

A Reading and Discussion Guide

T A T S E A



Armin Wiebe

INTRODUCTION

Tatsea by Armin Wiebe is a young protagonist novel that has been enjoyed by readers as young as twelve and adults as varied as former CKY sportscaster Steve Vogelsang and horror novelist Susie Moloney.

Jim Martin, former Director of Education for the Dogrib Divisonal School Board wrote this about *Tatsea*:

I have lived and worked in the Dogrib communities for the past twenty years and this gives me some context for the stories. I remember as a young teacher having just moved into the community of Lac La Martre, being repeatedly disconcerted by the stories of violence and horror I heard again and again from people when talking about "the way things were before they become the way they are now". It was not until many years later that I learned that these stories did actually have a specific place in time...to people in the community they could easily have happened yesterday as they still provided the context for some occasional, very modern fights with Cree men in the bars in Yellowknife. People told stories of great violence and slaughter between the tribes...I learned the Dogrib have their own Masada...an island in the middle of a northern lake on the Indaa Trail where women and children threw themselves off cliffs to avoid capture by the Cree! I still vividly remember the long silence in the canoes during a school trip as we passed at a safe distance from the "bad medicine" represented by this spirit island. Even the name of Lac La Martre, a community situated on a pristine lake that glistens in the sunlight like a Caribbean paradise reflected the heritage of this past violence. Its real name was Tso Ti or "shit lake". The old Oblate priest said that the French name was really supposed to be Lac la Merde or Lake of Excrement but was changed to the more innocuous Lac la Martre to soothe the outside sensibilities of northern mapmakers...why would anyone ever call this beautiful place excrement lake? ...local people told me it was because of the way the lake looked with the bodies, blood and entrails of Dogrib men, women and children floating in the surf after a particularly vicious attack by Cree marauders. The stories were in stark contrast to the naive visions of paradise that I imagined for a pre-contact aboriginal people. By their own words, the Dogrib elders described a violent, brutal and very dangerous world.

I heard the story of the frog faced boy, of the Cree who chased the man down the Lac La Martre River and were lured to their deaths over the falls (and it was said still can be seen and heard at the base of the cliff), the young woman who was the first to meet the white traders and the first guns that were brought back to the Dogrib.

I read with growing recognition and excitement these stories placed so skillfully into the single narrative of *Tatsea* and *Ikotsali*. It was the story of an unlikely couple that grew to respect and love each other in a dangerous time of war between the tribes. I felt that this is the way it could have been!

Years ago I read Jean Auel's trilogy of stone age people and I remember being fascinated as much by the imaginative story line as by the descriptions of the stone age technology. Although I am unable to comment on the specific "correctness" of Armin's descriptions of the tools, the plants and the creative use of every possible natural element around *Tatsea* and *Ikotsali*, it rings true to my experiences. My mother-in-law who lives in Lac la Martre has a freezer filled with plants, roots, bark and berries which can be put into the service of healing most everyday ailments. *Tatsea* is a compelling story. I read it on transit to and from work and as I got into the story, I found it so powerful and unrelenting, I wished my day away to get back on the bus and continue the story! I gave the manuscript to my 12 year old daughter who finished it in 2 days with great enthusiasm and excitement. What else can I say. It is a good, exciting read!

The reading guide questions are meant to serve as starting points rather than as comprehensive lessons. Teachers should adapt and modify questions to suit their students' needs. The Reading Check questions could be used for pop quizzes or independent study, while the Thinking About The Novel question may be useful for chapter-by-chapter class discussions and short assignments. The Essay questions deal with the entire novel. Also included are Creative Writing opportunities and a selected list of internet sites relating to the Dogrib people.

