

## Student Discussion Questions

### Book Description

*Flight* is about a 15-year-old boy nicknamed “Zits” who finds himself traveling back and forth through time in a violent search for who he is. Along the way he is dropped into the middle of many different lives, including an FBI agent during the 1970 civil rights movement and an Indian child in the battle of Little Big Horn. During the frantic trips through Native American history, he begins to evolve and starts to understand his own identity and come to peace with his world.

**As you read *Flight*, consider these questions in preparation for your lively discussion of the book (as part of WOW) on September 16, 2009.**

1. This novel begins with its main character naming himself for us: he commands us to “call [him] Zits.” What is the significance of a name? What is Zits trying to tell us about himself with his nickname? Why do you think Zits withholds his “real” name from us until the very end of the novel?
2. Zits recalls that a social worker once told him he had “never developed a sense of citizenship” (p. 5). What do you understand “citizenship” to mean? How does it relate to a sense of belonging? What is the difference between being a citizen of a nation and, for example, a member of a tribe, a race, or a family?
3. Think about each of the characters Zits “inhabits”: what do they all have in common? What does each of these episodes have in common? Do you think Zits is learning the same lesson over and over again, or is he somehow progressing from one episode to the next? If it’s the latter, then what do you think he is progressing toward?
4. After multiple bad experiences with Caucasian foster families, Zits develops a positive relationship with a Caucasian family at the end of the book. How is he able to make the transition? Does his Native American identity play a role or not?
5. How did this novel inform you or change your view of the Native American cultural experience? What do you think was Alexie’s goal in writing this story?

