquent had trouble breathing in the stifling heat of his prison cell.

- 9. juvenile delinquent
- a) a young person in trouble with the law
- b) a young person who is frequently late
- c) a young person who is short for their age
- 10. stifling
- a) humid
- b) suffocating
- c) dry

Tim was so tired he was not <u>conscious</u> of the <u>deadfall</u> as he walked through the forest.

- 11. conscious
- a) careful of
- b) having an interested in
- c) aware of
- 12. deadfall
- a) cool weather
- b) tangled, fallen trees and branches
- c) pine-like odor

The <u>billowy</u> clouds of smoke from the campfire <u>shrouded</u> the view of the mountains.

- 13. billowy
- a) rolling wave or mass
- b) light-coloured or clear
- c) slow-moving

14. shrouded

- a) enhanced
- b) revealed
- c) concealed

The over-confident teen stood <u>unflinching</u> when the charges against him were read during his <u>arraignment</u> hearing.

15. unflinching

- a) confused and afraid
- b) timid and shaking
- c) steady and unafraid

16. arraignment hearing

- a) the final stage of a trial where a punishment is determined
- b) the first stage of a trial where the accused makes a plea
- c) a hearing where the crown (government) decides whether or not to charge the person with a crime

Because it was a sunny afternoon, the lawyer <u>moseyed</u> to the courthouse to bring <u>depositions</u> from his client.

17. moseyed

- a) moving in a slow or leisurely way
- b) moving in a hurried or rushed way
- c) moving with a limp

18. depositions

- a) testimony taken down in writing
- b) handcuffs
- c) DNA samples

Concerned about his friends' <u>fleeting</u> loyalties, the gang member <u>brandished</u> his gun in front of them to try to gain their respect.

19. fleeting

- a) firm or secure
- b) drifting or fading away
- c) quick-running

20. brandished

- a) wave or exhibit in an intimidating manner
- b) polish
- c) hide away

Notes

<u>Chapt</u>	<u>er 1-6</u>	
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Questions

Chap 1.	ter 1 Where is Cole being sent, and why is he being sent there?
2.	How does Cole feel about banishment as a punishment?
3.	How does Cole view adults and authority? Cite examples from the book.
4.	Garvey, the youth probation officer, introduces Cole to the concept of Circle Justice. Briefly describe what Circle Justice is.
5.	Why does Garvey state "Something terrible has happened to you to make you want to kill a poor small animal"? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not.
Chap	ter 2 Garvey tells Cole that "You figure if I'm scared of you, you can trust me." What does he
	mean by this? Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
2.	What are some of the advice and warnings Edwin gives Cole for surviving the island?

3.	Spirit Bear is introduced in Chapter Two. Describe this bear.
4.	Is there any significance in the fact that Spirit Bear is a pure white black bear?
5.	What does Cole say he would do to Spirit Bear? What does Edwin tell him?
6.	What does Garvey leave with Cole? What must he do with it?
7.	Do you think Garvey agreed to be Cole's sponsor for the Circle because Cole genuinely had changed? Why or why not?
8.	What does Cole do to his shelter at the end of the chapter? Why do you think he did this?
•	ter 3 How does Garvey convince Cole to eat the groceries?
2.	Think back to Garvey's statement in the first chapter that "Something terrible has happened to you to make you want to kill a poor, small animal." Then look at the list of the "ingredients" of Cole's life on page 31. How do these connect?

3.	Describe Cole's plan to escape the island. Do you think he will be successful?
4.	Who is allowed to be at Cole's Circle?
5.	Why is it important for Peter to forgive Cole?
•	Piter 4 Why is it significant that Cole gives a threatening look to Peter at the beginning of the Circle?
2.	According to the Keeper, what is the point of the Circle, and why does regular justice often fail?
3.	Do you think that everybody who is present at the Circle has a sincere reason for being there? Do you think that there are people who don't want to be there?
•	oter 5 For the first time, Cole admits that he made a mistake. What was this mistake?
2.	Describe Cole's first encounter with what appears to be Spirit Bear.