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TATSEA BY ARMIN WIEBE READING CHECK QUESTIONS

Chapter One

1. Name the characters introduced in this chapter.
2. Why is Tatsea confined to a small hut?
3. Why does Ehtsi scold Tatsea?
4. What connection between words does Tatsea notice when her grandmother speaks to her?
5. What is Tatsea's connection to the drum Ehke plays?
6. What is the name of the lake Tatsea's people are living on?
7. What does the name of the lake mean in English?
8. What is the story about that Ehke tells?
9. What does Tatsea notice about the man she sees through the peep hole after she sneezes?
10. Why is Dienda going away?

Chapter 2

1. Who is the viewpoint character in Chapter Two?
2. What does Ikotsali daydream about as he listens to the drums?
3. Why had Ikotsali gone into the bush alone?
4. Give a specific example from Chapter Two that suggests that Ikotsali is very lonely.
5. What is confirmed in Chapter Two that was hinted at in Chapter One?
6. What embarrassing thing happened to Ikotsali when he headed for the bush the first time?
7. Why would Ikotsali's voice squeak and squawk when he tried to speak with others?
8. What does Ikotsali long for in this chapter?
9. Why do people fear Ikotsali?
10. How is a desire of Ikotsali's almost fulfilled?

Chapter Three

1. What does Tatsea give to Dienda before he leaves with his brothers?
2. What does Dienda mean when he says, "You mean you got power now?"
3. What has happened while Tatsea slept?
4. How will Tatsea's life change after she finishes eating?
5. What does Ehtsi predict will happen soon?

Chapter Four

1. How has the setting changed since Chapter Three?
2. Why is Tatsea's family no longer with the other families who were at the fish camp?
3. Why might Tatsea think Ehtsi had given her a strange look when the families decided to split up?
4. Has Ikotsali asked that Tatsea become his wife?
5. What incident creates an emergency in this chapter?
6. What tools does Tatsea use to try to start a fire?
7. Who appears to save the day?
8. What part of the caribou does Tatsea use as a pot to cook blood soup?
9. What does Ikotsali do with the hide from the caribou's legs?
10. By the end of the chapter, what has Ikotsali managed to do without words?

Chapter Five

1. What has happened between the end of Chapter Four and the beginning of Chapter Five?
2. How does Tatsea feel about Ikotsali now?
3. What does Tatsea's baby have on her bottom?
4. Where does the baby sleep in the tent?
5. What incident in Chapter Two is linked to something Tatsea remembers when Ikotsali warns her about a bear?
6. Why does Tatsea fear Ikotsali?
7. What does Ikotsali say about the baby that at first gives Tatsea warm thoughts, but then causes her to shudder?
8. Why does Ikotsali leave the camp?
9. Why does Tatsea need to collect fresh moss?
10. What puzzling incident occurs when the chapter ends?

Chapter Six

1. What is Tatsea's first thought when she hears a woman's scream?
2. What does Tatsea think makes the deep, growling laugh?
3. What convinces Tatsea that the laughing creature is not a bear?
4. When Tatsea steps out into the clearing, what does she see?
5. What trick did Ikotsali teach Tatsea that helps her escape her pursuer?
6. Why is Tatsea unable to get back to her baby?
7. Why does Tatsea's captor speak words into her ear in a tone of voice that seems almost respectful?
8. Why does Tatsea's captor touch the thin end of the stick to her cheek?
9. Why does Tatsea force herself to look at each dead and dying face?
10. What is the significance of the yellow feather?

Chapter Seven

1. What has happened to Tatsea's grandmother, Ehtsi?
2. What does Ikotsali wish for?
3. What does Ikotsali discover about the whooping crane?

Chapter Eight

1. How does Tatsea attempt to deal with her predicament?
2. What causes Tatsea to rise up and try to chop a hole in the canoe?

Chapter Nine

1. What is the main action of Chapter Nine?
2. When Ikotsali cries out to his spirit, what does he think will happen?
3. What happens to Ikotsali instead?
4. Why is Ikotsali not satisfied with merely escaping?
5. How do the swans appear to help Ikotsali trick his enemies?

