The Game of Silence Outline


**Setting:**
The setting is on the island of Moningwanaykaning on Lake Superior. It is known as Madeline Island today. The story is set between 1849 and 1850. It goes for an entire year in the village.

**Organization:**
The story is two hundred and forty-seven pages long with four sections and sixteen chapters.
It is split into four sections, each representing a different season. The sections range from thirty-five to seventy-five pages. The spring section and summer section are about the same length and shorter than the other two sections.
There are sixteen chapters that are about seven to twenty pages long. Each chapter has a name that describes what the chapter will be about.
The book begins with a four page prologue. The book ends with a glossary and pronunciation of some of the Native American terms. There are also activities that relate back to the story for discussion.
The book goes chronologically for one year.

**Point of View:**
The point of view is third person limited omniscient. The narrator is not a character in the book. The character the book reads from is Omakayas. We read her thoughts and feelings and no one else’s.

**Main Characters:**
**Omakayas:** “Leap frog” is a young nine year old Native American girl. She is the main character of the story. The story is about one year of her childhood where the family is worried they will have to move. Omakayas has dreams or visions that show her the future or presently where someone is. She is very mature and wise for her age. She is part of the Ojibwe tribe.

**Old Tallow:** She is the greatest hunter in the village. She is an elder hunter who raises dogs and builds canoes. She is one of the bravest persons in the village. Omakayas strives to be like her. She loses her finger when she is caught out in a storm.

**Deydey:** He is the father of Omakayas. He is a very brave man and wants to do everything he can to keep his family safe and healthy.
Yellow Kettle: She is the mother of Omakayas and has recently lost her son. She adopts a baby who is orphaned and raises him.

Angry One: He is an orphan who was taken in by Omakayas aunt and uncle. He always looks angry but has a good heart.

Two Strike: She is a cousin of Omakayas who wants to be a hunter instead of doing women’s work. She shoots a moose straight through the eye but gets to proud of herself and must be controlled.

Nokomis: She is the grandmother who is a great healer for the village.

Pinch: Omakayas’ brother who is very annoying but wants the best for his sister when she needs him.

Bizheens: Omakayas’ adopted brother who was orphaned at the beginning of the story.

Angeline: Omakayas’ sister who was has scars on her face from smallpox. She is in love with Fishtail and spends most of the book waiting for him to come home.

Fishtail: He is a very close friend of Deydey and a brave warrior who sets out to find out as much as he can about the white men. He is in love with Angeline and is like a big brother to Omakayas.

Conflicts:

Person vs. Person

Omakayas vs. Two Strike: Omakayas and Two Strike have an ongoing conflict throughout the story. Omakayas doesn’t like what Two Strike does because Two Strike thinks she is better than everyone else. They are always disagreeing about how to handle problems. Two Strike is also mad at Omakayas because she got a dog from Old Tallow and Two Strike did not.

Omakayas vs. Pinch: Pinch is annoying Omakayas throughout the book. She is yelling at him and chasing him when he pulls her hair or puts a frog down her dress. It is a brother sister conflict that a person sees in all families.

Ojibwes vs. White Men: The white men have broken their promises to Omakayas’ tribe and are killing them one by one. They are also forcing them off of their land and attempting to take over what was rightfully theirs to begin with.

Omakayas vs. Her Parents: Omakayas gets in trouble with her mother and father for going ricing before the older people gave them permission and showed them the correct way to do it.

Person vs. Nature

Omakayas vs. Winter Weather: Omakayas is caught out in the weather with her grandmother when it turns cold quickly. Omakayas is scared and starts to fall asleep because she is so cold. It is difficult for her to keep moving until she must be carried to safety by her grandmother. She gets frostbite after being out in the cold weather.

Old Tallow vs. Winter Weather: Old Tallow is hunting when the cold weather comes and she falls down a small cliff while chasing an animal. She is knocked out and loses one of her gloves. This causes her to later lose her finger because the feeling never comes back after being out in the cold air for so long.
Old Tallow vs. The Storm: Old Tallow is forced to brave the horrible storm and the fierce effect it has had on the river in order to save Pinch who had gotten left behind when the family returned from ricing.

Deydey vs. Weather: Deydey and the soul stealer (Father Baraga) get stranded on an island due to the sudden change in weather. However, Omakayas has a dream that shows her where they are, allowing them to be rescued.

**Person vs. Society**

Two Strike vs. Society: Two Strike wants to be a hunter but she is forced to do women’s work until she can prove that she can be a hunter. She gets upset with all of the adults because she must do women’s work until she shoots the moose in the eye.

