

Lifting the Sky Reading Guide Questions

1. Blue is constantly moving from one place to another with her ranch-hand mother. She has very few possessions: her clothes, shoes, bedroll, pillow, gloves, and her journals and books. If you could only take two items besides your clothes and bedding with you when you moved, what would you take--and why? What do you think it would be like to move every few months? What wouldn't you like about moving? What might be some good things about starting over?
2. Blue doesn't tell her mom about the letters she mails to her father. Do you think she does the right thing by not telling her mother—why or why not? Have you ever kept a secret from *your* parents?
3. The first thought Blue has about Shawn is that he is “rude,” even though he is correct when he says that she is trespassing and poaching. (122) Why do you think Blue gets upset with Shawn, even when she knows he is right?
4. Sometimes, like Blue, we can see, feel, or hear things that others don't seem to be aware of. Blue can see lights around people and animals and even trees and rocks. She also feels energy fields. Do you know anyone who has any of these abilities? Do you? Most of us are familiar with paintings of haloed Christian saints. How are these similar to what Blue observes?
5. Blue promises herself to not snoop on her mom or Mr. Mac by watching their lights when they're together. If you had Blue's ability to sense someone's feelings, would you use it, or would you feel that it's an invasion of their privacy like Blue does? Please explain your decision.
6. Blue makes a drawing of a special place and then ends up in a place that looks very much like it. Later she wonders if by drawing and seeing that place so clearly in her mind's eye, and by imagining it to be solid and real, she might have drawn it to her. (51) She says (293) that if she has learned anything since she arrived at the ranch, it is that you have to be clear about what it is that you want...and then to not be surprised when magical things happen. Do you think your thoughts and intentions could make something you really desire turn up in your life? Why or why not?
7. Shawn admitted to Blue that he didn't like “white people” until he met her. (202-203) What explanation did Shawn give for his prejudice and what do you think about it? Do you think his original opinion was justified? Discuss why or why not.
8. Blue carries piles of books up to her attic to read stories written from the viewpoints of Native Americans instead of white people. How do you think those viewpoints might differ?