

## Questions for *Nunavut Generations*, by Ann McElroy

### Chapter 1

1. Why is McElroy in Iqaluit?
2. What does McElroy mean by 'modern'? By 'traditional'?
3. Keep track of examples of culture change McElroy notes.
4. Why does McElroy call this book *Nunavut Generations*?
5. How is Nunavut unique within Canada (politically, geographically, culturally)?
6. How are the labels 'Inuit' and 'Eskimo' different? Is it always inappropriate to use the word Eskimo?
7. In what ways is McElroy different from the Inuit of her age or generation?
8. What does McElroy mean by 'adaptation'?
9. What is a 'real Eskimo'? What issue is McElroy raising by recounting this discussion about real-ness?

### Chapter 2

1. In what ways are Inuit people resilient and flexible?
2. How do Europeans portray the Inuit in film and elsewhere?
3. What do tools and other artifacts say about a culture?
4. Who are the Thule people? On what basis are these people defined?
5. What is a 'cultural broker'?
6. What roles do Tookoolito and Ebierbing play in Arctic history?

### Chapter 3

1. What are syllabics?
2. What does the myth of Sedna say about how Inuit people treat animals? (Or are supposed to treat animals?)
3. What issues do missionaries have with the 'feast of Sedna'?
4. How does Inuit mythology change with the introduction of Christianity?
5. What is ethnomedicine? What did missionaries misunderstand about local uses of plants?
6. What does McElroy mean by 'traditional knowledge'?
7. List the agents of change and modernity identified by McElroy in this chapter?

### Chapter 4

1. What are McElroy's research questions?
2. What challenges faced McElroy as she moved into Iqaluit (formerly Frobisher Bay)?
3. What activities does McElroy undertake to get to know Inuit people?
4. How does McElroy differentiate between the roles of tourists and anthropologists?
5. What is the difference between a host and a mentor? How do anthropologists interact differently with each?

## Chapter 5

1. For what reasons do Inuit people move during the mid-twentieth century?
2. What changes to their lives do elders describe?
3. What is McElroy's research question(s); what is she trying to find out?
4. Explain what is meant by 'adaptation.' How about 'coercion?'
5. What kinds of reasons might 'pull' Inuit to Iqaluit?
6. Can you generalize one migration story?
7. What strikes Inuit about life in town?

## Chapter 6

1. What is biculturalization? In what circumstances might it happen?
2. What kinds of names do Inuit people give their children? What do names represent?
3. What differences in child-rearing practices do you detect between Inuit practices and those you'd expect in Greater Vancouver?
4. Do you think that McElroy's account of childhood is too generalizing? Why or why not?
5. Describe McElroy's experiment for determining gender roles. Where are McElroy's biases?
6. What is the Extinction Myth?

## Chapter 7

1. Why were the Inuit relocated?
2. What were the effects of relocation?
3. How do social scientists explain high suicide rates?
4. Are the vignettes of the lives of Mina and Lucassie useful? Do they create or reproduce stereotypes?

## Chapter 8

1. Why are Inuit people not content in the 1960s?
2. What is the impact of TV on Inuit lives?
3. In what way has the creation of Nunavut Territory been successful? Challenging?

## Epilogue

1. Is this a hopeful book? (Is the story of the Inuit portrayed in a hopeful way?)