Omakayas vs. Village: When Twilight and Omakayas go to the rice fields and knock them too early, they are punished because they didn’t follow the rules and wait for the elders to tell if the rice is ready. The girls wasted precious food that is needed by trying to be better than the rest of the villagers.

Ojibwe vs. Chimookomanag: The chimookomanag, the white people, are trying to push the Ojibwe to leave their home island and move further west.

**Person vs. Self**

Omakayas vs. Self: When Omakayas is trying to get back to the village with her grandmother after the cold weather hits, her mind keeps telling her that she needs to lay down and stop. She must fight with herself to keep moving and not give up.

Omakayas vs. Self: There is a conflict at the beginning of the story until Omakayas goes out to be alone with the spirits between her and the dreams she is having. She is afraid of her dreams and doesn’t want to tell the rest of her family about them. It is a conflict that she must accept and not push away or ignore her gift.

Omakayas vs. Self: Omakayas has to grow up quickly and come to accept the idea that her family will be forced to leave their homeland and has to accept that change is a part of life.

**Plot Structure:**

**Introduction:**

The story begins with a prologue introducing Omakayas and some of the main characters as well Omakayas seeing the jeemaanan (canoes) coming to the island with men, women and children. (ix-xii)

“The Game of Silence” is introduced. It is when the adults are talking about important things and the children must be quiet. Whoever sits and is quiet the longest wins the presents in the middle of the circle. This game no one lost because the information was so important that none of the children dared to talk. (17-19)

**Rising Action:**

The people of the village discuss having to move because of the paper that they signed with the white people without knowing that they would eventually have to leave their home. Fishtail and three other warriors are sent in the four directions to find out who angered the white people. (20-25)
The Break-Apart girl is introduced. She is a white girl who is named because it looks like her dress is going to break her into two pieces. Omakayas, Twilight and her are good friends who go to school together. (45-49)

One of Old Tallow’s dogs has given birth and Omakayas and Twilight are sent out to find where the litter is. They each get to pick out a puppy after they find the litter. (53-56)

The village makes canoes from the trees on the island and Pinch cuts himself with a hatchet but Omakayas and Nokomis help him. (67-69)

Twilight and Omakayas go out to the rice fields and start knocking them before everyone else to try and show that they can be trusted when a moose comes out of the rice plants. Two Strike shoots the moose in the perfect spot to kill it and the girls are punished for knocking the rice too early. Pinch is left behind during a storm and Old Tallow has to go back to the rice plants and rescue him. (78-92)

Omakayas invites the Break-Apart girl into the sweat bath but the Break-Apart girl refuses because the women are taking of their clothes when they go in. She feels uncomfortable with it because it is not her culture to take off her clothes in front of people. (136-138)

Pinch warns Omakayas that Two Strike is planning on taking her warriors out to Old Tallow’s and killing her dogs because one growled at her. (143-147)

Omakayas and Nokomis go out to set snares and they are caught by the cold winter elements. Omakayas gets frost bite and Old Tallow is also found knocked out. She loses her finger because of the frost bite. (172-183)

Omakayas has one of her dreams when Deydey is missing for half a moon and she directs the men to where they are in order to save him and the Father. (209-218)

Climax:
Omakayas is sent out to be alone with the spirits and to find her spirit which turns out to be a bear. She sees a vision of her when she is much older surrounded by children on a different island. She is telling them stories and is happy. (224-232)

Falling Action:
Fishtail returns to the village and says that no one has injured any white men and that they must move west. (233-236)

Resolution:
Omakayas and her family leave their home and move to a new place. While leaving they play The Game of Silence again. Omakayas is scared but knows that it will be fine because she saw it in her dream. (246-248)

Style:
The diction in the book is difficult because there are many Ojibwe words used. For example the words jeemaanan, mashkiki, and geegooonyag are all native Ojibwe words that could be difficult for readers. The good thing is there is a glossary in the back of the book to help the readers with the words. The sentence structure is simple and easy to follow through the book. It is a narrative third person limited omniscient.
The story follows the seasons so it is easy to figure out where the story is at when reading the descriptions of the nature. There are many descriptive words about the nature and how the people work that makes it fun for the readers. This plot is also very true to its time, as there have been times in past history where tribes were forced to leave their homelands and relocate.

**Symbols:**

**Animal friends:** The animal friends that Omakayas has throughout the book symbolize how close she and her family are to nature and how trusting they are that they can have wild animals as friends.

