Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Block\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Informally interview a couple of your classmates about their early literacy experiences. How frequently, if at all, do comic books and drawings show up in their early literacy experiences? In what ways did these texts impact them?*

**Answer on a separate sheet, in full sentence, and with reference to the text (where appropriate).**

1: What is Superman doing in the comic book panel Alexie remembers? Why is it important to remember this detail at the very end of the essay?

2: This eight paragraph essay is divided into two distinct sections. Why? How would you describe the arrangement of the material? How does it suit Alexie’s overall purpose?

3: In paragraph 7, Alexie repeats a certain verb fourteen times. What is this verb and what effect does this repetition have? What might Alexie be trying to say about the process of his coming to literacy, in terms of both the effort required and the height of the obstacles encountered (or, given the metaphor introduced in paragraph 4, the thickness of the doors that had to be broken through)?

4: Alexie claims that he “read with equal parts joy and desperation.” He tells us that he “loved those books,” but that this love “had only one purpose. I was trying to save my life.” What does he mean? What would it mean to read with desperation? Why did he feel that reading books could save his life? Do you think that he was right?

5: Alexie lists a variety of ways that Indian children failed inside school but excelled outside of school. Using this list, consider what it means to be “literate” on the Indian reservation where Alexie grew up. What literacy skills did the Indian children have that were not valued or seen inside school?

6: Alexie notes that Indian children were “expected to be stupid.” Explain in a paragraph or two how expectations can impact children’s literacy learning. If possible, incorporate examples from your own childhood where expectations of you –positive or negative—shaped what you did or didn’t do?