

Name: _____

Student Journal

Left Behind

by Velma Wallis

Reading Schedule

Group members: _____

<i>Left Behind</i>	Student Journal	Due Date	Discussion Date
Introduction	Pages 2-4		
Chapters 1-3	Pages 5-6		
Chapters 4-5	Pages 7-8		
Chapters 6-8	Pages 9-10		
The Exchange			
Assessment			

THE EXCHANGE

How do
challenges bring
out the best and
worst in people?

Getting Started

What If?

You and your friends plan a week-long hiking trip up a mountain. On the second day of the trip, you injure your ankle. You have trouble walking and are in so much pain that you need to be carried. The group tries to carry you. They realize very quickly that they will never be able to get to the top of the mountain if they have to carry you the whole way.

Half of the group wants to leave you behind and finish their hike. They would leave you with a tent and a few supplies. They are sure you could take care of yourself until they return. The other half of the group thinks everyone should get you help immediately and end the hike early.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

- Would you rather be left behind, or helped down right away?
- Would you consider their decision to leave you a selfish act?
- How would you feel about your friends after this?

Connect to The Exchange Question Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: **How do challenges bring out the best and worst in people?** Summarize your discussion.

Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 7–9 in *Left Behind*. The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book. Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- the tradition of storytelling and legends in Athabascan culture
- how the Gwich'in band of Athabascans survived in the harsh environment of Alaska
- the story's plot and theme

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. Who are the Athabascans?

2. What is the environment like near the Yukon River in Alaska?

3. How did Athabascans survive?

Introduction: Key Concepts

Personal Experience Chart

Study the **Personal Experience Chart** for the word *legend*. Write a sentence using the word *legend*.

Key Concepts

abandon
 courageous
 elder
 legend
 survive

Personal Experience Chart

Key Concept: legend

Define or rename: a story told from one generation to the next

Specific Examples

Some Native American legends are about animals.

According to a neighborhood legend, the house at the top of the hill is haunted by a ghost.

People wondered if the legend of Bigfoot really was true when a man found huge footprints in the snow.

Personal Connection: _____

On a separate sheet of paper, create a **Personal Experience Chart** for each of the **Key Concept** words.

Respond to Chapters 1-3

1. Personal Response Which character's feelings do you relate to the most? Why?

2. Character's Motive Why does the chief decide to leave Ch'idzigyaak and Sa' behind? How does he feel about this decision? Use the words *elder* and *abandon* in your response.

3. Cause and Effect Why do The People consider Ch'idzigyaak and Sa' a burden, despite the contributions they make to the group?

4. Generate Questions Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Chapters 1–3, continued

5. **Character** In Chapters 1–3, the author introduces Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak. List what you learn about them in the beginning of the story in the Beginning box.

Beginning Middle End Chart

Beginning:
Middle:
End:

How do Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak's character traits help them or keep them from helping themselves in the wilderness?

Respond to Chapters 4–5

1. **Personal Response** Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak become good friends because of their situation. Tell about a time when you became friends with someone because of a common situation or goal.

2. **Setting** How does the setting of the story add to the challenges that Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak face? Use the word *survive* in your response.

3. **Conclusions** Why do you think Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak “lost the habit of complaining”? Explain.

4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Chapters 4–5, continued

5. **Compare and Contrast** In Chapters 4–5, you learn about Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak's past from the stories they tell each other. Write what happens in the middle of the story in the Middle box.

Beginning Middle End Chart

<p>Beginning: <i>They feel betrayed and helpless. Then, they decide to fight. Sa' is a good hunter. Ch'idzigyaak worries and is afraid, but she decides to try.</i></p>
<p>Middle:</p>
<p>End:</p>

How are Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak different than they were from the beginning of the story? How has their relationship changed?

Respond to Chapters 6–8

1. **Personal Response** Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak manage to forgive The People for abandoning them. Share a time when you forgave someone. What made it possible for you to forgive that person?

