Session II: Naya Nuki — Due November 9

1. Read chapters 13-epilogue in Nayak Nuki: Girl Who Ran by Kenneth Thomasma
2. New Name Homework: Naya Nuki traveled more than 1,000 miles. Alone. At age 11. Because of her amazing feat, she earned her new name meaning “Girl Who Ran.” If you were going to receive a new name, what might it be? Boy who wrestles? Girl who reads? Spend some time thinking about what it might be and come to class with a few ideas about what your name change might be.
3. Overcoming Obstacles Homework: Naya Nuki overcame many obstacles to get back to her family and her people. For a project we will complete during class, please bring a list of answers to these questions: What are the big challenges you’ve overcome in your life? What are the happiest memories you have? What are your favorite family traditions?

Naya Nuki Chapters 13-Epilogue Summary

Naya Nuki is so close to home now that she can hardly breathe. The mountains she grew up in are right in front of her. She recognizes the rivers and the trails and the smell of the air. Her legs are exhausted and her feet are sore from walking over one thousand miles completely alone. But she does not stop. She keeps going, one step at a time, because she knows her family is just ahead.

And then it happens. Naya Nuki finds her people. Can you imagine what that moment felt like? She had been gone so long, through so much danger — a raid, a river crossing, a blizzard, a grizzly bear — and now she is standing in front of the people who love her. Her family cannot believe their eyes. They thought they might never see her again. There is crying and hugging and so much joy that the whole village celebrates. Because of everything she survived and everything she overcame to find her way home, her people give her a new name to honor her incredible journey. She has earned it in every step she took.

The epilogue — which is like a little note at the end of the story — tells us something beautiful and a little bittersweet. Naya Nuki's best friend Sacajawea, who was captured in the same raid, does not come home the same way. Sacajawea's life takes a very different path — she ends up traveling with the famous Lewis and Clark expedition years later as their guide, and she becomes one of the most well-known Native American women in all of history. The two friends who were captured together on the same terrible day ended up living two very different but very remarkable lives. And the story of Naya Nuki — the girl who ran — reminds us that bravery, love for your family, and the knowledge your people give you can carry you through almost anything.

New Name Homework

Your challenge this week: Naya Nuki traveled more than 1,000 miles. Alone. At age 11. Because of her amazing feat, she earned her new name meaning “Girl Who Ran.”

If you were going to receive a new name, what might it be? Boy who wrestles? Girl who reads? Spend some time thinking about what it might be and come to class with a few ideas about what your name change might be.

Overcoming Obstacles Homework

Naya Nuki overcame many obstacles to get back to her family and her people. For a project we will complete during class, please bring a list of answers to these questions:

1. What are the big challenges you’ve overcome in your life?
2. What are the happiest memories you have?
3. What are your favorite family traditions?