

Native American Literature
Discussion Questions

Two Old Women by Velma Wallis

Created by Dorothea M. Susag for OPI library project

1. What is the most serious conflict or problem for Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak,? How do they overcome it?
2. How do the memories of Athabaskan culture and tradition contribute to their survival?
3. How do the women manage to overcome their loneliness?
4. When The People finally make contact with the women, how have the women changed from when Dagoo last saw them?
5. What was the lesson Dagoo has learned since The People left the women behind?
6. Where is the irony on page 128?
7. What does the well-trodden path between the two camps represent?
8. Identify situations where individuals apologize or admit they are wrong. In each case, what motivates the apology?
9. Locate a map of Alaska and where Wallis lived. Identify the areas where the women may have traveled. Learn about the way the land in that area is used today and where the Athabaskan people might live.
10. How is the integrity of the present and historical lives of American Indian people represented by Wallis' novel?