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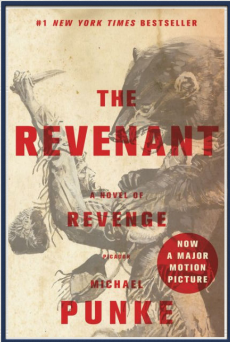
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### Historical Fiction

- While Michael Punke was reading a book about the American West, he discovered a snippet about Hugh Glass. Fascinated by Glass's story, he began to study his life and times, research that would find its way into his novel, *The Revenant*.
- How does the fact that many of the characters were real historical figures affect your reading? Would the novel have been as compelling if it had been entirely fictional?



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### Character Comparison

- Compare and Contrast:
  - Hugh Glass & Captain Henry
  - Fitzgerald and Bridger
- After the bear attack renders Glass immobile and near death, the Captain asks his brigade for two volunteers to stay behind and tend to Glass until he passes. Bridger agrees to stay to "save his wounded pride," and Fitzgerald stays solely for the extra money. Do you think Bridger's reason to stay is any better than Fitzgerald's?



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Shortly after Glass is abandoned, he has a dream that he is attacked by a rattlesnake. When he wakes, he realizes it was just a dream, and he also discovers that his fever has broken. What could this dream represent?



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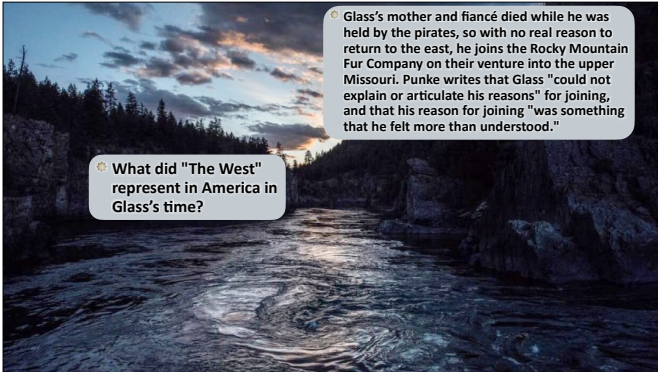
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Glass's mother and fiancé died while he was held by the pirates, so with no real reason to return to the east, he joins the Rocky Mountain Fur Company on their venture into the upper Missouri. Punke writes that Glass "could not explain or articulate his reasons" for joining, and that his reason for joining "was something that he felt more than understood."

What did "The West" represent in America in Glass's time?



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Punke uses dreams as a device to gain insight into a character's subconscious. Bridger has a dream that he is stabbed in the chest by a mysterious specter with the knife he stole from Glass. Who or what could this specter represent? Does Punke want readers to feel empathy for Bridger? If so, why?



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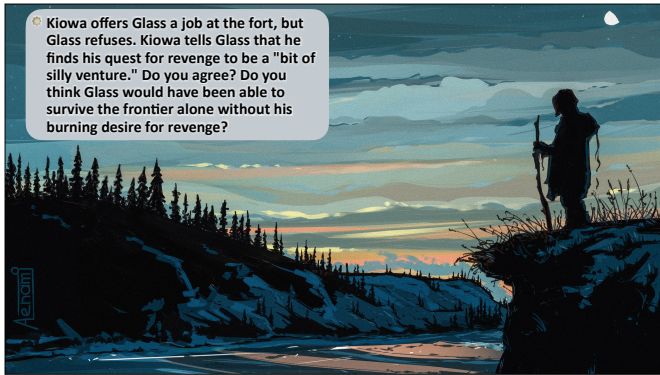
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❖ Kiowa offers Glass a job at the fort, but Glass refuses. Kiowa tells Glass that he finds his quest for revenge to be a "bit of silly venture." Do you agree? Do you think Glass would have been able to survive the frontier alone without his burning desire for revenge?

