

Native American Literature
Discussion Questions

***Powwow* by George Ancona**

Created by Dorothea M. Susag for OPI library project

1. Where did the term “powwow” come from? What does it mean today? Who participates?
2. What does “pan-Indian” mean? How might that this concept be demonstrated in Montana?
3. When, where, and why do the Crow celebrate Crow Fair?
4. Describe a Crow tepee – material, number of poles, contemporary additions.
5. What is the significance of dance clothes to individuals and families? What materials are used and why? What are the four dance categories?
6. What is a “drum”? Explain its importance to the people and their ceremony.
7. Explain the order of dancers and describe each. What traditions does this practice perpetuate? What are the skills that a good dancer must demonstrate?
8. How do the traditions of men and women compare and contrast?
9. What additions to the regalia or the powwow have been added as a result of the coming of the Europeans?
10. How do the concessions contribute to the success of the Crow Fair?
11. How might this book support or contradict popular stereotypes of American Indians?
12. What is a giveaway? What traditions does it keep alive?