Chapter Ten

1. Where is Tatsea in the opening paragraphs of Chapter 10?

2. Where is Tatsea in reality?
3. Why does Tatsea think her captors are strange creatures?
4. What name does Tatsea give her captor and why?
5. How does Tatsea determine where she is?
6. What triggers Tatsea's impulse to bolt and run back down the trail?
7. What happens when Tatsea reaches the end of the trail?
8. How is Tatsea rescued?
9. Why does Blueleg fire a shot into the air?
10. What does Tatsea learn about her three captors in this chapter?

Chapter 11

1. "Ikotsali rested in a black world, rested his eyes for the sight he had not yet seen." What is the sight he has not yet seen?
2. What does Ikotsali expect to see?
3. When he arrives at the camp why doesn't Ikotsali look at the bodies too closely?
4. What clues lead Ikotsali to the tree where his child is hidden?
5. What is Ikotsali's main problem once he finds the baby?
6. How does Ikotsali solve the problem?
7. Why does Ikotsali remain awake all night?

Chapter 12

1. Why does Blueleg jab his paddle butt into Tatsea's ribs?
2. What makes Tatsea relieved that her captors don't stop to make a camp for the night?
3. What gives Tatsea a feeling of hope?
4. What does Tatsea learn about the thunderstick?
5. What gives Tatsea the confidence to attempt to escape?
6. Besides sore ribs, what physical injury does Tatsea sustain in this chapter?

Chapter 13

1. Why does Ikotsali tie long strips of hide to the stages he built?
2. What happens while Ikotsali drums for the dead?
3. Why doesn't Ikotsali cover up the dead enemy?
4. What does Ikotsali take from the dead man?
5. What items belonging to the dead man does Ikotsali leave behind?

Chapter 14

1. Why does Tatsea feel like her head is turning to stone?
2. What is different about the water they are paddling across in this chapter?
3. What happens to disrupt Tatsea's daydream?
4. What does Tatsea want to do as they struggle against the wind and the waves?
5. What task does Tatsea do by herself for the first time?
6. What new way does Tatsea find to make herself useful to her captors?
7. What does she discover while mending the men's clothing?
8. What puzzles Tatsea about Blueleg's behaviour?

Chapter 15

1. What has happened to Ikotsali since he left the camp on Do Kwo Di?
2. What is Dagodichih noted for?
3. Why did the people direct Ikotsali to Dagodichih?
4. What happened when Dagodichih tried to nurse Ikotsali's child?
5. What is the main event of this chapter?
6. Why is Ikotsali especially useful to this Dogrib camp?
7. What reasons would Ikotsali have to be happy to be a part of this camp?

Chapter 16

1. Why does Tatsea take great care with the sewing she does for Blueleg?
2. What puzzles Tatsea about her captors' attitude toward fur?
3. What other puzzling item does Tatsea discover in this chapter?
4. How does the discovery of the burning water help Tatsea?

Chapter 17

1. Why are Ikotsali and his baby the subject of gossip and laughter among the women in the camp?
2. What does the baby's rage cause Ikotsali to do?
3. What other events help Ikotsali decide to turn his back on Sahti, the winter destination of Dagodichih's people?

Chapter 18

1. After Tatsea's escape from Blueleg, she remains on the river in the canoe for _____ days.
2. Why doesn't Tatsea hear the rapids until it is too late?
3. When Tatsea feels her bone knife pressing against her hips, what else does she realize?
4. Why does Tatsea scream when she goes back to the rapids in daylight?
5. Among the items that Tatsea retrieves from the river, which is the most important for the story?
6. Why does Tatsea dread the snowless darkness around the edges of the campfire light?
7. What particularly useful item does Tatsea find after the first ice forms on the river?
8. When the ice is thick enough for her to cross the river she finds a _____ and a _____.
9. Why is Tatsea frightened by the piece of water?

