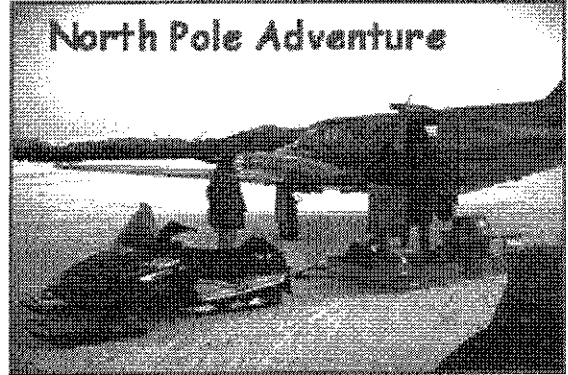


# WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Many times authors like Ben Mikaelson get ideas for stories from their own experiences. Some of Ben's many adventures are swimming with dolphins, flying over the North Pole, and spending four months in South America. Ben's experiences many times develop into novels as he has undergone conditions and emotions similar to what his characters would have in their situations.



**Directions:** Make a list of possible story ideas from your own experiences.

*- Responses need not be in complete sentences!*

## Story Ideas from Your Experiences

Story Idea #1	Story Idea #2
Story Idea #3	Story Idea #4



# CHARACTERS



**Directions:** Describe the following characters as you read about them in the book. You may "bullet" your answers. Answers need not be in complete sentences.

Cole Matthews: \_\_\_\_\_

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Peter Driscall: \_\_\_\_\_

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Garvey: \_\_\_\_\_

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Edwin: \_\_\_\_\_

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William Matthews: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cindy Matthews: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rosey: \_\_\_\_\_

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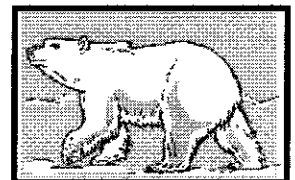
## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion.

*Answer all questions in ink. Questions with an \* must be answered in complete sentences.*

Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-25

1. How long will Cole be in Southeast Alaska?
2. What kind of Native American is Garvey?
3. How old is Cole?
- \* 4. Why is Cole in trouble this time?
- \* 5. In the past, how did Cole act when he got in trouble?
- \* 6. What is Cole's plan to avoid jail?
7. What plant does Edwin say will cause infected hands?
- \* 8. Why isn't Cole's shelter closer to the stream?
9. What does the Spirit Bear possess?
10. What is an at.oow?
11. How long is Cole held in detention?
12. Who trashes Cole's room at the detention center and bloodies his knuckles?
- \* 13. What does Cole do as soon as the skiff is out of sight?



Name :

# STORY MAP

Directions: Begin the story map and continue to add to it as you read the novel.

Title  
TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR  
PART ONE

Setting, Characters, Problems, Solution

see character sheet

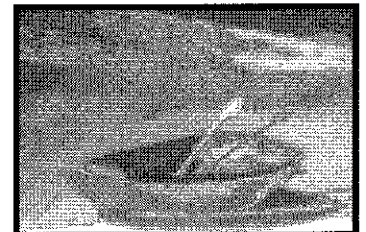
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

## Series of Events

## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with an \* must be answered in complete sentences.*  
Chapters 3-5, pp. 26-46

- \* 1. What does Garvey bring to Cole's cell?
- \* 2. What does Cole do with the ingredients?
3. How does Cole plan to escape from the island?
- \* 4. What does Garvey call Cole instead of Champ, the name he usually calls him?
5. Where do Cole's parents sit at Circle Justice?
6. How many of Cole's classmates show up for Circle Justice?
- \* 7. What two obligations must speakers fulfill at the Circle?
- \* 8. What does the Circle want to believe about Cole?
- \* 9. Why can't Cole swim away from the island?
10. What scares Cole after he makes it back to shore?
11. What presence does Cole see?
12. What does Cole find near the ashes of the shelter?



## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with a \* must be answered in complete sentences.*

Chapters 6-8, pp. 47-73

1. Who does Cole argue with at the Circle?
- \* 2. At the Circle Garvey says Cole has will and courage, but what does he also have?
- \* 3. What does Peter feel will make things better?
4. When will the tide come in?
5. Who does Cole blame for his banishment on the island?
6. At the end of one year's banishment, who will decide what happens to Cole?
7. What does Cole make to fight the bear?
8. What does Cole find to eat?
9. What does Cole grab to help him pull away from the bear?
10. What does Cole kill while he's lying hurt, barely breathing?
11. Where does Cole wish he were?



## **SPIRIT BEAR FACTS**

The Kermode or Spirit Bear is a black bear that has white fur due to a rare genetic trait. The bear is not albino, as it typically has a brown nose and eyes.

It is named after Frank Kermode, former director of the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria.

The greatest concentration of Spirit Bears are found on the Central Coast and North Coast of British Columbia, Canada, but have been documented in northeast British Columbia and as far east in North America as Minnesota.

