

Annette Oppenlander

Discussion Guide - Escape from the Past: The Kid

1. Why does Max feel he needs to 'escape' from his current life? What would you have done?
2. What is Max most afraid of?
3. List and define some of the lifestyles of the people Max meets in the story.
4. What complicates the relationship between Max and Grace?
5. Describe five elements that define the lifestyle of Warm Springs Apaches.
6. What are some of the characteristics of Billy the Kid? Why is Max drawn to him?
7. Describe the climate of New Mexico and why it is challenging for survival.
8. What does Max learn about the 'game' and how does that knowledge influence his outlook on life?
9. What was the value of gold in dollars in 1881 New Mexico?
10. How much did you have to pay for a saddle in 1881 New Mexico?
11. Describe Warm Springs Apache Chief Nana? What was so special about him?
12. Who was Lozen?
13. What did Max learn from living in the Wild West of 1881 New Mexico? Name at least three things and explain them.
14. If you could've brought an item into the game, what would you have taken with you to make your life easier? Why?
15. How is the Wild West era defined? Timeframe? Location?
16. What is the most interesting take-away from reading this novel?