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Week 5 & 6 Responses  
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### **Week 5: The Girl Who Married The Bear & The Coyote Master of Death**

#### *The Girl Who Married the Bear*

The introduction by Catherine McClellan was strikingly educational in its precession to the text and allowed the reader to have a better understanding of the historical and cultural context in which the text was written/ originally spoken in. The Introduction was informative in the cultural practices and gave reasoning behind many of the characters' decisions within the story, that otherwise without knowing, would not have been able to be inferred by the reader. As far as the story goes, I think that it was definitely an interesting read. As for the story, it had been traditionally passed down orally This leads to the verbiage feeling monotonous. There were moments within the story, especially near the conclusion, where the relationship between brother and sister seemed oddly aloof. At the end (spoiler alert) the protagonist kills her entire family except her younger brother. This reflected on her relationship between her brothers and the role that they played in their counterparts' lives. We can deduce this through reading the introduction written by Catherine McClellan, as cross-sex sibling avoidance is thoroughly explained.

#### *The Coyote Master of Death*

In the first act of this story we see how Coyote is talking to one of his friends who has just lost a child. This friend expresses how they wish that they could bring their child back to life to be with them again. Coyote responds logically and says that is an impossibility. And if that were ever to be done it would tip the balance of the universe. Later, Coyote loses his own daughter. Suddenly his sympathies change and he decides to join his daughter in the afterlife. He wished not to bring her back, but just to be with her. So crosses over and begins a new life in the upside down/paréele universe with his daughter where everything seems to be done differently. He goes through a series of events that test his abilities and seemingly excels at any and all challenges posed against him. Once he had his fill of the afterlife and time well spent with his daughter he decides to make the trip back to the land of the living. In this journey we see his trickster side to his character and some unique qualities that make Coyote who he is.

### **Week 6: Running The Deer**

In this story we see the symbolically significant and sacred animal of the Indigenous tribe: The Yoemem. In this song/skit we see our protagonist the Deer in his innocence being hunted down by humans. We see the roller coaster of emotions that the deer is going through. In the Deer's desire to live and not die, and how this reflects on the very human experience of

one's journey from womb to tomb. The spiritual experience of knowing death comes for us all and there is no escaping this reality. However, like the deer, we can maintain our innocence through life and purity. We see the Deer's innocence and purity through the narration of his thoughts and the euphemism in describing the process of how the deer died and even after the deer parted from the "here" world to the "over there" world. Specifically in stanza #9 we see the Deer's desire to enter the BEautiful afterlife but not wanting to pay the price of death. This feeling can be traversed to the human experience of the fear of the unknown.