**Doll given to Omakayas by her father:** This doll represents a baby that she can have and protect until her mother wants her to help with Bizheens because she wants to protect him.

**The game of silence:** For the young children this is a game that starts after an adult sings the Game of Silence Song four times. The children must be quiet and cannot talk until the game is over, which is when the adults say it is over. If a child does not talk throughout the entire game they receive a prize, however if a child doesn’t make noise or talk during the game they lose and do not receive a prize. For the adults, this game represents their time to focus and discuss bigger and important matters without having to worry about being interrupted by the children.

**Fire:** When Deydey is thinking hard about problems he stares into the fire.

**Old Tallow’s Jacket:** Old Tallow brings out her jacket when winter has finally arrived so it represents the beginning of winter.

**Makataywazi:** This is Omakayas’ dog that she was given by Old Tallow. This dog represents Omakayas growth in maturity, because Old Tallow is comfortable enough with letting her raise one of these pups and trusts that Omakayas can and will take care of them.

**Omakayas’ Dreams:** Omakayas’ dreams represent her gift and talent to predict what is going to happen in the future, as well as her purpose in her community. It is her dreams that make her realize that her and her people must leave their land behind and move westward.

**Omakayas’ Crow:** Represents Omakayas’ playfulness. It also represents loyalty, since it never leaves her for very long.

**Charcoal:** Represents the maturation of a child into an adolescent and with that maturation comes the darker side of the world.

**Themes:**

*The most important thing in life is family.* – Throughout the book, the readers hear about family all the time. In the village everyone is related to everyone and they work together to make the village thrive. Omakayas is always talking about how much time she spends with her grandmother and aunt and uncle. She mentions more than once that even though Pinch annoys her, she still loves him and does not want anything bad to happen to him. To these people, family is the most important thing in their lives.
Home is where your family is. – The village’s biggest problem is that they will have to move west because the white people claim to own the land. Omakayas talks about the different houses that they live in during the harvesting and winter. They may live in different places but they are always home where ever their family is. This is what is most important about Omakayas dream about the future. She knows that no matter where they live, they will be happy because they are together as a family.

Trust yourself. – Omakayas finds out as the story goes on that she needs to trust herself and her dreams. She doesn’t trust her dreams from the beginning about what she thinks they mean. By the end she understands after seeing many events that if she trusts herself and her dreams, she will be happy with herself and her family.

Take the time to learn about yourself. – In this book, we are shown the purpose of getting to know ourselves better through Omakayas. Throughout the book, Omakayas ignores all of her dreams and visions, but once she realizes that what she is dreaming is lining up with what is actually happening, her and her community begin to realize that she has a gift. It is when she is in the woods that realizes her purpose and that her and her people will have to accept the change that is ahead and willingly leave their homeland.

You have to take the cards life deals you. – Omakayas’ family was forced off of their land for no apparent reason and had no choice in the matter. They didn’t even try to fight it because they knew that staying together as a family was more important than where they would have to live.

You can’t stay a little kid forever: Omakayas tried to wait as long as possible before she had to go out on her spirit journey but deep down she knew it was inevitable. Once the time came, she still didn’t want to go but she did anyways and she survived despite her fears and hunger pains. She came out of the experience with more knowledge and wisdom than she went into it with.
The Game Of Silence Literary Devices

Stephanie Kuzyk
Summer: Chapters 1-6
Pages 1-94

1. Analogy:
   A complex comparison with multiple points of comparison.
   “They were like skinny herons with long poles for legs and clothes like drooping feathers” (2).
   This analogy is comparing the visitors that came to Omakayas Island to skinny herons, as well as comparing the visitors legs to long poles and their clothes to drooping feathers.

2. Hyperbole:
   An over the top exaggeration.
   “She’d had enough of him to last her whole life” (14)!
   This is an example of a hyperbole because even though Omakayas is fed up with Pinch, her saying that she has “had enough of him to last her whole lifetime” is quite an exaggeration.

3. Metaphor:
   A comparison of two dissimilar things that have some quality in common.
   “But as the chimookamanag push us, so we push the Bwaanag. We are caught between two packs of wolves” (21).
   In the text, Deydey discusses how they used to get along with the Bwaanag, but because they are being pushed and threatened by the chimookamanag, they are also, unintentionally threatening the Bwaanag. It is the unwanted conflict between both the chimookamanag and the Bwaanag that makes them feel that they are “caught between two packs of wolves”. In this example, the chimookamanag and the Bwaanag are being compared to “two packs of wolves”.

