

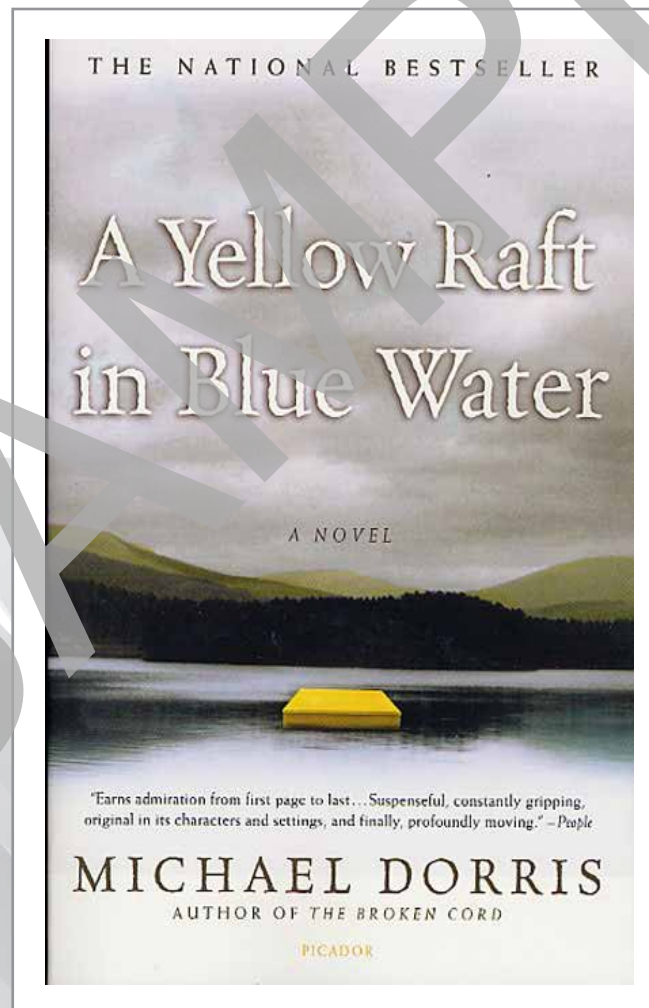


**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 9-12**

# **A Yellow Raft in Blue Water**

Michael Dorris



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# A Yellow Raft in Blue Water

Michael Dorris

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapters 17 and 18

1. How do you know, from the first few paragraphs, that Aunt Ida's story will reveal a lot of secrets about this family?
2. What were Ida's first impressions of Clara?
3. What was Clara's shocking announcement, and how did it affect each member of the family?
4. How and why did Father Hurlburt become involved in the family's problem?
5. How was life at the convent for Clara? Did Ida like it there?
6. How is Ida related to Christine?
- \* 7. What is meant by the metaphor, "I didn't calculate what my presence had added..." (p. 320)? Were Ida's expectations correct?
- \* 8. How would you describe the life Ida led once she was back home?
- \* 9. Do you blame Ida for "wearing resentment like a medicine charm for forty years" (p. 297)?
10. What kept Ida from allowing herself to give her love completely to Christine?
11. Why did Ida press the scalding soup ladle against her cheek?
- \* 12. **Prediction:** Who will Lee's father be?

## Chapters 19 and 20

1. How had Ida's old crush, Willard Pretty Dog, changed since the war?
- \* 2. In what way did Ida form a bond with Willard? Would you describe their relationship as give-and-take or one-sided?
3. What did Ida "carry like flowers for the sick" (p. 348)?
4. From her comments to Ida, what can you say about Mrs. Pretty Dog (p. 350)?
5. Why did Ida tell Willard there was no room for him at her house anymore?
6. Why did Ida call Father Hurlburt "the only man I didn't want to lose" (p. 352)?
7. From what things did Ida take joy?
8. Would you say that Ida "played favorites" with her children, as Christine said?
9. At what point does Ida's story end?
- \* 10. What questions do you still have after reading the stories of all three women?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

powwow 142  
hooch 154  
inklings 181  
gaff 201

martyr 145  
destiny 171  
eclipsed 188  
devotions 209

allotment 148  
pulp 174  
mortified 189

leeches 148  
intuition 181  
ricocheted 192

**Directions:** Divide the vocabulary words with a partner. For each of your words, make a three-clue word card similar to the example below. (Use the blanks below and then make your own on separate paper for the remaining words.) When you're finished with your cards, read the clues to your partner and have him or her guess the words. (For an extra challenge, after you have both guessed all of the words, cut the clues apart, mix them up, and see if you can reassemble them correctly.)

Example for "sovereign" (p. 162):

<p><i>At one time, it was an English gold coin.</i></p>	<p><i>It has three syllables and a silent letter.</i></p>	<p><i>independent; not answerable to any outside authority</i></p>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Getting to Know a Character:** All three stories in this novel are told in first person. As the reader, you observe each narrator and form an opinion. By looking at Christine "from the outside," you can see the strengths and weaknesses that she herself can't see.

**Directions:** Write a character sketch of Christine so that someone who has not read this novel would be able to read your sketch and get an accurate picture of Christine's personality. Think of yourself as a psychologist making observations, not judgements. Before you begin writing, organize your thoughts by jotting notes on the star map below.

