**Indian Horse – Focused Reading**

You will be given one of the topics below to focus on while you read *Indian Horse.* While reading,you will need to put a post-it note to mark a page that refers to your topic. Each week, you will be reflecting on your topic in a journal entry and discussing it with other students who have been given the same topic. At the end of this novel study, your group will be presenting your findings to the class. Specific expectations regarding content and format for the presentation will be discussed as we get closer to the end of our novel study.

Focused reading topics:

1. **Turmoil vs Peace**. Consider where each state is found. Is there a pattern? How does Saul move from one to the other? What does this say about him, his journey, his people, and people in general?
2. **Captivity vs Freedom**. The characters endure many versions of both of these states. What is illuminated through these experiences?
3. **Tradition vs Modernization**. Consider how these concepts are developed in the story. Is one better than the other? What is the effect of each on the characters?
4. **Loss**. The story explores loss from many angles (Loss of family, culture, self, health, dignity/pride, language/voice). What impact does loss have on the characters and the story?
5. **Indian spirituality vs Christianity**. These two are at odds throughout the story. Note how each views the other, and the effect of each on Saul and the others.
6. **Hockey**. Explore the ever-changing role of hockey in Saul’s life.
7. **Betrayal and abandonment**. Consider what Saul learns from the adults in his life. Who abandons him? Who does not? How do these experiences shape him?
8. **Racism/Prejudice**. This story is rampant with racism and prejudice, both veiled and blatant. Discuss the effects of racism and prejudice in the story.
9. **Isolation and being made an outsider/outcast**. Discuss the effects of these experiences on Saul.