***FLIGHT* Discussion Questions**

**Essential Questions**

Chapters 1-10

1. Re-read the first 2 pages and focus on characterization. Read p. 5 and focus on characterization. Direct and Indirect characterization.
2. Re-read pp. 1-3 : Relate to Mythology. Remember, you should be connecting this contemporary novel to traditional Native American lit
3. Social worker section – pp. 5-6. Reactions to this conversation?
4. Why does contemporary American literature continually include seeing a therapist? Look at p. 6
5. Zits observes, “My entire life fits into one small backpack” Alexie 7). Imagine that these were your only belongings. What would be in your backpack?
6. “But I want them to pay attention to me. I want everybody to pay attention to me,” Zits thinks when he is discussing the rich and educated Indians (Alexie 7). Reactions based on what you have read in Chapters 1-10?
7. There are two different groups of foster parents. Read the middle of page 8.
8. Read paragraph on p. 26 – “I hate my country.” Modern day connections?
9. Reactions to Justice? How is he mythological? (Read pp. 20-23; pp. 24-25)
10. What does Zits think of himself?
11. How does Alexie show you the good with the bad when it comes to presenting the characters.
12. In what ways does this novel restore your faith in humanity? Focus on the beginning of the novel for this answer.
13. Where do you see evidence of cyclical time? Start by looking on pp. 34-35.
14. Ambiguous - open to or having several possible meanings or interpretations; lacking clearness or definiteness; obscure; indistinct
* Ambiguous literature is the best kind of literature to help you think critically. Explain how and why *Flight* is ambiguous in various ways.

**QUOTES to CONSIDER**

Chapters 1 - 3:

 "When it comes to foster parents, there are only two kinds: the good but messy people who are trying to help kids or the absolute welfare vultures who like to cash government checks every month." (8)

 "I'm fighting and kicking because that's what I do. It's how I'm wired. It's my programming. I read once that if a kid has enough bad things happen to him before he turns five, he's screwed for the rest of his life." (17)

 "I recognize his voice. I know this guy. He's arrested me a few dozen times. He's always been pretty cool. I trust him not to hurt me, so I calm down a little. 'Officer Dave,' I say. 'It's good to see you again.' " (17)

 "I measure men by the content of their character, not the color of their skin, and I find all of them are assholes." (27)

Chapters 4 - 6:

 "I turn around to look at myself in the mirror. I expect to see me pretending to be Clint Eastwood. But instead I am looking at a face that is not my own." (40)

 "I look at Elk and Horse. They're smiling. I realize they aren't freedom fighters or anything like that. They don't care about protecting the poor and defenceless. No, man, these guys just like to hurt people." (50)

 "Art and Justice fight on opposite sides of the war but they sound exactly like each other. How can you tell the difference between the good guys and the bad guys when they say the same things?" (56)

Chapters 7 - 9:

 "I wonder if this is Heaven. Maybe God sent me to Hell first. Maybe he made me watch Art kill Junior because I needed to learn from my mistakes." (65)

 "I am happy for the first time in my life." (65)

 "This is war." (74)

 "Is revenge a circle inside of a circle inside of a circle?" (77)