3.	Review the four comments made about Cole at the Circle on page 46. Which comments do you agree with? Which ones do you disagree with? Justify your answer.
Chap	oter 6
1.	What does Cole accuse his father of in the Circle? How does his father respond?
2.	Why do you think Cole's mother did not tell the Circle how his father would beat up on him?
3.	When the Keeper asks Peter what needs to be done to make things better, he responds by saying "I think someone should smash Cole's head against a sidewalk so he knows how it feels." Do you think Cole already knows how this might feel? Why or why not?
4.	When leaving the Circle, in reference to his father Cole asks Garvey "Did you hear him lie tonight?" Garvey responds "He wasn't the only one." To whom is Garvey referring?
5.	Cole reformulates his plans for leaving the island. How will he try his next escape?
6.	Garvey discusses some of the reasons that isolation works to help heal a criminal. What are these reasons?
7.	Outline what will happen to Cole after the banishment is over.

<u>Touching Spirit Bear</u> Prereading Vocabulary – Chapters 7-13

Directions: Using the context clues in each sentence in the first column, determine the meaning of the underlined word and match it to the proper definition in the second column.

1 The gluttonous kitten ate all of the food in its bowl.	a. puffing
	b. stirred up or disturbed
2 Tyler's binder was in such a <u>haphazard</u> state, his teacher demanded he put it in order.	c. burned or scorched
3 As the steam-powered locomotive pulled away, chuffs of smoke came from the engine.	d. small streams
away, charis	e. excessive greed
4 After seeing what he thought was a ghost, James went into a state of <u>delirium</u> .	f. body fluid that helps absorb fats
5 After the fire, the <u>charred</u> remains of the	g. seemingly without any order
house were all that remained.	h. dulled sensibility
6. <u>Torrents</u> of lava came from the volcano when it erupted.	i. rushing flow of liquid
7. The sand on the bottom of the aquarium	j. moving quickly and unevenly
roiled when the eel dove into it.	k. an animal taken in hunting
8 The butterfly was flitting around the picnic table because of the gusting wind.	I. very confused thinking
9 Absolutely exhausted after the ball game, Joey stumbled home in a <u>stuporous</u> daze.	
10 While at home sick with the flu, a bitter <u>bile</u> taste came into Tianna's mouth.	
11. <u>Rivulets</u> ran down the window during the rainstorm.	
12 We were going hunting, with ducks to be	

our **quarry**.

Notes

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1.	As chapter seven begins, Cole finds himself needing to "clear the anger and pressure from his mind." Does this bode well for Cole's healing process? Why or why not?
2.	What weapon does Cole create and how does he make it? What does he intend to use it for?
3.	Cole plans on escaping the island, yet still attempts to kill Spirit Bear. What does this say about Cole, and his respect for life?
4.	As Cole inches towards Spirit Bear, he stops, looks around, and becomes aware that nobody is watching and he could easily back away. What compels him to keep approaching Spirit Bear?
5.	Describe Spirit Bear and its characteristics.
6.	What do you think will happen when Cole gets close enough to kill Spirit Bear?

1.	Describe Spirit Bear's attack on Cole.
2.	As Cole lays bleeding, he thinks to himself "What luck [t]o end up on an island with a stupid bear that didn't have brains enough to run away." Has Cole realized his responsibility for what has happened?
3.	Cole states he would rather be in a prison cell than on the island. What are his reasons?
4.	What does Cole's crushing of the caterpillar indicate about his personality, even in his beaten state?
5.	Look back to Peter's comments at the Circle on page 50. What parallels are there between what Peter wanted for Cole and what has happened to him?
6.	Do you feel bad for what has happened to Cole? Why or why not?

Ch

Chap	oter 9
1.	Cole comments that "Nobody else cared about him, so why should he care about himself?" Is it true that nobody else cares about him? Even if nobody cares about Cole, why should he care about himself?
2.	What happens to the tree with the sparrow's nest during the electrical storm?
3.	Why do you think Cole calls out to see if the baby sparrows are okay?
•	oter 10 Cole notices that the baby sparrows tried to do something before their death. What was it? How does Cole relate this to his experience growing up?
2.	Cole begins to think about the circle of life. What is this circle, according to Cole, and how does he feel about his role in it?
3.	Cole thinks "The power to choose was the real power, not the fake power of making others afraid." Explain this statement.
4.	What does Cole catch to eat at the end of this chapter?

Ciiap	itel 11
1.	In this chapter, what are some of the things Cole does to survive?
2.	Spirit Bear appears near Cole at the end of this chapter. What do you think will happen to Cole?
-	ter 12 When Spirit Bear comes back, why do you think Cole chooses not to spit on him, but instead touch him?
2.	How does Cole feel about death?
3.	What was the buzzing sound Cole heard?
4.	Was it really the seagulls grabbing at Cole and trying to lift him up?
5.	What do Edwin and Garvey do with Cole?
6.	When Cole says that he's okay, what does he mean by this?

