1. Which symbolic archetypes do you notice in the story? (colors, characters etc).
   1. What color is Kakenya wearing? What is the American boy wearing?
   2. Red and white- what is the significance?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***By The Waters of Babylon*** | ***Kakenya’s Story*** | ***The Winter Hibiscus*** |
| Water- rebirth  Number 3  Black panther and the white fawn | Kakenya wears red for courage and passion, emotion  American college student wears white for purity, renewal, and cleanliness (she goes to college, and returns a new woman)  American boy could be the benevolent guide because he helps her get to America |  |

1. Think about the role of knowledge in these three stories.
2. How do the characters view **knowledge**?
3. How does knowledge connect to the theme of the rite of passage?

* Why does she complete the ceremony? Is it to simply “become a woman” in the tradition of her village?
* An education gives Kakenya power. It makes her feel confident enough to go against the traditions of her village. It gives her the power to ignite change in her village in order to promote education equality for women.
* Kakenya breaks the rules and makes a sacrifice in order to gain a proper education

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***By The Waters of Babylon*** | ***Kakenya’s Story*** | ***The Winter Hibiscus*** |
| John yearns for knowledge. Knowledge is what drives him to complete his journey. His lack of knowledge scares him, but he finds that Place of the Gods anyway.  Knowledge gets John where he needs to be. He feels more confident and capable the more he learns. Knowledge allows him to complete his rite of passage. | Kakenya goes through with the ceremony in order to gain knowledge. She makes the deal with her father in order to go back to school after the ceremony.  Kakenya seeks out knowledge again after high school- she sees the boy and wants to go to college. The knowledge that she gains in America allows Kakenya to complete her rite of passage and change lives back home. |  |

1. Discuss the transitions and challenges that each character must face in order to achieve their rite of passage?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***By The Waters of Babylon*** | ***Kakenya’s Story*** | ***The Winter Hibiscus*** |
| John must become a priest  He must leave home  He must find the Land of the Gods  He must return home with a new perspective | She must go through with the ceremony in order to go to high school.  She must get permission from her entire village in order to leave to go to America.  She returns to Kenya and asks to build a school.  \*\*She defies tradition, makes a sacrifice, and is unafraid to change the lives of women who have been suffering for so long.\*\*  Her rite of passage is COMPLETE at the end of her story. |  |