Session II: Naya Nuki — Due October 19

1. Read chapters 4-6 in Nayak Nuki: Girl Who Ran by Kenneth Thomasma — *Parent Note: If you don't want to read this book out loud to your younger children, feel free to simply read them the summary below so they know what's happening in the story. I think this story should be appropriate for K-6, but every parent and child is different. Please do what is best for your family.*
2. Read the following: Shoshone by Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiiosh — pages 22-23 (War); 24-25 (Contact With Europeans); and 26-27 (Washakie).
3. Make a Blizzard Awareness Survival Poster

Naya Nuki Chapters 4-6 Summary

After being captured, Naya Nuki is living as a slave under the Minnettaree tribe. She is far away from the mountains of Montana in the plains of North Dakota. She misses her family terribly. She works hard for an old woman trying to gain trust from her captors. But, all the while, she is making plans to escape and go back to her people. She secretly hides a knife, some food, and a buffalo hide to keep her warm when she travels home. She has to be very quiet and very sneaky so that nobody sees what she is doing. Naya Nuki is getting ready for the biggest adventure of her life.

Her best friend, Sacajawea, is sold to a French fur trader. This makes Naya Nuki sad. It also scares her. She is worried she will be sold before she can escape.

One dark and rainy night, Naya Nuki knows it is time to go. While everyone else is sleeping, she slips away as quietly as a mouse. The rain is cold and the night is very dark, but the rain is also helpful — it covers up her tracks and even the sound of her footsteps! She finds a river and wades across it so that no one can follow her tracks. She is scared, but she keeps going because she loves her family and she wants to go home.

Naya Nuki walks and walks for a very long time. The seasons are changing and winter is beginning. A big snowstorm starts. Everything turns white in a blizzard. It is so cold, and she is so tired that she keeps walking even when she can barely see.

Suddenly, she remembers a story she heard around the campfire about another blizzard. The Shoshone braves listened to a wise old brave who told them to stop and take shelter without moving. When they awoke the next morning, they were next to a cliff. She stops and covers herself with her Buffalo hide. When she wakes up the next morning, she is standing right at the edge of a very tall cliff! She is safe, but it reminds her that she must be very careful and aware of her surroundings or she might not make it home. Naya Nuki is tired and cold, but she is still not giving up.

Make a Blizzard Awareness Survival Poster

Your challenge this week: you need to explain how to survive a blizzard to a group of children your age. You can choose to explain how to survive in 2026 or in 1801 but make sure you tell us during what year we could use your directions.

Make a poster (at least one 8 ½ by 11 sheet but it may be bigger if you wish) that details everything the children will need to know to survive the blizzard. Bring it to share with the class next week.

Research blizzard survival using an online search engine. Or find a book at the library. Or read Blizzard by Christopher Lampton available on Archive.org.