- 1. When Rosey asks for a blanket, Garvey wants to hand him the at.óow. Why is it significant that Cole reaches out and grabs it?
- 2. Why is it significant that Cole whispers "My fault!" when Garvey apologizes for getting Cole into this situation?
- 3. Garvey tells Cole that he will still be facing jail time when he recovers. Considering what he went through, do you think this is fair?
- 4. Why does Cole throw out the hair he pulled from Spirit Bear? Would you have done the same?
- 5. Edwin says that Cole will be okay if he ever finds a reason to live. Do you think Cole has found his reason to live? Explain.

SPIRIT BEAR FACTS

- The Kermode or Spirit Bear is a black bear that has white fur due to a rare genetic trait. The bear is not albino, as it typically has a brown nose and eyes.
- It is named after Frank Kermode, former director of the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria.
- The greatest concentration of Spirit Bears are found on the Central Coast and North Coast of British Columbia, Canada, but have been documented in northeast British Columbia and as far east in North America as Minnesota.
- It is illegal to hunt the Spirit Bear in B.C.
- In British Columbia, the greatest number of Spirit Bears are found on Princess Royal Island, where as many as one-tenth of the black bears born are white.
- The Spirit Bear, like most black bears, weighs about half a pound when born and generally between 150-300 pounds when fully grown.
- The bear's body length, measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail, averages between
 four and six feet. Its height, measured from the bottom of the paw flat on the ground to the highest
 part of the shoulders, is between two-and-a-half and three feet.
- Spirit Bears, like most black bears, are omnivores. They eat berries, nuts, fruits, roots, grasses and other plants, insects, deer and moose fawns, carrion and – during the salmon season from late summer through fall – spawning salmon.
- They are usually solitary, except females with offspring. Males keep large home ranges overlapping with smaller ranges of several females.
- Females reach sexual maturity at three to four years of age. Mating takes place during the summer
 months, with gestation taking about 220 days. Cubs are born in their mother's winter den in
 January or February, and are weaned at about eight months, but may remain with their mother for
 up to a year-and-a-half, when she is ready to mate again.
- Spirit Bears can live for more than 25 years in the wild. They can go without food for up to seven
 months during hibernation in northern areas.

Directions: Sketch a picture of how you envision the spirit bear in the novel.

<u>Touching Spirit Bear</u> Prereading Vocabulary – Chapters 14-24

Directions: Complete the sentences below using the best words possible from chapter 14-24 vocabulary words below. You may need to use a dictionary to find the definitions of words you do not know. No word will be used more than once.

Reverently

Chon

Ingenuity

Relinquish

rtemiquism	mgenarcy	rieverentry	Citop
Composure	Grimacing	Gorge	Sullen
Rafters	Gingerly	Galvanized	Resignation
Irked	Persistence	Writhed	Breaching
Conjuring	Vaulted	Redemption	Awning
Gunwales			
1. Afraid of causing expatient.	ven more pain, the docto	orto	uched the sore arm on his
2. Martin tried to reg death.	ain his	after breaking out in t	ears over his hamster's
3. Realizing that noth with	=	the incoming storm, S	helly just shook her head
4. The defeated army	had no choice but to	the capture	ed territory to its enemy.
5. The elder's stories	were ı	up images in the minds	of her audience.
6. Willenethat day in her pie.	in her bed with d	isgust when thinking a	bout the bug she found
7. Corby's cat	across the kite	chen to try and eat the	spilled tuna.
8. In order to keep th	e building's frame from	rusting, they chose to (usesteel.
9. The	of the boat were bad	ly damaged when the	tree fell on top of it.
10. The rainstorm cau	used the dam to	with water.	

11. Hoping for	, Ryan asked Jill to forgive h	nim for breaking her MP3 player.				
12. The heavy rain on the	12. The heavy rain on the day of the picnic only added to Jocelyn's mood.					
13. The fish were	, likely in attempt to catch the f	flies buzzing just above the water.				
14. Paige waschips.	by her parents because they we	ould not buy her a bag of potato				
15. In order to get some out from the side of the	shade while she read her book, Macamper.	arcia pulled the				
16. The roof of the house	e started to sag because the	were poorly constructed.				
17. The young boy	approached the priest	to ask him for his advice.				
18. Because of Samantha's, the teacher finally caved in and allowed her to get a drink of water.						
19. Betty was	at the thought of having to clea	an her dirty bathroom.				
20. The boat shook as it	travelled over the heavy					

