

Cather, “The Enchanted Bluff”
Wesley Advocates

11 August 2019

Who tells us the story? How does the narrator’s perspective influence our view of events and characters?

When and where does the main action occur? By contrast, where is the “big red rock,” the “Enchanted Bluff”? How does Cather use detail to contrast the two landscapes?

Why is this outing especially important for the boys? Why is this the “last watchfire” of the year?

What significant details does Cather provide about each character—Fritz and Otto Hassler, Percy Pound, Tip Smith, Arthur Adams? What about Tip’s Uncle Bill?

What do the boys know about Aztecs? Mound Builders? Cliff Dwellers? Conquistadores? What happened to the people who lived on the bluff? Why is it “enchanted”?

What has happened to the boys since they first heard about the bluff? What about their plan to see it?

What do you find typical about these six boys? Atypical? Why does Cather contrast their lives in Sandtown with those of the Enchanted Bluff people?

Cather published this story in 1909, later than the stories we read before. Do you notice any differences in theme, characterization, tone?