

Dar and the Spear-Thrower

Directions: In your Living Journal, answer one set of questions (either a. or b.) for EACH chapter with at least one paragraph.

Chapter 8: Intruder

- a. What do you think is the meaning or purpose of an initiation ceremony? Can you think of some tests, events, or ceremonies that perform this function today?
- b. What do you think are the important differences between being a child and an adult (both sexes) in the lifestyle we live today? Do you feel that there are advantages to being a child? To being an adult? Any disadvantages?

Chapter 9: Dark of the Moon

- a. Initiation ceremonies throughout the world often demand that the subject experience some pain or deprivation. What do Dar and Bowan endure in order to be initiated? What do you think is the purpose of such trials?
- b. Do you think the demonstration of courage is important to the young person going through an initiation ceremony? Why might the difficulty and pain of the initiation be ultimately important to the community?

Chapter 10: The Sacred Cave

- a. All communities and cultures create and participate in ceremonies for a great variety of reasons. What are some of our ceremonies, both private and public? What do you think is the purpose of this very common human behavior?
- b. What could be the purpose of holding a ceremony in a mysterious painted cave? People have long been fascinated by the paintings found by archeologists in uninhabited caves in France and Spain, yet they disagree about the purpose and meaning of the art. Why do you think these paintings were created?