Chapter 19

1. What does Ikotsali wonder about while he cuts up whitefish with the Enda knife?
2. What disturbs this peaceful scene of father preparing for his child?
3. Why does Ikotsali allow the baby to crawl away into the bushes?

Chapter 20

1. How is Ikotsali able to fight the power of the bushman?
2. What leads him to the baby?
3. Besides the sick baby, what else adds to the desperation of Ikotsali's situation?
4. What gives Ikotsali the answer to save the child's life?

5. What doubts does Ikotsali have in his chapter?
6. Although the brains and blood mash gives the baby strength, the baby's breathing doesn't begin to clear until _____.
7. Why does Ikotsali decide not to travel?

Chapter 21

1. What do we learn about Tatsea's facial features in this chapter?
2. Of what use is the piece of water to Tatsea?
3. How does Tatsea fill her days?
4. Why does Tatsea gather red willow branches and take them back to her camp?
5. What does Tatsea do while she is peeling and twisting willow rind?
6. What visitor appears one night after the weather has turned cold?
7. What does Tatsea do to make sense of the dog's visit?
8. What idea does Tatsea get when she looks up at the sky during the cold night?
9. What shatters Tatsea's plan to find her way back to Wha Ti?
10. What causes Tatsea's heart to ache while at the same time giving her a feeling of home when she arrives at her captors' camp?
11. What destroys Tatsea's feeling of home?
12. What do the men do with Tatsea?

Chapter 22

1. How does Ikotsali demonstrate his ingenuity in this chapter?
2. What does Ikotsali do while he works?
3. Why does Ikotsali fear the night?
4. What changes Ikotsali's fortunes?

Chapter 23

1. What name does Tatsea give to the man who now has her as a slave wife?
2. Why are Tatsea's captors travelling at night?
3. What practice of the Enda women shocks Tatsea?
4. What triggers Fish Mouth's first wife to show an interest in Tatsea?
5. What does Tatsea discover about the first wife?
6. What does Tatsea learn from the first wife?
7. What triggers Tatsea's rage?
8. How does Mean Face react to Tatsea's rage?

Chapter 24

1. What decision does Ikotsali make in this chapter?
2. What helps Ikotsali to make this decision?

Chapter 25

1. What causes Tatsea to shriek?
2. Who frees Tatsea?
3. What connection is there between this chapter and Chapter One?
4. Why doesn't Tatsea obey the first wife's command to go back to her own people?
5. What catches Tatsea's eye when she first sees a fur-faced man?
6. Why does Tatsea name the fur-faced man Fox Face?

7. Why does Tatsea turn away from Ghost Face?
8. How does Ghost Face treat Tatsea?
9. What makes Tatsea panic?
10. What new experience puts Tatsea to sleep?

Chapter 26

1. What is the main event in this chapter?

Chapter 27

1. What makes Tatsea think that she is dead?
2. What does Tatsea discover on the walls?
3. What do Mean Face and Fish Mouth want more than they want Tatsea?
4. Why does Tatsea need Fox Face's help to go outside?
5. What do Fox Face and Tatsea do outside?
6. Name three items Tatsea learns about for the first time in this chapter.
7. Why does Tatsea's loneliness overwhelm her when she sees McKay's face beside hers in the mirror?
8. What frustration drives Tatsea to go outside?

Chapter 28

1. What happens that makes Ikotsali feel very foolish?
2. How does Ikotsali discover that he is on Tatsea's trail?
3. What place has Ikotsali come to at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 29

1. How is Tatsea tricked in this chapter?
2. Why has the first wife betrayed Tatsea?
3. What new danger does Tatsea sense in this chapter?

Chapter 30

1. What does Ikotsali feel in the camp beside the rapids?
2. What makes him leave the camp?
3. What does Ikotsali think he hears once he is out of earshot of the rapids?

Chapter 31

1. What important event does Tatsea observe in this chapter?
2. What causes a crisis during the trading?
3. Why does Tatsea believe that the traders knew the real origin of the hair all along?
3. How is Tatsea finally able to tell her story to the traders?
4. Why does Tatsea think the first wife knows how to survive?