4. Personification:
   Giving human qualities to something that is not human.
   “The slimy ooze simply gulped him in” (42).
   This is a sentence used in the text to describe what the mud, “the slimy ooze,” did to pinch when he fell in the mud. “The slimy ooze,” the mud, gulped him in.
   This is an example of personification, because gulping is a human quality the mud is given in this sentence.
5. Foreshadowing:

A clear indication of what’s coming in the text.

“Omakayas had already dreamed of her protector, the bear. Her bear spirit had come to her after the terrible winter when she lost her brother. She didn’t need to fast. She was sure that she had suffered enough! Omakayas knew it was wrong, but she decided not to tell her mother or Nokomis about the dream. What if it meant that she must go back to the woods, alone” (60)?

Previous to the text I quoted above, Omakayas is thinking about a dream she had recently, telling her to “take the charcoal.” It is explained in the text that once the children are ready to go off in to the woods alone, they blacken their faces with charcoal, so the people know of their intentions. Then a relative takes that child into the woods and leaves them there for four days and four nights with no food. The child is checked on everyone once in a while for safety reasons, but the child fasted in the hopes that the spirits of the animals or of the winds, of the waters, etc., would have pity on them, and choose to be the protector of that child for his or her entire life.

The above quoted text is an example of foreshadowing because Omakayas has already had her spirit speak to her in her dreams and she knows that her protector is the bear. However, she was afraid of going in the woods alone, so she decided not to tell anyone about the dream she had. However, this foreshadows that when she decides to tell someone about her dream, she will be sent out into the woods to fast and will be approached by the bear, her spirit.

“Your daughter is ready” (224).

This is what Nokomis told Yellow Kettle and Deydey when Omakayas decided to go out into the woods alone.

“You’ll camp here” (226).

This is what Nokomis told Omakayas when she took her out into the woods to be alone with the spirits and fast.

“There they were, at the base – a heavy mother bear shedding patches of fur and her little winter-born cub” (228). “There was something about the way they had visited her so politely, and lingered in her presence, then left with a subdued quietness, that reminded Omakayas of the way people visit when they’ve come to say good-bye” (230).

In this part of the book we find out that Omakayas is approached by the bear, her protector, just as the author had foreshadowed earlier in the novel. Also, the author also foreshadows or hints that Omakayas’s family is going to have to leave their island when the author describes the way in which the two bears had visited Omakayas and how it reminded Omakayas of the way people visited when they’ve come to say good-bye.
6. Simile
   Compares one dissimilar thing, person, and experience to another. Uses like or as.
   “Her skin was creased like the finest doeskin.”
   This simile compares Omakaya’s grandmother’s skin to that of a skin from an animal. Pg 100

7. Metaphor
   Compares one dissimilar thing, person and experience to another. Equates that the two thing are equal (A=B).
   “Her smile created a fan of pleasant wrinkles.”
   The author is comparing a fan and its wrinkles to the smile of Nokomis. Pg 100

8. Point of View
   The perspective from which the story is told. Who is telling the story?
   Is the narrator a character?
   “I was a little younger than you when I saw one of them, and I have never forgotten, for he saved my life then, and ever since, he has helped me in many ways. Pg 103
   The point of view in this selection is 1st Person because the narrator is a character and is telling the story from her youth.

9. Foreshadowing
   A warning or indication of the future. A statement or story of what will occur in the future.
   “Omakayas couldn’t help but wonder whether this would be the last time they would move from their summer camp to their winter cabin on her beloved island…By next summer would everything change?” Pg 97-98.
   Knowing of the possible migration that her people faced, Omakayas was foreshadowing what would happen and how bad she would miss the simple things from her land.

10. Style
    What an author says and how the author says it. How the author chooses to use his words to make an effect on the reader. The author may choose to have a descriptive effect to define the situation or plain to commit a feeling to the reader.
    “Pinch began to cry. Tears popped from his eyes but he was too proud to make a sound.”
    Knowing the game of silence and the rules, despite crying Pinch knows that he should not make a sound. The author style is in effect here because the reader knows the set up, what happened and what should occur. The word choice is very detailed, specific and outlines the circumstance Pinch is going through at the time. Knowing they practice playing the game of silence, the author uses the words to create a imagery effect on the reader."
11. Personification:
Giving animals, objects, or even ideas “human” qualities.
“There were even other coats contained within the coat, as if it had swallowed them up” (157).

