

Black Elk—Elk are brown, when he is named BLACK Elk it is indicative of his unique status. He was to be a great leader for his people. Set apart. At the end of *Black Elk Speaks* he describes the death of his dream (Dream Vision) and feels that he has failed as a leader. He feels he has not lived up to his name. He feels he is not distinct and a great leader.

Sitting Bull—Bison are HUGE animals. If one sits in your way, you are not going to move it. This is what he was to be for his people. An immovable object, something steadfast and stable. Something that is constant. At the end of his life he feels like he has not lived up to his name because the American Government MADE HIM MOVE.

Black Elk feels that it is his belief that saved him in the battles against the soldiers. When he wishes to die, an older Indian convinces him to continue to be a great leader for his people. Black Elk convinces the young men to stop fighting—therefore, he DOES save the few remaining women and children. Although he felt like he was a failure—he actually DID save his people, who still exist today.

Sitting Bull speech #1 1875

Nature-mysterious and growing, renewing and vibrant

White people are unnatural—

farmers-tied to the soil, force fertilizers and pesticides, build cities and fence the land and garbage

GREEDINESS is a disease in them

Rules that Poor have to follow, but not the RICH. Religion that the Poor follow, but not the RICH. They tax the poor to pay the rich.

They are a river that floods and destroys everything in its path

NOW THEY WANT TO BREAK THEIR PROMISE (made in 1868 that the Indians would possess all of the Dakotas forever) WE MUST RESIST THEM

Sitting Bull speech #2 1878

After the battle of Little Big Horn—where the Indians destroyed Custer's army, many of the Indians fled into Canada. The American Government sent representatives to try to get the Indians to move back into America, but they refused, seeking asylum in Canada.

Eventually the American government applied enough pressure on Canada that Canada told the Indians that they had to leave. They relocated to a reservation in Montana.

Sitting Bull speech #3 1882

Sitting Bull talks to a journalist about the life he has lead and why Indians DON'T WANT TO LIVE ON RESERVATIONS. He describes that the Great Spirit gave the land to the Indians and they have lived peacefully on it for generations. He describes the INJUSTICES that the American government have done to the Indians (which are very similar to the complaints the Colonists had against Britain in the Revolutionary War). He says all an Indian wants is Freedom, his liberty means more to him than meat and shelter. If you put Indians on a reservation-it is the same as putting them in a prison cell. He describes how when his people left the reservation to hunt, soldiers followed and tried to kill them. He killed them in self defense and asks—wouldn't you do the same?

Sitting Bull speech #4 1883

He is insulted by the American representatives who are very rude to him. He comes back and explains what the Indians need from the government—if the government wants them to be "good" Indians.

The government has stopped paying for the land they took from the Indians.

Give us more food-we are starving

Send us animals and tools and seed and things to be able to care for ourselves

Send us proper clothing

Fulfill the promises made to the Indians to keep them on the reservation

Sitting Bull speech #5

What treaty has the Indian ever broken—None

What treaty has the American government ever kept—NONE

Who has killed the Indian, stolen his land—the Government

Yet it is the Indian who is called "BAD"

I have always given to anyone in need, have never broken the law, have never mistreated anyone. My only crime is loving my people and wanting to protect them. I am wrong for being willing to die for my people.