DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOOL’S CROW

1. Why were the Lone Eaters enemies of the Crow? Why did they raid each other’s camps?

2. Using examples from the book, try to explain why the Plains Indians had such a hard time unifying against the Napikwans?

3. In what ways could a male Lone Eater achieve status within his tribe? In what ways could a woman?

4. Do you think women had less status than men in Indian society? Give some examples from the book to support your answer.

4. Based on what you read in Fool’s Crow, how important was the horse to the Plains Indians?

5. What was the Plains Indians conception of property? What things could a person own?

6. What other goods did the Plains Indians receive from trading with the whites? How did these goods affect their way of life?

7. Who or what did the Lone Eaters believe caused cold weather? How does this reflect the Indians view of the world generally? How does it differ from our own conception? Whose system of beliefs do you like better, the Indians or our own?

8. What was the role of the character Mix-api? Why did the Lone Eaters respect him? Do you think they should have?

9. What was the importance of dreams to the story? Give some examples. Also, what did you think of White Man’s Dog’s visions? The talking raven? Were they meant to be something that really happened?

11. What was the role of Owl Child? Did you respect or dislike him? Also, what did you think of Fast Horse?

12. Based on the novel, do you think it was inevitable that the Plains Indians would be defeated by the Napikwans? Why or why not?

13. Were the Indians non-violent? Did the acts of violence depicted in the book seem justified to you?

14. Which of the characters in the book would you most like to have been? Why?