12. Point of View:
The perspective from which the story is told. When the author narrates in the third person omniscient point of view, we assume the facts are as stated. When the narration is given from one (first person) or more characters (third person limited omniscient), then the “facts” can be questioned and the narrator may be called an unreliable narrator.
Most of this story is told in third person limited omniscient. The reader is only given insight into the mind of the main character, Omakayas. However, there is at least one point in the story where the reader gets into the mind of the grandmother, Nokomis.
“When the crust broke, Nokomis wallowed in the snow. Several times, she had to put Omakayas down and hoist her up again, onto her back. At last, just as she wondered if she could do it again, Nokomis saw Deydey picking his way toward them” (173-174).

13. Simile:
A comparison of two dissimilar things that uses “like” or “as.”
“Yes, she stepped into misty air like it was solid” (178-179).
Compares misty air to something solid.
“Old Tallow’s expression changed only in one slight degree—her mouth tightened on one side as though a stitch was suddenly pulled tight” (183).
Compares the movement of her mouth to a stitch being pulled.

14. Diction:
The choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing.
The word choice in this story is rather difficult since there is a lot of Native American vocabulary. However, there is a glossary that defines and gives pronunciation of all the Ojibwe terms.
“Ogitchidaag” (187); “gookooshag” (187); “asin” (194); “Anishinabeg” (196);
“chimookoman” (196).

15. Cliché:
A phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought.
“Omakayas said this although in her heart, she didn’t know if it was true or she just wanted to believe it was true” (192).
“As for Omakayas, the next day and the next her heart was very heavy” (199).
16. Simile:
Comparing two dissimilar things that have some quality in common using “like” or “as”
“When Yellow Kettle’s rage fixed on Omakayas, she knew that she should just stay still and let it roll like a loud but harmless storm high in the clouds.” (pg 210)
The simile is comparing Yellow Kettle’s rage and a harmless storm high in the clouds.

17. Diction:
An author’s word choice
“Omakayas dropped each stone into the makuk of water.” (pg 216)
“Gego, Pinch!” (pg 218)
“Nokomis sat on woven pukwe mat, her bundles spread all around her…” (pg 236)
All of these sentences have Ojibwe words in them. This is an important part of the diction in the story because it brings the readers into the culture of the Ojibwe by using their language in the text. By using their language, the readers can feel like they are part of the culture.

18. Mood:
The emotion that the reader feels from the passage
“Pinch!” Mama jumped up in a sudden rage and fell into her husband’s arms. Emotions clashed in her face-irritation turned to shock. Wonder overcame her, and then simple joy. Mama buried her face in Deydey’s shirt and her shoulders shook in a combination of tears and laughter.” (pg 218)
This passage takes the reader through a series of emotions from Mama’s point of view. By reading the passage, the reader can feel how Mama is responding to the irritation of thinking it is Pinch bugging her and then the shock and joy that she has after seeing her husband who she has been very worried about. It is a very powerful passage full of emotions.

19. Analogy:
An explanation of a complex concept or idea using a more familiar or simpler one.
“Your mother has a river of patience. The river is very broad and deep. But there are big rocks in it!” (pg 213)
The quote is comparing mother’s patience and a river. It is comparing how her patience is large and how it has rocks or obstacles that she must overcome. It is comparing her mother’s patience to the obstacles of the rocks in three different ways.
20. Personification:
   Giving animals, objects or even ideas “human” qualities
   “Deep in the night, it began to complain. All day, the great booming sounds of
   the ice cracking came and went.” (pg 206)
   The author is giving the cracking ice the human quality of complaining. The
   complaining is really the cracking and noise of the ice as it breaks.
The Game Of Silence Quiz Questions

Stephanie Kuzyk
Summer: Chapters 1-6
Pages 1-94

1. What happened to Omakayas’s youngest brother Neewo?
   **He died of smallpox. (pg. x)**

2. Why is the white girl who lives in the village over from Omakayas called the Break-Apart Girl?
   **Her dress nearly cuts her in half, and her waist is so tiny it looks like it could snap. (pg. 46)**

3. What was Omakayas given by Old Tallow?
   **Omakayas was given a dog. (pg. 55)**

4. What do Omakayas and Twilight get in trouble for on the day they are going ricing?
   **Omakayas and Twilight went out ricing before they were told they could. (pg. 81)**

5. What did Deydey make for Omakayas?
   a) A Necklace
   b) A Doll (pg. 10)
   c) A Dress
   d) A Blanket

Brent Stinson
Fall: Chapters 7-9
Pages: 97-153

6. What were two indications that fall was occurring? Pg 97
   **(The sun lost its strength, and the leaves fell from the trees.)**