Notes

<u>apter 14-24</u>			
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<u>er 14-24 (continued)</u>		

1. What happened to Cole's father? Why does it seem Cole's mother charged him? 2. Cole's mother appears to have a change of heart regarding her lifestyle and relationship with Cole. Describe the changes and consider why you think she has changed. 3. Cole's mother discusses how his father was beaten as a child, and she says this was a reason for him abusing Cole. How is this also a circle? 4. When Cole returns to the Circle, there are two people missing. Who are they? Why do you think they are not there? **Chapter 15** 1. How is Peter recovering from the injuries caused by Cole? 2. How does Edwin demonstrate the change in Cole's path in life? 3. What did Edwin's friend Bernie see on an island near the one on which Cole had been placed? What does this prove? 4. Peter's lawyer is very abrupt and not kind to Cole. Why do you think the lawyer acts in this manner?

The Keeper says that they have no way of knowing if Cole is over his anger. What is his response?
What news does Cole receive from Edwin and Garvey at the chapter's end? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?
oter 16 How is Cole's second trip to the island being funded?
When Cole asks "What do we do first" Garvey responds "Everything is up to you now." Why would he say this?
What are some of the first tasks Cole has to complete?
What could Garvey's observation that "all the world is a hot dog" (139) mean?
Cole briefly considers the possibility of taking the skiff and returning to the mainland. However, even if he had tried, Edwin had removed the spark plugs from the engine, so it would not have worked. What does this incident tell us about Cole, Edwin, and Garvey?

1. Cole thinks about Peter when he cannot sleep. What are his thoughts? How are these thoughts different from his earlier feelings about Peter? 2. Edwin uses a stick to demonstrate a point to Cole. What is this point? **Chapter 18** 1. What does Cole begin building in this chapter? Why must it be of such high quality, and why do Edwin and Garvey not help him with the labor? 2. Edwin states "Pride has no place on this island." Cite two instances in this chapter where Cole puts his pride ahead of practicality. 3. Cole is upset that Edwin and Garvey are not helping with anything. By doing nothing, are they helping Cole? 4. What does Cole take away from the whale dance? 5. What activities do Cole and Edwin do to help Cole release his anger?

•	What does Cole do after working on his shelter?
2.	What is Garvey's response to Cole? Do you think it is fair?
3.	What lesson does Cole learn from the wolf dance?
4.	When pushing the rock down the hill, Cole comes to a realization. What is it?
5.	What does Cole see as he begins to return to camp?
Char	.t
_	ter 20 What realization does Cole have regarding his father?
2.	Why do you think that Edwin and Garvey don't heap a lot of praise on Cole for building his cabin?
3.	Edwin put the spark plugs back in the boat two days before he and Garvey left. What does this indicate?

4.	Edwin states that "you can never heal completely until you discover one thing" but does not tell Cole what that thing is. What do you think Edwin is referring to?
•	Iter 21 Cole discovers a large piece of driftwood along the beach and realizes that there are two possible uses for it. What are they?
2.	What does Cole do with the log?
3.	Do you think Cole is sincere when he asks Edwin about how Peter is doing? Why or why not?
4.	How does Edwin explain totem poles to Cole?
-	oter 22 How does Cole make himself invisible, and why is he doing this?
2.	Cole appears to have discovered why Spirit Bear came to visit him, and why the fish and beaver came so close to him. What do you think the reason is?

- 1. What does Cole believe to be the secret to be invisible? Why does he come to this conclusion?
- 2. What does Cole see after allowing his mind to clear and letting himself become one with nature?
- 3. Cole decides that he can now do the anger dance. When he is doing it, he screams "Please forgive me! I didn't mean to hurt Peter!" Think back to his motivations at the time of the assault, Cole's family history, and Cole's reaction to Peter when he hears him speak for the first time since the assault at the Circle on page 40. Is this statement true?
- 4. Cole also states "I forgive you" during his anger dance. To whom do you think he intends these statements?