2. **Summarize** Why might this be a good story to tell to someone who is in a difficult situation and is ready to give up hope? Use the words *capable* and *courageous* in your response.

3. **Paraphrase** Tell what Sa' means when she says about The People, "Now we must put aside our pride long enough to remember that they are suffering."

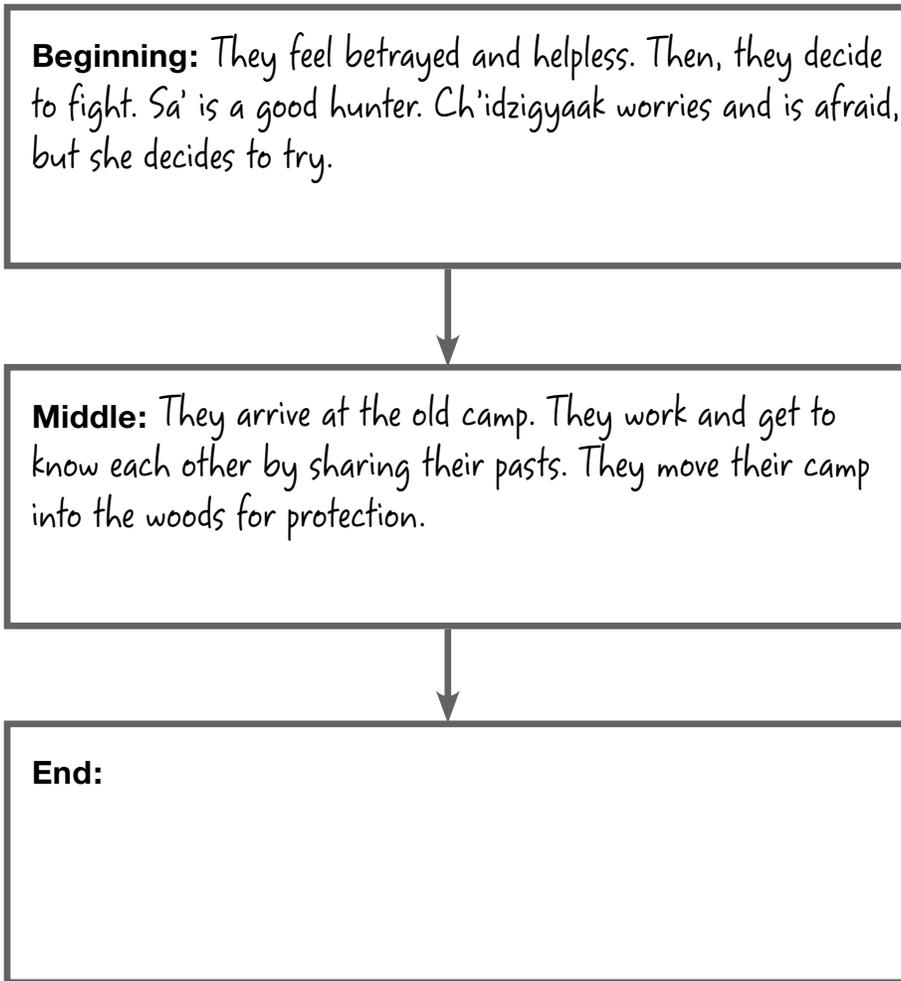
What If?

4. **Connect** Look at your notes on **Student Journal, page 2**. Think about how you might react negatively and positively in a difficult situation. Compare this to *Left Behind*. Did the challenges that Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak faced bring out the best or the worst in them? How?

Respond to Pages 6–8, continued

5. **Inference** In Chapters 6–8, Sa' and Ch'idzigyaak are reunited with The People. Write what happens at the end of the story in the End box. Review the **Chart** before answering the question.

Beginning Middle End Chart



What do The People learn about their elders? How do you think The People will treat their elders in the future?