7. What animal did Two Strike kill?
   **(Moose,) Pg 142**

8. What does Pinch reveal to Omakayas?
   **(That he may never see Omakayas again for tomorrow he is going to join Two Strike in attacking Old Tallow’s dogs (Pg 143)**

9. At the beginning of Chapter 8, where do Omakayas and Angeline go?
10. What weapons did Two Strike and Pinch use to attack Old Tallow’s dogs?
   The attackers used arrows and rocks. (Pg 148-149)

11. What did it mean when Old Tallow was seen wearing her coat?
   Winter was about to truly begin (157-158)

12. What does Omakayas help the Angry One do?
   She tells him she will finish his chores of hauling water so that he can go play
   with Pinch when they are having their snowball fight (167).

13. What are Angeline and Omakayas learning in school?
   They are learning how to write letters and numbers (169).

14. What is the only part of Old Tallow’s body that her dogs did not manage to keep warm
    when she got caught in the cold? (180)
    a. Her foot
    b. Her hand
    c. Her entire arm
    d. Her leg

15. What does Cloud tell the rest of the tribe after he finally returns from his voyage?
   It was not the Native Americans that broke the treaty but the white men.
   They told empty promises that they never fulfilled (195-199).

16. Where has Deydey gone at the beginning of the spring section? (205)
    a. To find Fishtail
    b. To War
    c. To hunt
    d. With Father Baraga
       (the black robe)

17. What animal does Omakayas encounter while she is alone with the spirits in the woods?
    (228)
    a. Crow
    b. Squirrel
    c. Bear
    d. Frog
18. What does Omakayas see in her dream after she encounters her spirit animal in the woods? (231-232)
   - *The future on a new island with her family and when she is older and happy with many children playing around her.*

19. What does Omakayas leave behind when she and her family move away? Whom does she leave it with? (244-245)
   - *Makataywazi her dog with the Break-Apart Girl*

20. What does the family do as they are paddling away from the island that they did at the beginning of the story? (247-248)
   - *Plays the Game of Silence*
The Game Of Silence Exam Questions

Stephanie Kuzyk  
Summer: Chapters 1-6  
Pages 1-94

1. At the beginning of the novel, who came to visit Omakayas’s Island, and why did they come?
   - Cousins, old friends, lost relatives, and other’s they hadn’t seen in years. (pg. 3)
   - These people came because the white people pushed them off of their land to settle on it. (pg. 21)

2. Why does Fishtail leave the island, and why is Angeline sad?
   - Fishtail leaves the island to try and make peace with the white people to try and prevent being pushed off of their land. (pg. 24)
   - Angeline is sad because she really likes Fishtail. (pg. 24-27)

3. How did Omakayas gain a brother the day the visitors came to their island, and what does this new baby mean to Yellow Kettle?
   - During dinner, a woman told Yellow Kettle that the baby she had was not hers. She tells Yellow Kettle how they have been running for their lives and they have been forced to leave everything behind, and that she doesn’t know what happened to the baby’s parents. Yellow Kettle ended up taking the baby, feeding it, and making it her own. (pg. 7)
   - The new baby helps Yellow Kettle to heal from the loss of Neewo. It gives her someone to hold and love, just as she used to do with Neewo. (pg. 8)

4. When Omakayas and her family return from ricing, who do they realize is missing and has been left behind? Who goes back for him/her who was left behind, and why is it dangerous?
   - Pinch was left behind. (pg. 84)
   - Old Tallow goes out looking for him. (pg. 85)
   - It was dangerous to go back out on the water because there was a storm coming in that Old Tallow would get stuck in the middle of while searching for Pinch. (pg. 86)

5. What did Two Strike receive so much praise for? Why was it so significant?
   - Two Strike killed a Moose. (pg. 80)
   - This was significant because she killed the Moose with one arrow, in one shot, striking it in the eye allowing it to strike deep in to the brain. (pg. 80)
6. What three items was Nokomis teaching Omakayas? What significance does this hold for the future of not only Omakayas, but future generations?
   (Plants, Roots, and Medicine, The significance is the history; pride and way to live off the land yet appreciate the simplest gifts.) Pg 99

7. During Chapter 7, what was the message Nokomis was trying to get across to Omakayas before working on her healing work?
   (Omakayas must seek instruction and protection from her spirits. The instruction would come from her work with adults or her elders and the protection from her spirits would come later on in the book when she was out in the wild on her own.) Pg 110

8. After getting into a disagreement with Two Strike, what does Omakayas challenge Two Strike to, and how does this reflect the growth in her character? Pg 114-116.
   (Omakayas challenges Two Strike to a race in which she feels it will be successful. It shows her spiritual and self growth in terms of confidence within herself to succeed).