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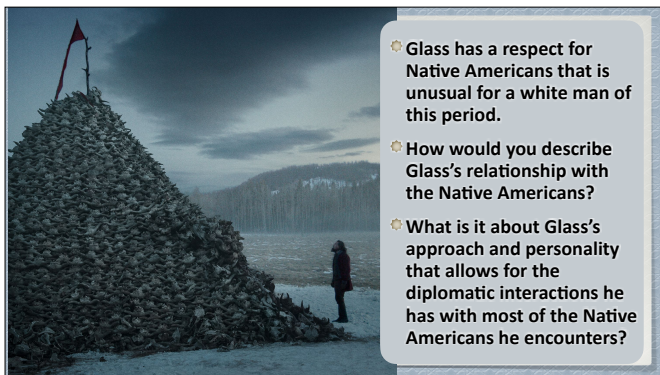
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❖ Glass has a respect for Native Americans that is unusual for a white man of this period.

❖ How would you describe Glass's relationship with the Native Americans?

❖ What is it about Glass's approach and personality that allows for the diplomatic interactions he has with most of the Native Americans he encounters?

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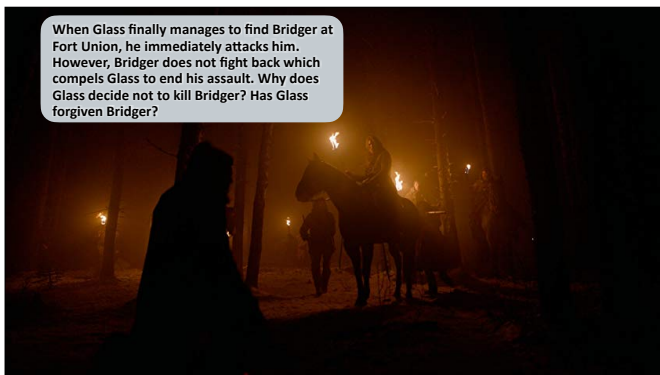
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When Glass finally manages to find Bridger at Fort Union, he immediately attacks him. However, Bridger does not fight back which compels Glass to end his assault. Why does Glass decide not to kill Bridger? Has Glass forgiven Bridger?

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- At Fort Atkinson Glass finally comes face-to-face with Fitzgerald. Glass, however, is not able to get the revenge he so desperately desires, as Major Constable decides that Fitzgerald will be tried in court.
- In the seemingly lawless frontier, a trial does seem odd, but is this move toward order and due process a positive and necessary one?
- Does Fitzgerald's punishment fit his crime?



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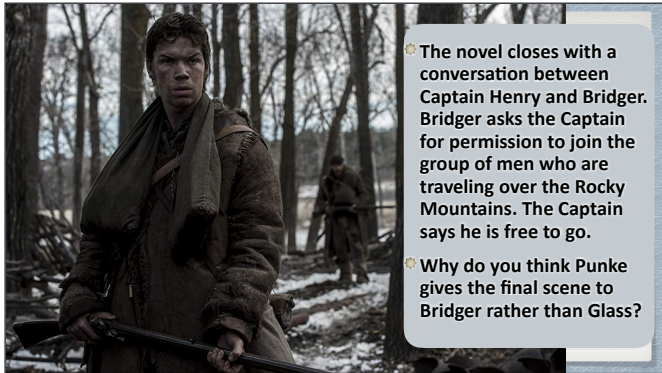
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- The novel closes with a conversation between Captain Henry and Bridger. Bridger asks the Captain for permission to join the group of men who are traveling over the Rocky Mountains. The Captain says he is free to go.
- Why do you think Punke gives the final scene to Bridger rather than Glass?

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### THE REVENANT

- Using these ideas and literary analysis strategies, discuss how it all relates to *The Revenant*.
- Choose ONE method of literary analysis and apply it to *The Revenant*:
  - Discuss THREE quotes or specific examples of how the literary analysis method you have chosen relates to the story.



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