

College in Massachusetts, USA, for her Master's degree. Atwood had already begun to publish poetry by the time she went to the United States on a Woodrow Wilson scholarship. Since completing her Masters, she has been a full-time professional writer. In 2019, her husband, the novelist Graham Gibson, passed away from dementia. Atwood has one daughter and lives in Toronto. She is a vice-president of the global literary organization, PEN International.

Poem Text

Atwood, Margaret. "[Backdrop Addresses Cowboy](#)." 1974. Poetry Foundation.

Summary

The poem imagines a cowboy entering the frame of a painting, a stage or a movie screen. The backdrop against which the cowboy is depicted is the speaker or the poem. Describing the cowboy as "starspangled" (line 1) or festooned with stars, the backdrop addresses the cowboy as "you" (line 7). "Starspangled" (line 1) could also refer to "The Starspangled Banner," the National Anthem of the United States. According to the backdrop, the cowboy walks with a swagger out of the American West, a "porcelain" (line 4) perfect smile on his face. The west is supposed to be grand but is "alarmingly silly" (lines 2-3) or ridiculous. The cowboy drags a cactus made out of paper mache behind him on a string. The cactus moves smoothly, as if sitting in a office chair or a wheeled cart. According to the backdrop, the swaggering cowboy is "innocent as a bathroom full of bullets" (line 7-8) or innocent as an object.

Despite his innocence, the cowboy is sure of his sense of righteousness, which is reflected in his eyes. "Starspangled" are eager to shoot guns at enemies and fill the streets with the corpses of the villains. As the cowboy moves ahead, he finds newer and endless targets to shoot. Left behind him is a trail of wreckage: empty and broken beer bottles and the skulls of birds.

The backdrop now depicts a shootout between the cowboy and some villains, as if in a Hollywood movie. When the shootout begins, the backdrop admits that it should be watching the cowboy passively and admiringly, from behind a cliff or a movie simulation of a storefront. But, the backdrop confesses, it is somewhere else.

Answers For The Black Cowboy Study Guide

Blake Allmendinger



Answers For The Black Cowboy Study Guide:

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The Lone Black Cowboy - Book Set Oscar Micheaux,2023-12-24 In The Lone Black Cowboy Book Set Oscar Micheaux crafts a compelling narrative that delves into the life of the African American cowboy during the early 20th century This work marries realism with elements of folklore revealing the often overlooked contributions and experiences of Black cowboys within the American West Micheaux s straightforward yet evocative prose exposes themes of identity race and resilience offering a rich tapestry that reflects the complexities of the African American experience during a time of pervasive segregation and injustice Oscar Micheaux a pivotal figure of early African American literature and filmmaking drew on his own experiences as a homesteader and filmmaker to create authentic portrayals of Black life Born in 1884 to former slaves Micheaux faced numerous societal challenges that fueled his desire to highlight marginalized voices in an era dominated by racial stereotypes His innovative storytelling and commitment to representing Black culture have left an indelible mark on American literature and cinema I highly recommend The Lone Black Cowboy Book Set to readers seeking both an engaging narrative and a deeper understanding of the contributions of African Americans to the tapestry of the American West Micheaux s work is not just a celebration of the cowboy life but a vital commentary on race and identity that resonates with contemporary audiences

Black Cowboys in the American West

Bruce A. Glasrud, Michael N. Searles, 2016-09-28 Who were the black cowboys They were drovers foremen fiddlers cowpunchers cattle rustlers cooks and singers They worked as wranglers riders ropers bulldoggers and bronc busters They came from varied backgrounds some grew up in slavery while free blacks often got their start in Texas and Mexico Most who joined the long trail drives were men but black women also rode and worked on western ranches and farms The first overview of the subject in more than fifty years Black Cowboys in the American West surveys the life and work of these cattle drivers from the years before the Civil War through the turn of the twentieth century Including both classic previously published articles and exciting new research this collection also features select accounts of twentieth century rodeos music people and films Arranged in three sections Cowboys on the Range Performing Cowboys and Outriders of the Black Cowboys the thirteen chapters illuminate the great diversity of the black cowboy experience Like all ranch hands and riders African American cowboys lived hard dangerous lives But black drovers were expected to do the roughest most dangerous work and to do it without complaint They faced discrimination out west albeit less than in the South which many had left in search of autonomy and freedom As cowboys they could escape the brutal violence visited on African Americans in many southern communities and northern cities Black cowhands remain an integral part of life in the West the descendants of African Americans who ventured west and helped settle and establish black communities This long overdue examination of nineteenth and twentieth century black cowboys ensures that they and their many stories and experiences will continue to be known and told

American Cowboy, 1997-11 Published for devotees of the cowboy and the West American Cowboy covers all aspects of the Western lifestyle delivering the best in entertainment personalities travel rodeo action human interest art poetry fashion food horsemanship history and every other facet of Western culture With stunning photography and you are there reportage American Cowboy immerses readers in the cowboy life and the magic that is the great American West

Academic Listening Encounters: American Studies Teacher's Manual Kim Sanabria, Carlos Sanabria, 2007-12-17 Develops students listening note taking and discussion skills using authentic interviews and lectures and a variety of pre and post listening activities

[Lessons and Units for Closer Reading, Grades 3-6](#) Nancy Boyles, 2015-02-03 Ready to go units to ramp up close reading Want a yearlong close reading curriculum to insert in your literacy block You've got it Nancy Boyles Lessons Units for Closer Reading features 32 lessons based on readily available complex picture books and organized by eight learning pathways for approaching literature and information Get started right away with the help of Short nonfiction articles to kick off each unit Assessment tasks rubrics planning templates and more Links to 20 instructional video segments Page by page text dependent questions for every book With Closer Reading Nancy expertly delivered answers to the why and how of close reading Now with this phenomenal sequel you're treated to her playbook

The Cowboy Blake Allmendinger, 1992 The Cowboy uses literary historical folkloric and pop cultural sources to document the cowboy's role in the culture of the American West In doing so Allmendinger makes use of early oral poems

recited by cowboys in the course of their work and later poems histories and autobiographies written by cowboys most of which have never before been studied by scholars The Elementary School Library Collection Brodart,1996-02 A primary source for the continuous development evaluation and maintenance of existing collections Includes books big books large type books periodicals art and study prints pictures sound filmstrips sound recording discs and cassettes compact discs multimedia kits videocassettes microcomputer software videodiscs and CD ROM products **Reading Comprehension, Grade 8** Carson-Dellosa Publishing,2015-03-16 Reading Comprehension for grade 8 is designed to aid in the review and practice of reading comprehension skills Grade 8 covers standards such as main topic and key details identifying an author s purpose summarizing inferring and vocabulary practice The book includes engaging nonfiction and fiction passages and stories to appeal to all readers The 100 Series Reading Comprehension books span grades 1 to 8 The activities in each book reinforce essential reading comprehension skills by providing practice with sequencing main idea predicting and inferring as well as story elements character plot and setting The books include engaging grade appropriate fiction and nonfiction passages and stories Each book has 128 pages and 100 pages or more of reproducible content to help students review and reinforce essential skills in reading comprehension The series is correlated and aligned to the Common Core State Standards

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