9. How do the jobs of the traders reflect the times of the book? Pg 126
   (The jobs of the traders at the market reflect the commitment to using the land, the access land for food, shelter, and survival. The Ojibwe believed in using the land with respect and using available resources to help provide for their tribe. They knew the appropriate amount to hunt, how to further enhance the land and respect one another.

10. How did the families prepare for the winter ahead? Pg 126, 98, 99
    (The families prepared for winter by trading man made materials, hunting and fishing the land for food to eat. The Ojibwe tribe would make clothing necessary for survival in the winter, and shelter to live in the winter. Omakayas family would live in a cabin for the winter season while the male members of the tribe would hunt).

11. What was the moral of the story about the little girl and the Wiindigoo?
    Be kind to the most helpless people, including the poor, the old, and the children especially since you never know who the spirits will be kind to (164).
12. How did Old Tallow’s dogs save her life?
   When she falls off the cliff and gets knocked out only one dog comes back to get Mikwam while the others surrounded her covering everything but her hand, keeping her body warm with their body heat (180).

13. Why did Mikwam refuse to be baptized by Father Baraga?
   If he were baptized he wouldn’t be able to see any of his ancestors in the everlasting life since they had not been baptized, so he refused (188-189).

14. Why was the stone that Omakayas found outside her snow house so important?
   It was a rare stone to find because it had been shaped into a perfect sphere by the waves. These were the kinds of stones that contained protective spirits (194).

15. What is the significance of Angeline letting Omakayas stitch a flower on Fishtail’s wedding vest?
   Angeline had regarded Omakayas as too little to worry about lately because she spent all her time worrying about Fishtail, so it shows that Angeline loves and trusts Omakayas and wants her to be a part of her life and future marriage (202).

16. What event in nature happens that brings the entire village to the water’s edge? What happens to Auntie Muskrat and Miskobines when they are watching this event? (206-207)
   The ice begins to crack or break apart on the lake.
   Auntie Muskrat and Miskobines are standing on the water’s edge when a large crack splits all the way from the center of the lake with such force that when it hits the land near them, they are throw back into the sand.

17. What kept Deydey and Father Baraga from getting home on time from their journey? (218-221)
   Deydey wanted to make sure that they were safe and said they should took the long way around but Baraga said no. When they started across the ice, it began to break up around them until they were on a chunk of floating ice. After floating down the river, they were able to get to land where they waited for to be rescued.

18. What is important about Omakayas and her interaction between the bear cub? (228-230)
   Omakayas and the bear’s interaction are important because between the two they had had a moment where they are just staring at each other. This is important because Omakayas has not had the dreams she is hoping to have
while alone with the spirits. Since her spirit animal is a bear, this is what triggers the dream that she is hoping to have while alone.

19. After Fishtail finally returns home, what news does he bring to the village? Explain at least one. (234-235)

- He brings news that many people have died because of rotten pork and spoiled provisions.
- He also says that the government is forcing the Ojibwe out of their homes.
- An official is coming to tell them that they must move west soon.

20. Why does the book end the same way it started with the game of silence? What is different about the game at the end? (247-249)

- It ends the same because the people are moving away and this is the most important event right now. It is also a very sad time when everyone is remembering the times they had on the island and because they are sad to leave.
- The difference between the game at the beginning and the game at the end is that the game at the end is going to have no winners. There will be no prizes for the person who stays silent the longest because it is too important and everyone understands why it is important.
The Game Of Silence Essay Questions

Stephanie Kuzyk
Summer: Chapters 1-6
Pages 1-94

**Essay Question:** What are the rules of the game of silence? How is the game of silence different for the kids than the adults? How is the game of silence different at the beginning of the book, compared to how it is at the end of the book?