Chapter 32

1. What clue does Ikotsali discover that makes him believe Tatsea has passed this way?
2. What dreaded thought keeps Ikotsali from moving on despite the baby's restlessness?

3. What does Ikotsali do to help Tatsea?

Chapter 33

1. What does McKay help Tatsea to do in this chapter?
2. What happens while Tatsea is singing for the dead?
3. Why is it unusual for a hawk to be hovering overhead?
4. Why does Tatsea ask McKay to let her watch him shoot first?
5. Why doesn't Tatsea shoot the target on the tree?
6. What makes Tatsea doubt that the musket can be trusted?
7. What criteria does Tatsea use to select goods to take back to her people?
8. What convinces Tatsea to take a musket?
9. What item won't the traders give her?
10. What happens to change Tatsea and McKay's plans?
11. Why does Tatsea decide to leave alone?
12. What happens to show that Tatsea is right to leave on her own?
13. How does Tatsea manage to escape?
14. What leads Tatsea as she tramps through the snow?
15. What makes Tatsea leave the trail to hide in the bush?
16. What does Tatsea discover once she leaves the trail?
17. What interrupts Tatsea's exploration of the camp?
18. What happens in the confrontation with Redcoat?
19. Why does Tatsea almost shoot Ikotsali?
20. What sad note appears in the reunion with her child?
21. Why is it a good thing that Tatsea's musket betrays her?

Chapter 34

1. Why is Tatsea unable to tell McKay about Ross and the hawk?
2. Why does McKay wait expectantly?
3. What causes an uneasiness in Tatsea and Ikotsali's shelter that night?
4. What do Tatsea and Ikotsali do a lot of on their journey back to Wha Ti?
5. What do Tatsea and Ikotsali become know as when they get back to Wha Ti?
6. What happens to the musket?
7. Who appears at the end of the lake one day?
8. What does Tatsea warn the people about?
9. What is Ikotsali able to tell Tatsea at last?
10. Why does Tatsea say, "But we must be careful what we speak."?

TATSEA: THINKING ABOUT THE NOVEL

Chapter One

1. Which of the five characters introduced in Chapter One do you think will be the main characters in this novel?
2. What connection does Tatsea make as she peers at Ikotsali through the peephole?
3. Using the evidence in the opening chapter, describe the setting (the time and place) of this novel.
4. Using the evidence in this opening chapter, what are the relationships between the characters?

Chapter Two

1. The story of the boy turning into a frog is retold in Chapter Two. How is the retelling different from the original telling? Does the retelling help or hinder the story?
2. In your own words describe how the Dogrib Handgame is played.
3. Using evidence from Chapters One and Two, describe Ikotsali's character.

Chapter Three

1. What incidents happen in this chapter that suggest that the story will move in a new direction?

Chapter Four

1. Discuss the author's use of details to draw the reader into the realities of Tatsea and Ikotsali's world.

Chapter Five

1. Discuss Tatsea's question, "What kind of man was Ikotsali that he would think of such a thing?"
2. Using evidence from Chapter Five, describe Tatsea and Ikotsali's relationship.
3. Describe infant care in this setting.

Chapter Six

1. Are the events of Chapter Six convincing to the reader? Why or why not? Support your answer with evidence from the chapter.
2. By the end of the chapter how has Tatsea's world changed?

Chapter Seven

1. Using evidence from Chapter Seven, describe Ikotsali's character.

Chapter Eight

1. Are Tatsea's actions in this chapter true to her character as it has been developed to this point in the novel? Support your answer with evidence from the novel.

Chapter Nine

1. Are Ikotsali's actions true to his character as it has been developed to this point in the novel? Support your answer with evidence from the novel.

