

American Literature  
*This Land is Ours*  
Discussion Questions

1. What factors contributed to the U.S. government's policy of forcibly removing Native Americans from their ancestral lands?
2. Explain the title of this story, "This Land Is Ours." What are some other possible interpretations? Do you see a possible irony in the title? If so, explain.
3. How did the legal principle of *habeas corpus* advance the cause of the Ponca? What arguments did the government use against it?
4. How much did you know about the story of Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca before you read "This Land Is Ours"? What reasons can you give for your answer? What do you know about the other Native American chiefs and leaders mentioned in the story?
5. How has our society's understanding of the phrase "all men are created equal" changed since it was first written in the Declaration of Independence? How does the Ponca's story contribute to that understanding? Are there limits to our understanding of the phrase today? Explain.