

# ANDERSEN book cover : what to focus on

## The Cover

### 1 - The character (a close-up on his face)

- **His face**

He is a dark-haired teenage boy / teenager with a pale complexion

As he wears (square) glasses he may be short sighted.

He is wearing a black turtle neck.

- **His posture**

His face is turned towards the right therefore he seems to be facing the future / looking at what lies ahead / wondering what decisions or choices he should make. We can notice that he is slightly leaning backwards. This might suggest he is a bit scared / afraid of the future / he is unsure what he should do. He might feel somewhat threatened.

- **The colours**

The boy is portrayed in black and white and he stands out against a red background connoting

- Anger/rage / fury
- Blood / pain
- Danger
- Fire
- but also life / vitality

Red symbolizes energy, love but it's also the colour of blood.

#### *Info to be found on the Internet...*

Red is an intense and warm colour. The colour symbolises some of the following:

- Love
- Passion
- Fire
- Blood
- Sensitivity
- Sexuality
- Romance

Red is the warmest of all colors. Red is the color most chosen by extroverts and one of the top picks of males. On the negative side red can mean **temper or anger**. In China, **red is the color of prosperity and joy**. Brides wear red and front doors are often painted red. This planet is known as the God of War.

Red is associated with **fiery heat and warmth**. It can also mean **danger** (burning).

Red is the color of blood, and as such has strong symbolism as life and vitality. It brings focus to the essence of life and living with emphasis on survival. Red is also the color of passion and lust.

## 2 - Structure of the page

- **The title**

When it comes to reading our attention is drawn to the speech balloon on the right hand-side : '*The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian*'.



This must be the title of the book.

Judging from that title **what sort of book is it?**

A diary = a personal journal

A narrative written in the first person

- **Identify the narrator / identify the author**

The words seem to be uttered by the boy on the cover although they are not directly coming out of his mouth. The boy is **the narrator**. We are going to read about him / he is going to address us.

But this is also a work of fiction written by Sherman Alexie (= **the author / the writer**) whose name appears in the top right-hand corner.

- **Comment on the layout of the title**

- **The colours**

This title is written on a yellow background symbolizing the sun and sunshine, creativity and energy, the bright side of things, happiness,... but also envy, jealousy, fear,...

**Yellow is the colour of the sun / the light , but also the colour for treason, cowardice**

***Info to be found on the Internet...***

Yellow, the colour of the sun and sunshine. The colour symbolises some of the following:

- Happiness
- Joy
- Energy
- Intellect
- Creativity
- Freshness

Yellow is **full of creative and intellectual energy**. Always use yellow note pads.

Yellow symbolizes wisdom. Yellow means joy and happiness. People of high intellect favor yellow. Yellow daffodils are a symbol of unrequited love.

Like the energy of a bright sunny day, yellow brings **clarity and awareness**.

 The shade of yellow determines its effect:

Yellow-green can mean **deceit**, and creates a disoriented feeling. Orange-yellow imparts a sense of establishment. Clean light yellow clears the mind, making it active and alert.

*Enlightening phrases:*

He was just yellow with jealousy

To be a yellow-belly / Are you yellow? = Are you afraid?

- **The size of the words in the title** does vary.

3 words stand out =

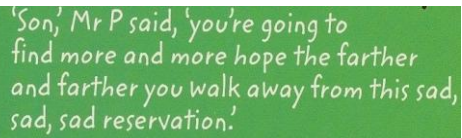
TRUE      ☞      as if we could doubt that what we are told is the truth / did happen / is truly autobiographical. Insisting so much becomes suspicious.

PART TIME      ☞      this is quite surprising. That phrase arouses our curiosity: how can somebody be part-time Indian? Indian from India or 'Indian' as a synonym for 'Native American'? The boy does not look Indian at all...

INDIAN

## The Back cover

### 1. Show extract 1



'Son, Mr P said, 'you're going to find more and more hope the farther and farther you walk away from this sad, sad reservation.'

- **Identify the document:**

An extract / a quote from the novel – direct speech – one character talking to another

- **2 male characters: Mr P and 'Son'**

Mr P is not named / remains anonymous. He is talking to a younger character that he calls 'son' (probably the hero / the narrator / the boy on the cover) though we can suppose he is not his father or the boy would not refer to him as 'Mr P'.

**Mr P is an adult** (a friend of the boy's parents' / a teacher / somebody from the same community as the boy) and **he is giving the boy some advice**.

- **Key words**

Hope  
Walk away  
Sad  
reservation

- **2 comparative forms that run parallel :**

More and more hope  
Farther and farther

- **Meaning**

The boy lives on a reservation.

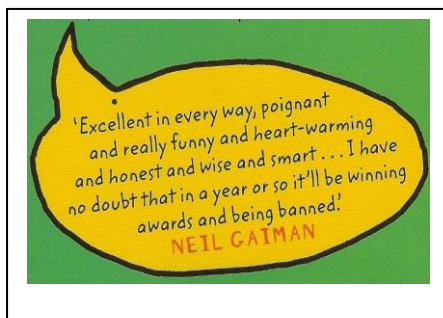
Life is so harsh / the situation is so sad, so hopeless (poverty, unemployment, absence of opportunities, diseases, etc.) there that the only thing for him to do is to go away / to go and live somewhere else where there is hope.

### 2. Show extract 2

- **Identify the document:**

A review of the book

Name of the critic / the reviewer : Neil Gaiman



**Neil Richard Gaiman** (pronounced /'geɪmən/,<sup>[3]</sup> born 10 November 1960<sup>[4]</sup>) is an English author of science fiction and fantasy short stories and novels, comic books and graphic novels, audio theatre, and films. His notable works include the comic book series *The Sandman* and novels *Stardust*, *American Gods*, *Coraline*, and *The Graveyard Book*. Gaiman's writing has won numerous awards, including the Hugo, Nebula, and Bram Stoker, as well as the 2009 Newbery Medal and 2010 Carnegie Medal in Literature. He is the first author to win both the Newbery and the Carnegie medals for the same work.

From WIKIPEDIA

• **Adjectives:**

Excellent

Poignant

Really funny

Heart-warming

Honest

Wise

Smart

The reviewer loved the book, he strongly recommends it and he is convinced that this is a master piece that deserves awards.