Chapter Ten

1. Discuss the use of details in this chapter to convey Tatsea's experience to the reader.

Chapter Eleven

1. What details in the novel so far support Ikotsali's humorous thought that he is turning into a woman?
2. Discuss the changes in mood that occur in this chapter.

Chapter Twelve

1. Using evidence from Chapters Ten and Twelve discuss why Blueleg has taken Tatsea captive rather than killing her.

Chapter Thirteen

1. Discuss how the burial practices shown in this chapter might fit in with the lifestyle of the Dogrib people in that time and place.

Chapter Fourteen

1. "What kind of man was this who protected her like a wife, made her work like a wife, but never touched her like a wife?" Discuss possible reasons for Blueleg's behaviour.

Chapter Fifteen

1. Discuss the effect of this chapter on the forward movement of the novel.

Chapter Sixteen

1. Discuss the use of language in this chapter to maintain Tatsea's point of view.

Chapter Seventeen

1. Discuss the spiritual connections between Ikotsali, Tatsea, and the baby as revealed up to this point in the novel.

Chapter Eighteen

1. Using evidence from this chapter and previous chapters discuss why the shape of the piece of water would be so startling to Tatsea.

Chapters Nineteen and Twenty

1. In the context of the novel, is the episode with the bushman convincing. Discuss using supporting evidence.

Chapter Twenty-One

1. Discuss the effectiveness of the use of the mirror in this chapter.
2. What purpose does the dog's visit serve in the novel?
3. Is the attitude of the women toward Tatsea believable?

Chapter Twenty-Two

1. Discuss the similarities and differences between Ikotsali's stories and his dreams.

Chapter Twenty-Three

1. Discuss how the events of this chapter move the story forward.

Chapter Twenty-Four

1. Discuss how Ikotsali's remembering of the Creation story helps him to decide to travel in search of Tatsea.

Chapter Twenty-Five

1. Using details from the chapter, discuss the credibility of Tatsea's decision to follow her people's hair rather than turn back to find her baby.
2. Discuss Fox Face and Ghost Face's attitude toward Tatsea.

Chapter Twenty-Seven

1. Tatsea encounters many things for the first time in this chapter. Discuss the credibility of her reactions to the things she sees.

Chapters Twenty-Six and Twenty-Eight

1. Discuss how Ikotsali is able to survive his fall through the ice.

Chapter Twenty-Nine

1. Discuss why Tatsea is willing to trust the words of the first wife.
2. What new attitude does Musko Face introduce into the novel.

Chapter Thirty-One

1. Discuss the credibility of Tatsea's reaction to the trading ritual.
2. Justify Tatsea's feeling that despite her brusies the first wife knows how to survive.

Chapter Thirty-Two

1. This chapter shows the third time Ikotsali uses power. Compare and contrast Ikotsali's use of power in this chapter to the way he used it early in the novel.

Chapter Thirty-Three

1. Discuss the events in this chapter in terms of their importance to the novel.

Chapter Thirty-Four

1. Discuss the significance of Tatsea's reaction to McKay's comment, "Those Enda people see spirits behind every tree."

ESSAY/ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ENTIRE NOVEL.

