



Grace at Spirit Lake  
A STUDY AID

## Introduction

1. The main character, Antoine Joseph Campbell, describes his childhood on the Northwest Frontier. Can you imagine living at this time on the frontier? What languages and cultures would you encounter? Describe what your life might be like?

## Forming an Expedition

2. Why did Major Cullen gather the Dakota at the Agency? Why did Little Crow and the Dakota accept his request?

## A Fatal Mistake

3. The Dakota Indian John Other Day is identified as a “Cut-hair.” What does that mean? Why do you think he became a “Cut-hair?”

## Chasing Inkpaduta

4. In *Chasing Inkpaduta*, the Dakota named Grey Leaf describes Inkpaduta and the history of his band. Can you imagine being a Dakota Indian in 1857 and being told that you must live on a reservation? How might you react?

## Frontier Alarm

5. Imagine you are a settler in Southern Minnesota in 1857 and you have just learned about the attacks at Spirit and Okoboji Lakes. How might you react? Would you be angry or scared?

## Indian Games

6. While speaking of the government, the Dakota Bright Shining Cloud said, “We rely on his generosity and we must do as he now bids.” Do you know why the Dakota had come to rely on the generosity of the American Government? Do think it was fair to send the Dakota on an expedition after Inkpaduta?

## Rescue of Mrs. Marble

7. In *Rescue of Mrs. Marble*, Joseph describes the frontier as “beyond the boundaries of civilization.” What do you think it was like to live in Minnesota before it became settled? Imagine you are a Dakota watching more and more people settle on your land. How would you feel?

## Abbie's Ceremony

8. What was the Hazelwood Republic? Who started it, and how did it play a role in the lives of Dakota Indians?

## Abbie's Rescue and Indian Humor

9. Why did Paul Mazakutamani decide he wanted to rescue the captive girl? Did his efforts have the effect he wanted?

## Unknown Lodge

10. Joseph Campbell describes himself as a "half-breed." What is a "half-breed" and what role did they play on the Minnesota Frontier?

## Soldier's Expedition from Fort Ridgely

11. What was Fort Ridgely and why was an expedition of soldiers sent from there? Can you visit Fort Ridgely today?

## Discovering the Culprits

12. Why do you think Inkpaduta and his band of Wahpekute Dakota carried out the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857? Were their reasons at all related to the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862?

## Payment Withheld

13. What was an annuity payment? Do you think it was fair that the annuity payment was withheld?

## Rebuked as a Half-Breed

14. At the end of *Rebuked as a Half-Breed*, Joseph is very conflicted. Why do you think he was so conflicted? What might you have done in his situation?

## Meeting Colonel Lee

15. In *Meeting Colonel Lee*, Joseph meets a man named Colonel Lorenzo Porter Lee. Colonel Lee met Abbie Gardner and he wrote a book about her tragic experience. If you were a historian, could you locate this book? Where would you find it?

## Attack on Springfield

16. Briefly describe what happened to Eliza Gardner. Why was it difficult for the community at Springfield to believe they could be attacked?



## Interview with Abbie

17. Imagine you are a pioneer who has moved to the frontier in 1857. Why did you come and what are you seeking?

## The Spirit Lake Massacre

18. What was the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857? Why do you think it happened and how might it have been prevented?

## Grace at Spirit Lake

19. Joseph Campbell was unable to resolve the differences between the Dakota Indians and the United States Government. But he did find peace at the end of his journey and resolution from his inner conflict. What have you learned about the complicated relationship between the Dakota Indians and the frontier settlers of Minnesota and Iowa? How can you use what you've learned today?

## Epilogue

20. Choose one of the characters, Joseph Campbell, Abbie Gardner, or Inkpaduta, and write him or her a letter. Tell him or her what you think about their story and how what they went through makes you feel.

## You be the historian

21. After reading *Grace at Spirit Lake*, what would you like to learn more about? Define your topic, identify sources, and do some research. Write a brief essay about what you've discovered and cite your sources.