It is illegal to hunt the Spirit Bear in B.C.

In British Columbia, the greatest number of Spirit Bears are found on Princess Royal Island, where as many as one-tenth of the black bears born are white.

The Spirit Bear, like most black bears, weighs about half a pound when born and generally between 150-300 pounds when fully grown.

The bear's body length, measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail, averages between four and six feet. Its height, measured from the bottom of the paw flat on the ground to the highest part of the shoulders, is between two-and-a-half and three feet.

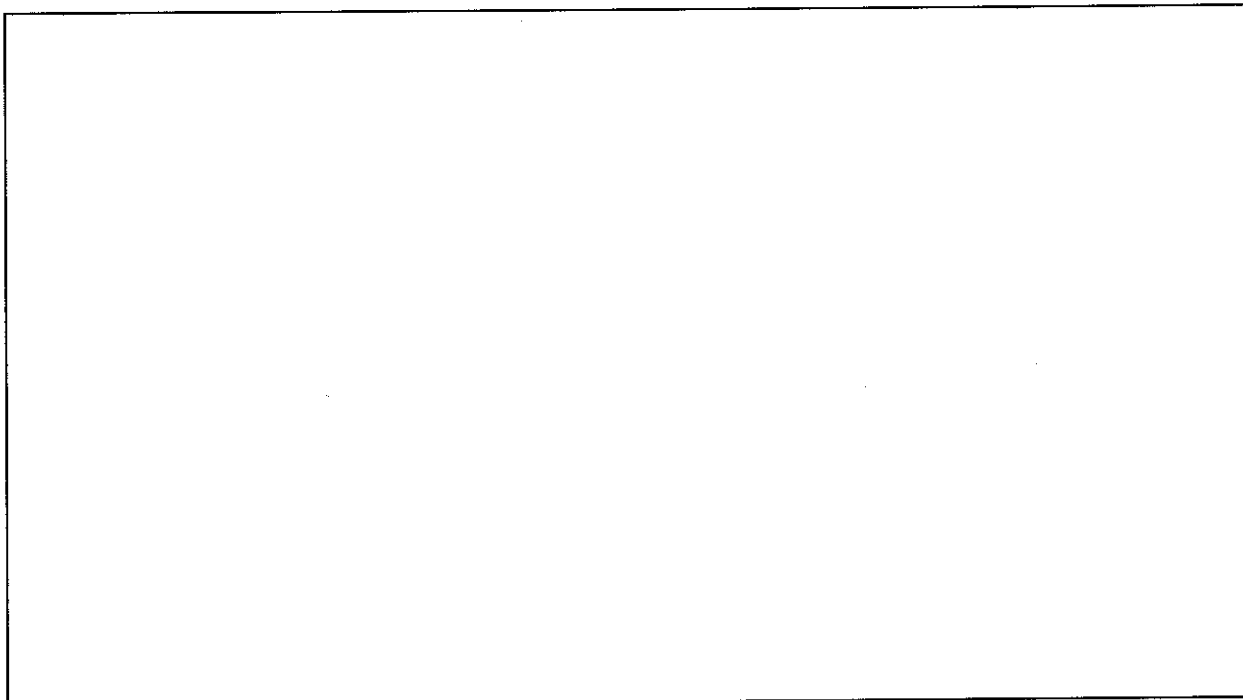
Spirit Bears, like most black bears, are omnivores. They eat berries, nuts, fruits, roots, grasses and other plants, insects, deer and moose fawns, carrion and – during the salmon season from late summer through fall – spawning salmon.

They are usually solitary, except females with offspring. Males keep large home ranges overlapping with smaller ranges of several females.

Females reach sexual maturity at three to four years of age. Mating takes place during the summer months, with gestation taking about 220 days. Cubs are born in their mother's winter den in January or February, and are weaned at about eight months, but may remain with their mother for up to a year-and-a-half, when she is ready to mate again.

Spirit Bears can live for more than 25 years in the wild. They can go without food for up to seven months during hibernation in northern areas.

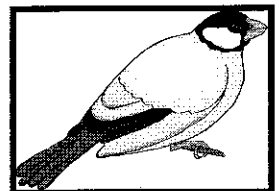
**Directions:** Sketch a picture of how you envision the spirit bear in the novel.



## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with a \* must be answered in complete sentences. Answer on this sheet!*  
Chapters 9-12, pp. 74-102

1. What does Cole watch in the spruce tree?
2. What does Cole imagine is covering him?
3. After the storm passes, what reminds Cole of the circle Garvey spoke of?
- \* 4. What does Cole understand as the circle of life and death?
5. What does Cole decide is the real power?
6. What is the first thing Cole eats after the mauling?
7. What other things does Cole eat while he is unable to walk?
8. After Cole spits at the bear, what does the bear do?
- \* 9. What does Cole imagine he is in his dream?
- \* 10. How does Cole see the world after the spirit bear disappears?
11. Who rescues Cole?
12. How is Cole taken from the island?

