

The Birchbark House

Louise Erdrich

Characters:

Omakayas- AKA Little frog. Main character of the story. Was given a special hide fletcher by her father because she had done it so well. Learned that her parents were not her real parents, that Old Tallow had rescued her when everyone in her village had died of smallpox, only she survived.

Hat- A foolish man who left Omakayas alone. Husband to Old Tallow.

Nokomis- Omakayas' Grandmother. Had already had smallpox before the white man brought it so she didn't get sick.

Old Tallow- The woman who saved Omakayas when she was a baby. Feared by many in the village.

Little Pinch- Omakayas' little brother whom she did not learn to love until the end of the story. Recovered from Smallpox.

Neewo- The baby of the family. Died of smallpox in Omakayas' arms.

Angeline- Omakayas' older sister who also recovered from smallpox but her face was horribly scarred.

Deydey- Omakayas' father. Often gone. Also recovered from smallpox with the help of Omakayas.

Yellow Kettle- A stron looking beautiful woman who recovered from smallpox. Omakayas' mother.

Albert LaPautre- A man who dreamed that he had lice.

Fishtail- Deydey's friend.

Andeg- the bird that Omakayas found that stayed with her until he had to go and live with his own kind. He was a very loyal friend.

Questions:

1. Why was Omakayas given her name? Because her first step was a hop
2. What teeth was Omakayas missing in the beginning of the story? Her to top front teeth
3. What time of year did the family cut the Birchbark for their house? Spring

4. What color beads were on Nokomis' tobacco pouch? Blue and white beads in the shape of a pipe.
5. Which child was the beauty of the family? Angeline
6. What useful piece of supplies did Omakayas' mother have that very few other women had? Scissors
7. What color was Old Tallow's dog that terrorized Omakayas? Yellow
8. What did Old Tallow give Omakayas? Her mother's scissors and a lump of maple sugar
9. What animal did Omakayas see on the way home from Old Tallow's? A bear
10. What did Omakayas get from her mother for her work on the moose hide? A promise for a very special pair of winter makazins
11. What does the word Neewo mean? Fourth
12. What kinds of names did Omakayas call Neewo? Bird names
13. Who did Omakayas give the rest of her Maple Sugar candy to? Neewo
14. Where did Andeg sit? On Omakayas' shoulder
15. How many children does Albert LaPautre have? Ten
16. What was in Albert LaPautre's dream besides lice? Preparations for a dance
17. Where did mama's brother live? The Great Sloughs of Kakagon
18. How did Omakayas think Old Tallow looked at her? Like she looked at her dogs
19. What did Omakayas make for Neewo? Makazins
20. Who was the first to catch smallpox? Ten Snow
21. Who won in chess matches? Deydey
22. When did Nokomis tell her stories? Winter
23. Who killed the yellow dog? Old Tallow
24. What is the White man's language? Zhaganashimowin
25. Who healed Pinch's feet when they got burned? Omakayas
26. What color cloth did Deydey bring home for mama to sew into a dress? Blue

In What Book...

- Did a girl survive smallpox as a baby?
- Was a man half Indian and half French?
- Did a girl have a bird as a good friend?
- Did a girl dislike her little brother?
- Was a girl found all alone on an island?
- Was a man good at chess?