

Lost Journals of Sacajewea Discussion Guide

Historic Contexts:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacagawea>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark_Expedition

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/York_\(explorer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/York_(explorer))

Discussion questions

What did you know about Sacajewea and the Lewis and Clark Expedition before reading this novel?

Has how you think about Sacajewea changed since reading?

How does Earling challenge our preconceived notions about Sacajewea? Is she successful?

What were your reactions to Earling's style of prose? Why do you think Earling chose to write this story in this way?

Earling plays with the idea of time in her writing by including events that hadn't happened yet in the narrative. How does this impact the novel and its goals?

Earling originally wrote some of *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* in collaboration with the Missoula Art Museum in response to the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. What was it like to read her novel and reflect on the events described as we approach the 250th Anniversary of the U.S.?

Were there any chapters/vignettes that stood out to you? Why?

Were there any characters that made an impression on you?

What were your thoughts and reactions to *The Many Spirt People* like Too Ott Lok and |He is Man|He is Woman|He is now Many| (pages 136- 140)?

What were your reactions to how the Lewis and Clark Expedition was represented?

Sexual violence—against Sacajewea, York, and others— was frequently depicted in the novel. What were your reactions to that? Why do you think Earling chose to include it in the way that she did?

In the end Sacajewea chooses to go to the Pacific Ocean with the rest of the expedition. What did you think about this and why do you think Earling did this?

Further Reading

Book Review:

<https://chireviewofbooks.com/2023/05/30/impression-and-expression-in-the-lost-journals-of-sacajewea/>

Interviews with Earling:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/the-lost-journals-of-sacajewea-combines-factual-accounts-with-a-first-person-narrative/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUtA97OwySg>

Mentions of Sacajewea and some events in the novel in the Lewis and Clark Journals:

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-10-15#lc.jrn.1804-10-15>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-10-20#lc.jrn.1804-10-20.06>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-10-27#lc.jrn.1804-10-27.05>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-10-29#ln08102908>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-11-04>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-11-11#lc.jrn.1804-11>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-12-18>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-12-22>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-12-25>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-12-26>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-01-01#lc.jrn.1805-01-01>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-01-03>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-01-03-12>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-01-05>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-01-20#lc.jrn.1805-01-20>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-02-11>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-03-11>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-03-18>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-04-01>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-04-03#lc.jrn.1805-04-03.02>

<https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1805-04-05>

Examples and descriptions of gender diversity in indigenous cultures:

<https://nhm.org/stories/beyond-gender-indigenous-perspectives-mapuche>

<https://nhm.org/stories/beyond-gender-indigenous-perspectives-faafafine-and-faafatama>

<https://nhm.org/stories/beyond-gender-indigenous-perspectives-muxe>

<https://ictnews.org/archive/two-spirits-one-heart-five-genders/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-spirit#Historical_and_anthropological_accounts