

Name: _____ Date: _____

11th Grade ELA
There There

Native Stories: Joy Harjo



Look!

[Joy Harjo: National Women's History Museum](#)

Read the short biography of Joy Harjo, and answer the following questions.

1. How did Joy Harjo's upbringing and cultural background shape her identity as a writer and artist? What specific experiences stand out to you from the article?

2. What challenges did Harjo face growing up, and how did she cope?

3. After reading about Joy Harjo, what did you find most inspiring or surprising about her journey?

Watch!

Sunday TODAY's ["Meet the United States' First Native American Poet Laureate"](#) (2019)

Directions: Watch the video, and answer the following questions. (Please note: the video references suicidal ideation.)

1. How does Harjo see her role as Poet Laureate as an important opportunity for the Native American community?

2. What is the subject of Harjo's book *An American Sunrise*? How did the poem she read make you feel, and why?

3. How does Harjo describe the particular power of poetry?

[Poetry Read Alone with Joy Harjo | PBS KIDS](#)

Directions: Watch the video from 3:18 to the end. Then answer the following questions.

1. How does Harjo explain that poetry provides the ability to travel?

2. How has Harjo's attitude towards poetry changed since she was growing up?

3. What inspires Harjo to write poetry?

Read!

['Poet Warrior' Joy Harjo Wants Native Peoples To Be Seen As Human](#) (NPR)

Directions: Read the interview highlights in the article, and answer the following questions.

1. How does Harjo want Native people to be seen?

2. What examples of Native American stereotypes does Harjo push back against in the interview? Why is it harmful for Native people to only be seen in this way?

Wonder!

["Remember" by Joy Harjo](#)

Directions: Read the poem and/or listen to Joy Harjo read it [here](#). Then answer the following questions.

1. How does the poem portray the relationship between individuals and nature?
What does it mean to "remember" the sky, the moon, the sun, the wind?

2. What do you think the speaker means by the line, "Remember you are all people and all people are you?"

3. Why is it important to remember, according to the speaker? What does the poem imply might be the consequences of forgetting?

4. What connections can you make between Harjo's poem and characters, events, and/or themes in *There There*?