



Close-Reading Group Questions

Section 1

1. Dekanawidah is considered the Great Peacemaker and the founder of the Haudenosaunee people. Explain the metaphor he uses to describe the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee.
2. The Five Nations that make up Haudenosaunee include the people of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca lands. In what ways are the people of the Five Nations expected to act or behave with one another?
3. How are the Five Nations similar to the newly declared independent states in 1776?

Section 2

4. How is business to be conducted by the Five Nations Confederate Council? Does the process seem familiar to you?
5. Why do you think “a unanimous decision” is required?
6. Under the Five Nations Confederate Council, what happens if a decision is not unanimous? Why do you think this step is in place?

Section 3

7. If the men and women of the Five Nations believe their leader is not obeying the laws, what steps can the people take?
8. Does anything surprise you about the Five Nations’ process to remove a leader who has disobeyed the laws?
9. Why do you think the Haudenosaunee believe their leader needs to be attentive to the welfare of the people?

Section 4

10. What qualities and characteristics do the Haudenosaunee think make good candidates to serve on the Confederate Council?
11. What is a requirement of those being considered for office? Does this requirement surprise you?
12. What duties are required of the War Chief?



Section 5

13. How do the Haudenosaunee view ownership of land and property?
14. Why do you think members of the Haudenosaunee must recognize and accept other members of the Five Nations as relatives?
15. What rights and protections do Haudenosaunee women enjoy?

Section 6

16. What role does the consent of the governed play in the decisions made by the Confederate Council?
17. How does the Haudenosaunee view on the rights of the people differ from the colonial view?
18. How do the Haudenosaunee people view the role of the rule of law in their society?