

April Raintree

April finally accepted who she is at the end of the Novel "April Raintree." For a long time, especially in her childhood, April was ashamed of her history. She felt like Métis people wouldn't succeed in life. I think April finally accepted herself in the end. On page 133 it says, "That night, we sat, Indian style, around a bonfire, listening to the songs and tales of Indian singers," and "I was impressed by all the sights and sounds." To me, this shows that April had somewhat of an interest in her history and that this ceremony had raised her expectations on the Indigenous people, and how they weren't all drunk and on the street. It also says, "Her gaze held mine for I saw in her eyes that deep simple wisdom, of which Cheryl had spoken" (pg. 140). This says ~~a lot about how~~ April saw the beauty of the Indigenous woman and not her flaws. She also saw the beauty of her heritage. On page 183 it says, "Memories came back, memories of her voice, the memory of her reciting her powerful message at the Pow Wow." April used the word, powerful to describe her sister's speech on the "White Man." This shows that April agreed that the indigenous people once had beautiful land and kept care of the earth. And that the "white man," destroyed it. I think April accepted who she is because before as a child and teen she would never think of going to the friendship center and a Pow Wow. April certainly wouldn't have called one of Cheryl's poems or essays powerful. To me, this shows that April did finally find and accept herself.

Excellent examples!