

RECLAMATION

DAVID A. ROBERTSON

**"BEING ALONE AT HOME KIND OF MAKES
ME FEEL ALONE EVERYWHERE."**

Daniel Goodroad, an American Indian teenager, is losing hope. Just as he's about to give up, he encounters a horse. Forming a natural bond, the two meet up with a Native elder who helps Daniel reconnect with his culture. Equipped with the tools to raise himself up in order to reclaim both culture and community, Daniel—now an elder himself—demonstrates the power of recollection, reclamation, and preservation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Cultural reconnection puts Daniel on the path to a healthier life. As the United States struggles with a skyrocketing suicide rate, how can we help more people reconnect with their country, community, and culture?
2. How can schools be better equipped to help students like Daniel?
3. Events of the past that disrupted and destroyed Indigenous Peoples and culture continue to impact American Indian and Alaska Native people today—these people experience poverty, poor health, and unemployment at far higher rates than the rest of the population. How might we help heal this intergenerational trauma?
4. The ideas and traditions of indigenous culture—represented by the horse, a powerful symbol for many tribes—bring strength and healing to Daniel. How can inherited wisdom or indigenous knowledge help us build a Culture of Health?
5. Elders play an important role in “Reclamation,” and also in Yoon Ha Lee’s “The Erasure Game.” Do older generations play an important role in your family or community? How can we build a future where older Americans are valued and empowered?