

American Literature
This Land is Ours
Essay Questions

Directions: Each group member must choose a different one of the following writing assignments concerned with issues raised in Chapter 4: *This Land is Ours*

1. You are a reporter for Harper's Weekly magazine, in the year 1879. You are on assignment in the Great Plains, covering the return of Standing Bear and his followers from the Indian Territory to their homeland in Nebraska. Report your observations to the magazine's readers nationwide.
2. Read Ralph Waldo Emerson's argument against Indian Removal in the sidebar "A Crime Against the Country." Choose a civil rights or human rights issue from a different period of history (up to the present). Write a letter to the governor of your state, the president of the United States, or the secretary general of the United Nations expressing your views on the issue. (2 students may choose this topic, **if** they choose different issues)
3. Imagine that you are being forcibly removed from your home to a place hundreds of miles away. What reasons do the authorities give for your relocation? Locate your "destination" on a map and study the route. Write a series of journal entries that record your impressions and feelings as you make this journey. Will you resist the orders and turn back? Why or why not? (2 students may choose this topic, **if** they take opposing positions)