

The Many Ways to Rainy Mountain

*"There are on the way to Rainy Mountain many landmarks,
many journeys in the one."*

Momaday links the survival of the Kiowa people to their ability to remember, preserve and pass on stories. Taking the idea one step further, Momaday models necessary personal involvement in the stories through the use of imagination. That is, to make sense of and find a place in the contemporary world, one must connect on a personal level with the stories of one's past.

All families have their Rainy Mountain, the end of their journey, their spiritual "Home." In this assignment you will be studying part of your family's journey.

Your final product will be a written three-voice narrative, following Scott Momaday's model.

Procedure

1. Identify a theme from the readings to focus on in their own tales.
2. Find a cultural, ethnic, or religious text with the same theme either online or in the classroom or school library, and write a summary of it. You may choose a folktale, legend, myth, or religious story for this piece, which will be your first story of your triadic.
3. Interview an Elder who can tell a true story related in some way to the theme. This is the second part of your triadic.
4. Write a personal response based on the theme and linking to the other parts of their own tales. This is the third part of your triadic.
5. Share your writings in peer review and revise based on the feedback you receive.
6. Combine these three writings and publish them on a Web page.
7. Print your stories for the class anthology. Use the same format as in *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, with your folktale/myth on one page and your other two stories on a second page.