Mary Crow Dog’s *Lakota Woman*
Questions for Discussion

1. What does Mary Crow Dog’s writing style tell us?
   - Political messaging behind her and other Native American writers’ education and linear thought process.

2. How does Mary’s description of the “white/Catholic” imposed education system for Native American children help us better understand the destruction of the traditional family and religious belief structures of the Native American People by the United States government?
   - Intersection of White and Native laws (p. 10)
   - Jesus/Christianity (p. 93)
   - Leonard’s education (p.200-1)
   - Language (Lacan- universal language) and children (p. 202)

3. What do we learn about Indian methods of education?
   - Leonard’s education (p.200-1)
   - Language (Lacan- universal language) and children (p. 202)
   - Education and Language (p.77)

4. In what ways did the AIM movement attempt to unite and protest against the U.S. Government and how/why did some Native Americans resist this movement?
   - AIM began in 1968- (p. 75)
   - Lost generation (p. 79)
   - Race relations (Blacks, Chicanos – p. 77), “Racism breeds racism in reverse” (p.34)
   - Influence of TV and “modernization” movements (p.26) create envy and allow for the recognition of poverty.
   - Split between modern and traditional (p. 251)
   - Catholic education

5. How is *Lakota Woman* a feminist text?
   - New brand of feminism- procreation (p244)
   - Men’s lib (p.69)
   - Macho abuse (p. 245)
   - Women’s role in spiritual, political relms, power of women (p. 67)
   - Women as ritually unclean (p.161)
   - Women giving birth (p. 157)
   - Role of women in southern pueblos (p. 106)
   - Forced sterilizations, few complaints against rapes and sterilizations (p.9, 68)
   - Women in religion (p. 249)
6. From where is power derived?
   • What does Mary’s power of voice convey about Native American and Feminist issues? How does her writing this text (and our reading of it) impact the power struggle she describes on p. 225? “The thing to keep in mind is that laws are framed by those who happen to be in power and for the purpose of keeping them in power.”
   • Power from unity (p. 91, 101) tribal pride versus unity (p. 83)
   • Power from peyote (p. 100-1)
   • Power from tradition

7. What do we learn about religious freedom in the United States from the book?
   • Peyote
   • P. 154- banning ghost dance, sun dance, Indian religion.
   • Leonard’s imprisonment
   • Occupation at Wounded Knee

8. What do the traditions that Mary Crow Dog describes teach us about the Indian religion, practices and past persecution?
   • ghost dance revival (p. 149, 148)
   • Women giving birth (p. 157)
   • Indian Surgery (p. 146)
   • Legends (p. 11)