

# RED DOVE

*Listen to the Wind*

BY SONIA ANTAKI



## Discussion Guide

1. What does Red Dove want most in life?
2. Can you trace her journey on the map?
3. What do you know about this part of the country both now and at the time she lived?
4. What important events happened around that time?
5. What impact did these events have on American life? On the lives of Native Americans?
6. Most of the characters are either Lakota, Anglo-Saxon or Irish. What do you know about people from these cultures? How are they different? How are they the same?
7. How is Red Dove like—or unlike—a 13-year old girl today? How is she like you? How is she different from you?
8. What Lakota words or phrases did you learn from the story?
9. Discuss what Red Dove learned about other people over the course of the book. What did she learn about herself? How has she changed by the end of the story?



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### Book Details

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## In the Author's Words:

*Red Dove, Listen to the Wind* grew out of my own experience of living between worlds and the need to bring them together. Of Swiss, British and Syro-Lebanese ancestry, I was born in Egypt and came to the U.S. as a child. I've spent my life as a performer, a financial analyst, a Tony-nominated Broadway producer and an advocate for arts and Native traditions. Calvin Spotted Elk, Lakota speaker and activist, and Mary Puthoff, Lakota educator and director of the Society of American Indians, have worked with me to make the novel as historically accurate as possible.

## Praise for *Red Dove, Listen to the Wind*

"There is deep meaning tucked into *Red Dove's* story of transformation. As she navigates her difficult adolescence and life away from her family, she also learns what it means to truly 'travel between worlds,' how to deeply listen to and develop empathy for others, and how to advocate for greater justice for her community. When *Red Dove* chafes against the gender restrictions of her own culture ("You're not supposed to hunt. It's not our way."), *Antaki* also touches on the question of whether longstanding customs and ideas should be reevaluated among traditional societies. *Red Dove* is as full of ideas as it is of action. It is a lively, sensitive portrayal of a young woman who traverses cultures at a pivotal time in history."

—Foreword Reviews

This was a touching story of bravery and endurance in the face of injustice, and one that will be appreciated by young readers who have only read about the Battle at Wounded Knee in textbooks. Told from the perspective of a young Lakota girl, it makes the history of this period very real and accessible, and it sheds light on the discrimination by the white settlers toward the native people of North America."

—C. Lee McKenzie, Author

## About the Book

Set in the Dakota Territory of the 1890s, against the backdrop of Wounded Knee. *Red Dove* is the tale of a young girl caught between worlds, and the value of empathy. Abandoned by her white father, *Red Dove* faces another lean winter with her Lakota family on the Great Plains, now empty of the buffalo that once sustained them. Willful and proud, she is presented with a choice: leave her people to live in the white world—or stay, and watch them starve. Her wise old grandfather gives her a medicine pouch that allows her to enter the thoughts and feelings of others—and truly listen. With it, she confronts the cruelties of the nun who runs the school, and the horrors of the massacre at Wounded Knee. Accompanied by her beloved pony, she begins a journey to find her true place in the world—and learns that her greatest power comes from within herself.



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