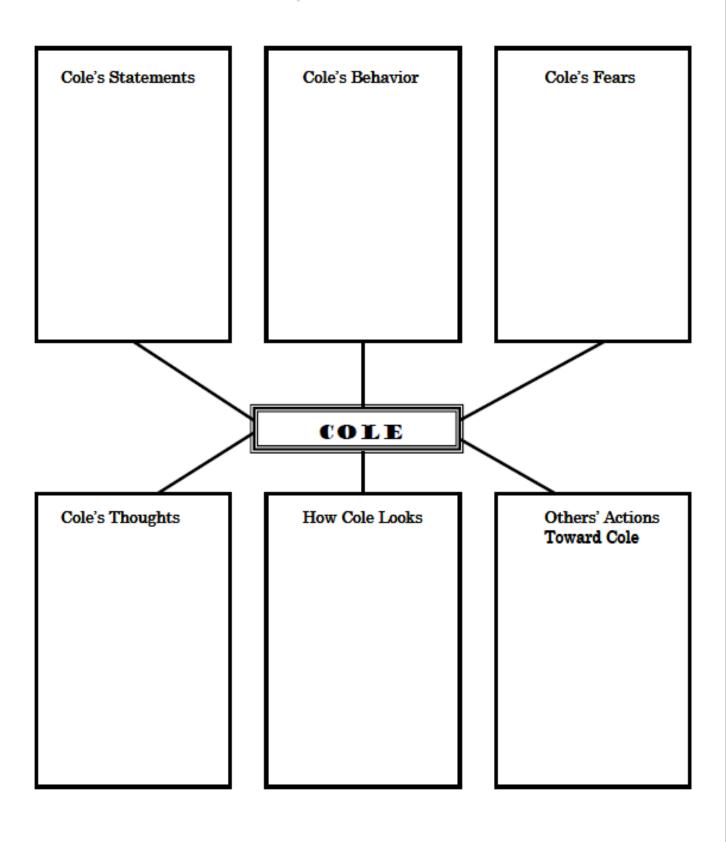
- 1. What does Cole note about being angry at the opening of the chapter?
- 2. Cole learns that if he cannot help the person he wronged, he should then help somebody else. What does he correctly speculate about Edwin and Garvey?
- 3. Cole spots the Spirit Bear every few days now. What does this indicate about the change in Cole?

4.	When Cole starts thinking about his return to Minneapolis, what is he concerned about?
	Why is this unusual?

- 5. Peter twice attempts to commit suicide, and Cole believes the answer to Peter's problems is to have him spend time on the island. Why does Cole think this is a good idea, and do you think that it will work?
- 6. Cole attempts to carve the bottom of the totem pole several times in this chapter, but cannot find an appropriate symbol for him getting over his anger. What do you think Cole should carve? (Draw it in the space below)

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW COLE?

Directions: Within each box, record evidence about Cole from the book.



Notes

1. What is Cole's idea to cure Peter's depression? How does Edwin react to this suggestion? 2. Do you think it is a good idea for Peter to visit the island? Why or why not? 3. About two weeks after Cole's suggestion, who arrives on the island? 4. Peter blurts "Leave me alone. I don't want your help!" to Cole. How is this situation similar to Cole's initial feelings about Garvey and Edwin? How is it different? **Chapter 26** 1. Peter does not want to sleep in the cabin with Cole. What arrangements are made for Cole's living quarters while Peter is on the island? 2. Do you think that Edwin purposely brought a leaky tent? Why or why not? 3. Peter shows some signs of embracing Cole's island practices. What are these? 4. Why do you think Peter threw the rock at Cole and later tossed him into the water?

- 1. What does Peter tell Cole when he lets him into the cabin? What does Peter do in the following days that show he dislikes Cole? 2. What does Cole convince Peter to do after destroying the bear on his totem pole? 3. What does Cole say about the quality of carvings on the two boys' totem poles? 4. What does Peter do to Cole's totem pole at the end of the chapter? What does this say about the change in Peter's attitude towards Cole? **Chapter 28** 1. Peter asks Garvey to not accompany Cole to the pond. Why does he do this? 2. Why does Cole not fight back? 3. Do you think Cole deserved the beating he received from Peter? Why or why not?
 - 5. As the book closes, Peter states "What makes you think I forgave you?" Do you think Peter has forgiven Cole? Why or why not?

4. Cole states "I don't think I'll ever heal from what I did to you, but I'm sorry, Peter. I

really am sorry." What then happens?

CONFLICT

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are four main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. society, or person vs. self.

Directions: In the space provided, list four conflicts Cole experiences and justify why you identify it with that particular type pf conflict. Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

Person vs. Person

1015011	
Conflict	Resolution
	×3
Person v	s. Nature
Conflict	Resolution
	30-1
Person v	s. Society
Conflict	Resolution
(1) (8) E	7
Person	vs. Self
Conflict	Resolution

<u>Votes</u>		