

Discussion Questions

Sandoz' *Crazy Horse* blends an understanding of our common history with an appreciation of our region's cultural diversity and the reading of *Crazy Horse* provides a common ground for Nebraska citizens to come together to learn about and discuss Native American culture, plains history, and contemporary issues. Published in 1942, *Crazy Horse* is one of the best-known books written by Sandoz.

How would you describe Sandoz' portrayal of the Oglalas?

How would you describe Crazy Horse?

What do you think Crazy Horse would think of Mount Rushmore?

Would you consider Crazy Horse a patriot, an insurgent, or both?

Mari Sandoz' book was published during World War II. Do the themes of this book resonate with our current war? Would your perspective of this book be different if it were not read during war time?

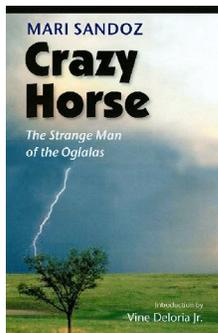
Why do you think Sandoz ended the book with the death of Crazy Horse, rather than closing with the impact of his death?

The buffalo (American Bison) plays a key role in the book. What do you think that the buffalo represents?

In the book there is cultural conflict not only between the whites and the Native Americans, but between the tribes. (Page 308) What cultural or ethnic groups do we see as being homogenous?

The Native Americans in the book refer to the reservations and agencies as "White Man's Islands." Do you think this is an accurate term? Do you think this was a term used by the Lakota in the 1870s or was this a term Sandoz heard in the 1930s?

Sandoz illustrates acculturation among tribes on Page 53 and throughout the book among the Native Americans and the whites. What are some acculturations we see today? Do you think acculturation is good or bad?



What is it about Crazy Horse makes him so compelling?

Mari
Sandoz
High Plains Heritage Center