I. The Rules of the Game  
   a) A song is sung four times to introduce the game of silence (pg. 18)  
   b) Everyone playing the game must be silent (pg. 18-19)  
   c) No one can speak again until an adult tells them it is okay (pg. 15)  
   d) If anyone talks they lose the game of silence (pg. 18)  
   e) A prize is given to those who make it the whole way throughout the game without talking until they are told it is okay (pg. 18-19)

II. Difference of the game between the children and the adults  
   a) For the kids – It is a game! If the kids follow the rules of the game they get a prize once it is over. (pg. 17-19)  
   b) For the adults – This game is a time for the adults to discuss serious matters without worrying about being interrupted by the children. (pg. 18-25)

III. Difference of the game at the beginning and end of the book  
   a) Beginning of the Book – It is a game in the beginning. The children get prizes if they follow the rules of the game. (pg. 17-19)  
   b) End of the Book – It is no longer a game. This time there were no prizes. There were enemies of the Ojibwe who would not appreciate them entering into their territory and would attack. This time the game of silence was now a game of life and death. (pg. 247-248)

Brent Stinson
Fall: Chapters 7-9
Pages: 97-153

**Essay Question:** How does the mentality, wisdom and warrior spirit of Old Tallow compare with the migration situation facing the Ojibwe tribe?

The mentality of Old Tallow was one of survival by using the land and resources available around her. Her weapons were made of the tools around her such as trees. She lived off the land for food and transportation. Pg 148-149
Her wisdom with the land came from experience and knowing where things were. Pg 147, 150. Omakaya awoke in Old Tallow’s cabin which was well suited for the weather.

When being attacked her warrior spirit came out and she snuck up upon Pinch and Two Strike. With two quick motions Old Tallow had tied up Two Strike. Pg 150-153.

Knowing their days were numbered, Old Tallow got in her boat with her goods, the dogs and was willing to take on any obstacles that may come her way. Pg 246-247

Stephanie Lueck
Winter: Chapters 10-13
Pages: 157-202

**Essay Question:** What information does Cloud give about the other men that he left with and why does it cause Angeline grief? How would you feel if you had to put yourself in Angeline’s position?

Cloud tells the tribe that it was the white men that broke the treaty, not the Native Americans (196).

The government tried to lure them out of their land by giving them payments and telling them that they had to wait for them to arrive, but it never did. Everything the government told them was a lie (196-197).

A lot of the men began to get sick and die, but he did not see Fishtail get sick or die, he did not know where he was though (198).

Chelsea Brolsma
Spring: Chapters 14-16
Pages: 205-248

**Essay Question:** Describe Omakayas’ dream that she has when she is alone with the spirits. What makes this dream important to Omakayas? How does it affect her when Fishtail comes home and she realizes that her village will have to move west? How does the dream affect her when they are leaving the island? (231-232, 235, 245-248)

Omakayas’ Dream:

**Starts with her and her family moving out of their home and loading their canoes with their belongings (231)**

**Includes their trip down river where they find a new home on the island of spirits where she watches her brothers grow up (231)**

**She is walking with a man at her side (231)**
Ends with her as an old woman with children running and playing all around her (232)
Strengths and Challenges of *The Game of Silence*

In the book *The Game of Silence* there are strengths and challenges but many more strengths. The strengths lie in the structure, style and content of the story. The structure’s strengths include the separated sections which represent the seasons of the year, and this gives the students a time frame while reading. The plot line is very easy to follow and understand. The anecdotes in the book break up the story enough that it keeps the readers interested without having long chapters. There are also pictures throughout that give the readers an idea of what is would look like. The most useful tool in this story is the glossary in the back of the book that translates the Ojibwe words to English. The style’s strengths include the sentence structure and diction, which are easy to follow throughout the story. The imagery in the story is amazing. It helps to bring the readers into the story because of the descriptions of the surroundings. The content’s strengths include the Native American lifestyles that the students are learning about while reading the book. It can be used for other projects and units in a classroom setting. It could be used as a comparison between tribes. It also brings together the game of silence from beginning to end. It makes a great comparison theme for an essay at the end of the book comparing the two. The courage that one little girl has in this story is very inspiring and a great strength for the book. Another great strength of the book is that it can stand alone from *The Birchbark House*, which is the first in the series, and the readers do not have to have read the first one to understand the second one.
There are not many challenges to be found in the book. The length of the book can be a challenge because it is geared for a younger audience that may not want to read a book that is over two hundred pages long. The students could get bored with it before the book is over. The teacher needs to make sure the students stay engaged in the book. The beginning of the story is slow to start and get into, which could be a challenge for the students who need to get “hooked” right away in order to keep reading the book. It would help if the teacher has the students start reading the book and get them into the book and the exciting parts. The names and diction could be a challenge too because the students would have to look in the back of the book to the glossary if they cannot figure out the word from the context. The names could be distracting because they are different than the one we hear in our culture. Another challenge is that the story is depressing and does not have a truly happy ending because the family has to move from their home. The challenges are not a big factor in this book but they are important to know and understand before choosing the book for a unit in a classroom.