

Marrow Thieves

Vocabulary, Themes, and
Chapter Questions





Cherie Dimaline on writing

Themes

Some key themes
and “big ideas” in this
book include:

Indigenous culture and identity

Trust, family, and community

Dreams

Colonialism and genocide

Racism

Intergenerational trauma

Residential schools

Climate change

Themes

Some key themes
and “big ideas” in this
book include:

Dystopia: is an imagined society that is oppressive, often featuring suffering or harsh conditions. Themes include totalitarian rule or environmental problems, serving as a warning about negative trends in society.

Allegory: is a story where characters and events represent deeper meanings or moral lessons. It conveys important ideas about society or human nature.

Setting

The Marrow Thieves takes place in a little-known part of **Northern Ontario** near Espanola, which still has its name.

Frenchie and his friends leave the southern cities, no longer named "Toronto" or "London" or "Ottawa" and head North.

The story is set **in the near future**, after polar **ice caps have melted** and **coastal cities in North America** have been destroyed by rising sea levels.

Vocabulary

Match the Definition and Term

Dystopian	A. The act of moving from one place to another, typically in search of better living conditions or opportunities.
Resistance	B. The exercise of authority or power in a cruel or unjust manner.
Migration	C. A prediction of what will happen in the future, often said to come from a divine source.
Prophecy	D. A state or society in which there is great suffering, injustice, and often totalitarian control.
Oppression	E. The act of opposing or refusing to comply with something, often in the face of authority or power.

Vocabulary

Match the Definition and Term

Marrow	A. The nutritious and fatty tissue found in the center of bones.
Residential Schools	B. A catastrophic event that results in the end of the world as we know it.
Colonizer	C. Boarding schools established by the Canadian government to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture.
Apocalypse	D. The nutritious and fatty tissue found in the center of bones.
Fugitive	E. A person or group who establishes control over a foreign land and its people.

Chapter 1: Frenchie's Coming to Story

What happens to Mitch at the beginning of the story?

How does the book hint that society is collapsing?

How does Frenchie survive after Mitch is taken?

Chapter 2: The Fire

Who are the members of the group that Frenchie joins, and what do we learn about each of them?

Why is RiRi not allowed to hear Miig's story?

What role does Miig play in the group?

Chapter 3: Story: Part One

What important history does Miigwans share with the group about the world's collapse?

What caused people to lose the ability to dream, according to Miig's story?

Chapter 4: Magic Words

What do we learn about Rose when she first joins the group?

How does Frenchie feel about Rose learning Anishinaabe from Minerva?

What does Frenchie dream about at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 5: Haunted in the Bush

What difficult decision does Frenchie make when he encounters a moose while hunting?

Why is Wab upset when she returns to camp?

Chapter 6: A Plague of Madness

How does Miigwans explain the motivations of people in survival situations, including the Recruiters?

What warning does Miig give the group about other Indigenous people?

Chapter 7: The Four Winds

What discovery does the group make at the start of the chapter?

How does Wab's behavior change, and what causes her distress?

Chapter 8: Wab's Coming- To Story

How does RiRi react to hearing Wab's story, and why is she so frightened?

What does Miigwans decide the group needs to do after hearing Wab's story?

Chapter 9: Story: Part 2

What does Miigwans explain about the connection between the environmental collapse and the loss of dreams?

What role do residential schools play in this new system?

Chapter 10: Back Into the Woods

How does Frenchie feel about returning to the woods after leaving the resort?

What strange things does Frenchie witness from the tree?

Chapter 11: Miigwans Coming to Story

What were the early signs that the strangers at Miig and Isaac's cabin could be dangerous?

How did Miig's realization about the visitors lead to his and Isaac's capture?

Chapter 12: Finding Direction

What does the word "abwaad" mean?

Why is Frenchie unable to ask Miig directly about how he escaped the schools?

Chapter 13: The Potential of Change

Why is Miig alarmed by the presence of the lunchbox?

Why does Frenchie's fear about the wiindigo people resurface when they encounter the two men?

Chapter 14: The Other Indians

Why does Miig agree to stay and eat with Travis and Lincoln despite his initial hesitation?

What do Frenchie and Chi-Boy discover about the layout of the clearing?

Chapter 15: The Way It All Changed

What does the attack on the group by Travis and Lincoln reveal about the dangers they face?

How does RiRi's death impact the dynamics of the group?

Chapter 16: The Long Stumble

Why does Frenchie feel numb after the death of RiRi and his killing of Travis?

What does Miig mean when he tells Frenchie to make sure his intentions remain good?

Chapter 17: Ragarou Comes Hunting

How does Minerva's sacrifice for the group show her strength and wisdom?

How does the group react to Minerva's decision, and what could it symbolize for their future?

Chapter 18: On The Road

What does Frenchie mean when he feels they're without their roots?

What does the discovery of the stream and the presence of fish represent for Frenchie and Rose?

Chapter 19: Found

What is Frenchie's reaction to being captured?

How does the reunion with his Dad impact Frenchie's journey?

Chapter 20: The Miracle of Minerva

Chapter 21: Loss

What is the secret weapon that Minerva uses to save herself and destroy her enemies?

How has Frenchie matured as the story progresses?

Chapter 22: The Circle

Chapter 23: Word Arrives in Black

What message is Frenchie's father trying to teach him by telling the story of running away to the city?

If you were in Frenchie's place, would you have made the same choice as he does in this chapter?

Chapter 24: Lost and Found and Lost

Chapter 25: Kiiwen

What do you think the title of this chapter means?

Would you have made the same choice if you were Frenchie?

Chapter 26: Locks Mean Nothing to Ghosts

What are your thoughts on the last chapter?

What do you think will happen in the next book *Hunting by Stars*?
