Review 6

The Rug Weaver

Sequence
Main Idea
Supporting Text
The Rug Weaver

In the 1800s and early 1900s, Navajo women helped earn money for their families by weaving rugs from the wool of the Churro sheep. In this story, set in the 1920s, a Navajo girl visits her grandmother on the reservation to learn about traditional Navajo rug weaving.

The air was full of the sounds of crickets. As Susan’s father began closing the living room windows for the night, he said, “We’ll be leaving early in the morning to visit Grandmother.”

Susan missed her grandmother. Susan didn’t see her often because her grandmother lived on the Navajo Indian reservation.

On her way to bed, Susan stopped and stared at the rug hanging on the wall. The rug had always been there, but usually she gave it little thought.

Tonight, though, Susan looked closely at the rug. She flipped the corner of the rug over and studied the threads. She wondered what they were made of and how they were woven. She couldn’t quite figure out how the rug had been made.
That night Susan dreamed about a flock of sheep grazing on the side of a mountain. Their wool had been clipped short and lay all around them like a blanket of white snow.

At breakfast Susan felt uneasy as she ate her meal. Her father noticed that she was deep in thought. "What's wrong?" he asked.

"I had a strange dream last night," Susan explained.

The two of them discussed the dream. Then her father said with a wink, "When we get to the reservation, your grandmother can explain the meaning of the sheep in your dream."

On the drive to the reservation, Susan's father talked about the differences between their house and the hogan that her grandmother lived in. Grandmother's traditional Navajo house had no electric lights or running water. The walls were made of mud and logs, and beneath her feet was a floor made of earth. Although Grandmother had chosen this way of life because it was important to her, Susan was grateful to have lamps and hot and cold running water in her own house.

When Susan and her father arrived, Grandmother was sitting outside, working at a wooden frame. A large basket of yarn was next to her. After hugging her grandmother, Susan walked to the frame and looked at the huge rug on it. One end wasn't finished and had brightly colored strings hanging from it. On the other end was woven a beautiful sunset.

"Grandmother, I had a dream about sheep, and I think I'm beginning to understand what it means," Susan said. "Does the wool in your weaving come from sheep?"
12 Grandmother nodded and began telling Susan about Navajo rug weaving. While she talked, her fingers moved quickly, weaving the yarn.

13 Grandmother told Susan that the women of the Navajo tribe tended a special breed of sheep called the Churro. When the wool was ready to be cut, the women would shear the wool from the sheep. The wool would be cleaned, combed, and spun into yarn. Then the wool would be dyed shades of green, red, and brown using colors from plants.

14 Grandmother stopped weaving and pointed to some big tubs of colored water. “I dyed some wool in those tubs just yesterday,” she said. Then she explained that when the wool was dry, the weavers took small strands and wove them into patterns on the wooden frame.

15 “When this rug is finished, the sunset will be smiling over a purple mountain,” Grandmother said. “It’s a scene I remember from my childhood. I often create rugs to show the beauty of things I’ve seen. My rugs are like pictures that last forever, and
they're memories I can share with others. My mother taught me to weave, just as her mother taught her.”

16 Susan hugged her grandmother. “You made the rug that hangs over our fireplace, didn’t you?” she asked excitedly.

17 Her grandmother nodded and smiled. “Let me show you how to use your fingers to weave the wool.”

18 Susan listened as her grandmother gave instructions and guided Susan’s small fingers through the yarn. Weaving had looked so easy when her grandmother did it, but Susan’s efforts were awkward and uneven. She realized that it would take her years of practice to be able to make a rug full of beauty and history.
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1. What does Susan dream about?
   a. How wool is dyed
   b. A flock of sheep
   c. Her grandmother weaving a rug
   d. The rug on the wall

2. What is paragraph 9 mainly about?
   a. What Susan is thankful for at home.
   b. How Susan traveled to the reservation.
   c. Why Susan’s grandmother lives on the reservation.
   d. How Susan’s house differs from her grandmother’s house.

3. What does Grandmother do while she tells Susan about weaving?
   a. Spins small strands of wool into yarn
   b. Cuts the wool from some of the sheep
   c. Moves her fingers quickly as she works with the yarn
   d. Makes dye from colors in plants

4. In paragraph 6, the words “deep in thought” mean that Susan--
   a. is thinking about traveling
   b. is unsure of what her father will think
   c. is eager to share what she thinks
   d. is thinking a lot about something

5. Susan’s grandmother most likely feels--
   a. proud of her family’s history
   b. bothered by the visit with her family
   c. upset about caring for sheep
   d. eager to move from the reservation
6. Read the following notes a student wrote about the story.

Navajo Rug Weaving

1. Navajo women take care of the sheep.
2. The wool is cut from the sheep.
3. _________________________
4. The wool is combed.
5. The wool is spun into yarn.

Which of these belongs on the blank line?

a. The wool is cleaned.
b. The wool is dyed.
c. The wool is woven.
d. The wool is dried.

7. Susan’s father is concerned at breakfast because he—

a. knows that Susan had a bad dream
b. thinks something is bothering Susan
c. wonders whether Susan will be able to go on the trip
d. hopes Susan isn’t feeling nervous about leaving home

8. The author most likely wrote “The Rug Weaver” to—

a. persuade readers to find a hobby that is fun and meaningful
b. provide readers with facts about what reservations are like
c. encourage children to spend more time learning about their grandparents
d. tell a story about a custom a grandmother shares with her granddaughter
9. Which is the best summary of this story?

a.) Susan has an odd dream the night before she and her father take a trip to see her grandmother. Susan visits with Grandmother and learns more about her weaving. The visit also helps Susan better understand her family history.

b.) Susan and her father drive to see her grandmother, who lives on the Navajo Indian reservation. Susan learns that her grandmother’s life is quite different from her own life. Susan sees sheep that live on her grandmother’s reservation.

c.) Susan has a dream before she goes to see her grandmother. She doesn’t understand what the dream means. She talks to her father about it, and he suggests talking to Grandmother when they visit the reservation.

d.) Susan and her father haven’t seen Grandmother in a long time. They are looking forward to spending time with her. They get up early in the morning to drive to the Navajo Indian reservation to see her.

10. Read the following chart based on the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Traditional Navajo Hogan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Has walls made of mud and logs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Doesn't have electric lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Doesn't have running water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of these belongs on the blank line?

a. has windows  
b. has a floor made of earth  
c. has a fireplace  
d. has pictures hanging on the wall
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11. Which sentence shows that Susan finds out that learning to weave rugs is not easy?
   a. She flipped the corner of the rug over and studied the threads.
   b. When Susan and her father arrived, Grandmother was sitting outside, working at a wooden frame.
   c. One end wasn't finished and had brightly colored strings hanging from it.
   d. She realized that it would take her years of practice to be able to make a rug full of beauty and history.

12. How does Susan feel after watching her grandmother weave?
   a. She wonders if the rug will look the way her grandmother describes.
   b. She is sure she can make a rug like the one her grandmother makes.
   c. She admires the skills her grandmother uses to create the rug.
   d. She is puzzled by the materials her grandmother uses to make the rug.

13. By the end of the story, the reader can tell the Susan—
   a. wishes she lived on the reservation
   b. hopes Grandmother will come to visit her
   c. often dreams about events on the reservation
   d. wants to learn to weave rugs like the ones Grandmother weaves
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Answer key

1. b
2. d
3. c
4. d
5. a
6. a
7. b
8. d
9. a
10. b
11. d
12. d
13. d