1. Discuss the effectiveness of the use of stories in the novel.
2. Discuss the effectiveness of the use of dreams in the novel.
3. Who is more convincing as a character, Tatsea or Ikotsali?
4. What modern drug has medicinal properties similar to those of the inner bark of the red willow?
5. Who is the more “spiritual” character, Tatsea or Ikotsali?
6. Many novels with young aboriginal women as protagonists portray their struggles to be allowed to engage in male activities. What part do shifts in gender roles play in this novel?
7. Why doesn't Ikotsali use his power more frequently? Is the portrayal of Ikotsali's “medicine power” in the novel convincing?
8. What motive might Blueleg have had to protect Tatsea from Redcoat and the boy?
9. What change to their relationship with the land and the wildlife are Tatsea and Ikotsali resisting?
10. What keeps Ikotsali going on what frequently seems to be a hopeless quest?
11. Is there any humour in this novel?
12. Why are the numerous hunting scenes important for this novel?
13. Why does Tatsea decide to follow her captors after the first wife cuts her loose from the tree?
14. Would you say that the use of Dogrib words hinders or enhances the experience of reading this novel?
15. In a review on New Winnipeg.com, Kim Trach wrote, “While the story is wonderful to read, a comfortable tale to get lost in, it must sacrifice any claim to inspiration. As a reader I am grateful to fall into its cozy pages, thankful that somebody is bothering to tell a story again while still treating me like an intelligent reader. At the same time, I never felt challenged or roused by the read as more abstract novels are able to.” Using evidence from the novel to support your position, agree or disagree with this statement.
16. In a *Winnipeg Free Press* review, Gordon Morash wrote, “The dreams and tales clouding and providing sustenance to the protagonists' imaginations are well executed and do not feel merely tacked on—“ Develop an argument agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.
17. In a *Winnipeg Free Press* review, Gordon Morash wrote, “Though *Tatsea* remains in the shadow of other books in the first contact/fur trade genre—namely Rudy Wiebe's *A Discovery of Strangers*, Fred Stenson's *The Trade* and Brian Moore's *Black Robe*—it is not without considerable charm.” Read one or more of the novels mentioned and discuss the validity of Gordon Morash's statement.

18. In a personal note to the author, Duncan McMonagle wrote about *Tatsea*, “The last sentence is wonderful: an ironic shock that makes the reader rethink all the stories in the book.” Using evidence from the novel develop an argument explaining this statement.
19. Compare *Tatsea* with other young female protagonist novels such as Scott O’Dell’s *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Jean Craighead George’s *Julie of the Wolves*, Jan Hudson’s *Dawn Rider* or Diane Matchek’s *The Sacrifice*.

CREATIVE WRITING BASED ON *TATSEA*

1. Choose a scene from the novel. Describe how you present the scene in a movie. What elements would you keep? What elements would you alter to help it to work on the screen.
2. Imagine that the story had followed Dienda on his journey with his brothers. Imagine the events that led to Dienda's death. Write a scene that might have happened before Dienda and his brothers perished.
3. Write a scene in the Dogrib camp showing what happens when Dagodichi discovers that Ikotsali has abandoned her.
4. Imagine that Blueleg had not been killed and that Tatsea had not escaped. Write a scene that shows Blueleg reaching his destination and that reveals his reasons for his protection of Tatsea throughout the journey.
5. Write a version of a creation story that comes out of your background.
6. Ask an elder in your family or community to tell you a story from your past and write it for an audience of people your own age.

INTERNET SITES RELATED TO *TATSEA*

Dogrib Land Claim Agreement

<http://www.dogrib.ca/>

Caribou Skin Lodge Project

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/exhibits/lodge/lodgeproject.html>

The Dogrib Tea Dance Sound Room

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/exhibits/teadance/teadance.html>

Drum Dance Music of the Dogrib

<http://www.canyonrecords.com/cr16260.htm>

Trails of Our Ancestors

<http://www.tyendinaga.net/fnti/media/dogrib/>

Dene Natural Remedies

<http://www.edu.pe.ca/bluefield/lloyd/herb/dene.htm>

Dogrib Handicrafts

<http://www.invitationproject.ca/cgi-win/quilt.exe?LISTING=1080>

Lessons From The Land

<http://www.lessonsfromtheland.ca/>

How Dogribs Got Their Name

<http://www.nnsl.com/guides/ykguide/copy/dogrib.html>

UI to give 19-century caribou tent back to arctic Indian tribe

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~ournews/1997/april/0410tent.html>

Richard Van Camp, Dogrib author

<http://www.richardvancamp.org/>

Armin Wiebe's Wiebe Site

<http://www.mts.net/~armwiebe/>

Kim Trach's Review of *Tatsea*

<http://newwinnipeg.com/word/03-09tatsea.htm>