

Native American Literature
Discussion Questions

***The Skeleton Man* by Joseph Bruchac**

Created by Dorothea M. Susag for OPI library project

1. What causes Molly to remember the story of the Skeleton Man that her father would tell her?
2. Where is the Mohawk Reserve of Akwesasne that Molly refers to in the first chapter? Why is it important to the story?
3. After the school and social services learn that Molly's parents are missing, they release her to her "great-uncle" whom she has never met. Is that action realistic? How and Why?
4. In what ways does the "uncle" remind Molly of the Skeleton Man?
5. What does Molly notice about her parents' photographs in her "uncle's" wallet? How does that incident foreshadow events at the end of the novel?
6. Retell Molly's dreams and their significance for her throughout the novel? How might their meaning differ from what her teachers and social workers might believe or assume?
7. Who assists Molly in her defeat of the Skeleton Man? How?
8. Why does Molly's father call her "Warrior Girl" at the end?
9. What are some of the important Mohawk traditions that enter into this story?
10. How can the message in this frightening story help readers today?