QUESTIONS FOR BLUE HIGHWAYS (excerpt)
by William Least Heat-Moon (aka: William Trogdon)

1. What is the most discernable difference between life/climate on top of the mountain and life/climate in Cedar City?
2. What is the first example of culture (even if it is geographical) clash that William encounters?
3. Why do you think William lists all of the food he has for breakfast rather than just saying he ate a big breakfast?
4. William meets Fritz, a Hopi Indian, and asks him about the origins of his name; what does Fritz tell him?
5. What are some of the prejudices that exist in the Indian community, according to Fritz?
6. What irritate Fritz about some of the elders in his community?
7. What does it say about Fritz’s values when he says he has decided to stay in Tuba after he completes school?
8. How have the Hopi Indians struggled to maintain their identity and how has the US government interfered in that process?
9. What does William learn about the Hopi religion and how is this similar to Native American lore that we read in the beginning weeks of school? How does this contrast to the idea of religion as seen through the explorers and Conquistadors and even Equiano?
10. Fritz describes some of the Hopi traditions as, “sitting in pictures” (Least Heat-Moon, 112); what literary device is being used when you compare two unlike things without using “like” or “as”?
11. What cultural objects does William observe in Fritz’s room?
12. Why is piki so important to the Hopi culture?
13. Explain the Hopi concept of “emergence.” Can you connect this idea to any other stories that you have read in high school or on your own time? If so, what are they?
14. Why does William believe Hopi values lack an ethical code and how does Fritz counter this argument?
15. Why is pride the deadliest of the Seven Deadly Sins? What are the other six and which do you feel can be the most damaging to a healthy, productive life?
16. Choose four words to describe Fritz’s personality.