

Approved for use in English I

Summary of the Work:

Two Old Women is based on the Athabaskan Indian legend that was passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska. This suspenseful, inspirational tale is of two old women who are abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine. Though these women have been known to complain more than they contribute, they must now either survive on their own or die trying. The landscape and the way of life are both merciless and beautiful.

Rationale:

The novel, *Two Old Women*, presents the themes of societal pressure, betrayal, courage, friendship, community and forgiveness.

The novel fits the requirements of Indian Education for all.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Kirkus Review
- Publishers Weekly
- Kliatt

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

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Readability

- Lexile Score: 1030
- Readability Level: 7.1

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 2005

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

In *Two Old Women*, Wallis creates two heroines with determination whose story speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Two Old Women is a novel that is appropriate for the freshman English curriculum, with its presentation of the Eskimo Indian as a link with Indian Education for all.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

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