



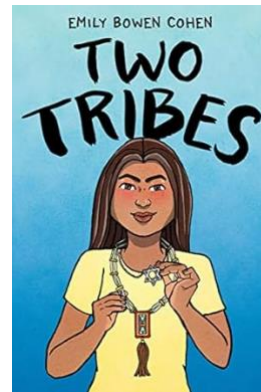
Two Tribes

Written and illustrated by Emily Bowen Cohen

Grades 6-8

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Reading Guide by Bill Younglove, L.A. Conservancy Volunteer

Pre-Reading

1. How much do you know about your family's background? How did your family come to live where it currently does? When did your relatives arrive here, and where did they come from? What did you find most interesting about your family's story, if you know it?
2. What have you learned from relatives about both sides of your family?
3. Where might you go to learn more about your family's history?
4. What do you notice about the girl on the cover of *Two Tribes*? What does she seem to be holding in her hands?
5. What does the book title, *Two Tribes*, suggest to you?

Discussion Questions

1. What is Mia's school lunch like? Why is this significant?
2. Why does Mia check *Little Indian Girl* out from the school library?
3. What is a Shabbat "To Do List"?
4. How does Rabbi Goldfarb help celebrate Shabbat, as well as Mia's Bat Mitzvah?
5. Why (or how) does the Rabbi's "like wild Indians" phrase offend?
6. How does Mia keep in contact with her Oklahoma family?



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7. Where does Mia get the money to take a bus to Oklahoma?
8. How does Mia’s Chinese girlfriend help her get to Oklahoma?
9. Who really invited Mia to visit Oklahoma? What does this suggest about Mia’s relationship with her father?
10. How does Mia entertain herself on the bus? How are her trip food choices different from her regular meals?
11. How does Mia recognize her dad?
12. What is the difference between “Creek” and “Muscogee”?
13. How has Van, Mia’s father, changed since divorcing Mia’s mom?
14. How do stepbrothers, Roy and Jay, treat Mia?
15. What are the most important things Mia learns at the powwow?
16. How does Mia use her cell phone to share what is actually happening in Oklahoma?
17. What did Mia learn from the Talmudic tale of Jonah?
18. How do Mia’s two necklaces symbolize two tribes?
19. What is the significance of the cat amulet?
20. What do the eleven people sitting around the Los Angeles home dining table symbolize, if anything?

Post-Reading

1. Interview relatives about your family's history and heritage. Write down any discoveries you make in a journal.
2. In your journal or on a bulletin board, gather any photos you might have of family members and relatives, or depict your family members through drawings or other forms of art.