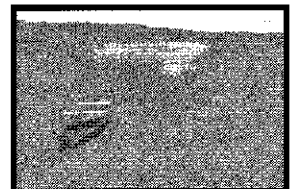




## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with an \* must be answered in complete sentences. Answer on this sheet!*  
Chapters 13-15, pp. 103-133

- \* 1. Who is Rosey?
2. What do the people in Cole's nightmare call him?
- \* 3. What does Cole do with the white hair he pulled from the bear?
4. Who escorts Cole to the detention center?
5. Why does Cole think the bear attacked him?
- \* 6. In what way has Cole's mother changed?
7. What happened to Cole's dad when he was a child?
8. Who is the surprise visitor to Circle Justice?
9. Who told Edwin he saw a white bear on the island where Cole was banished?
10. Who will finance Cole's banishment this time?
11. What is the new sentence imposed on Cole?



# CONFLICT

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are four main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. society, or person vs. self.

**Directions:** In the space provided, list four conflicts Cole experiences and justify why you identify it with that particular type of conflict. Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

## Person vs. Person

Conflict	Resolution

## Person vs. Nature

Conflict	Resolution

## Person vs. Society






Conflict	Resolution

## Person vs. Self

Conflict	Resolution

## CHARACTER FEELINGS CHART

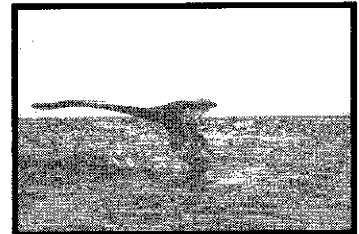
**Directions:** In the boxes across from each of the feelings, describe an incident or time in the novel when each of the listed characters experienced that feeling. *Include the page number(s) where the incident occurred.*

	Cole	Peter	Edwin	Garvey
<b>Frustration</b> 				
<b>Anger</b> 				
<b>Fear</b> 				
<b>Humiliation</b> 				
<b>Relief</b> 				

## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with an \* must be answered in complete sentences. Answer on this sheet!*  
Chapters 16-18, pp. 134-157

1. How long does it take to get from Drake to the island in the skiff?
2. How does Edwin disable the skiff engine?
- \* 3. What should Cole celebrate during his time on the island?
- \* 4. How does Cole feel toward Peter now?
5. Where does Edwin take Cole before sunrise?
6. Once Cole breaks off the left end of the stick, what does he still have?
7. What does Cole see for the first time in the bay?
8. What type of dance does Cole perform?
9. What does Cole carry up the hill that symbolizes his ancestors?



# ANGER MANAGEMENT

**Directions:** Cole has some anger management issues throughout the book. He also has to deal with the consequences because of his actions. Write about a time when you were angry.

Why were you angry? What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

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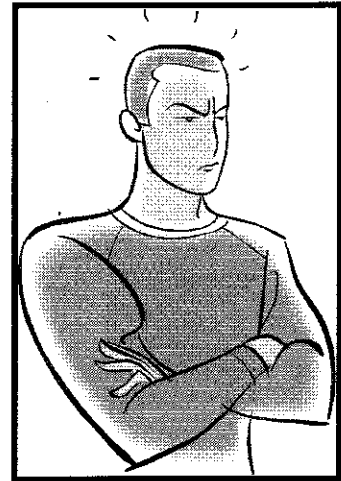
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Were there any consequences because of your actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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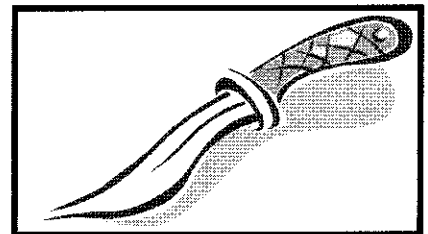
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## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with a \* must be answered in complete sentences. Answer on this sheet!*  
Chapters 19-21, pp. 158-184

1. What does Cole mistake for a coyote?
- \* 2. Why does Garvey tell Cole he's taking him back to Minneapolis?
- \* 3. What does Cole learn from the wolf dance?
- \* 4. What does Cole think about when he stumbles while carrying the ancestor rock up the hill?
5. Cole's not afraid of the bear, but what is he afraid of on the island?
6. When all three go to the pool, who leads the way?
7. What does Garvey give Cole before he leaves the island?
8. What does Cole first decide to make out of the huge log?
9. Who does Cole wish he could help?



## COLE'S LETTER

Directions: Write a letter from Cole to Peter showing his true feelings and thoughts after reading the previous chapters.

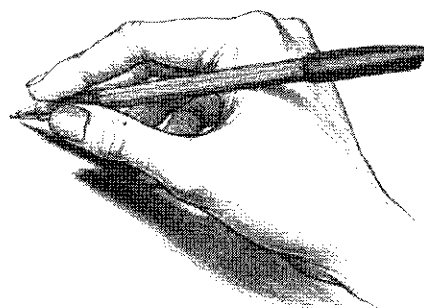
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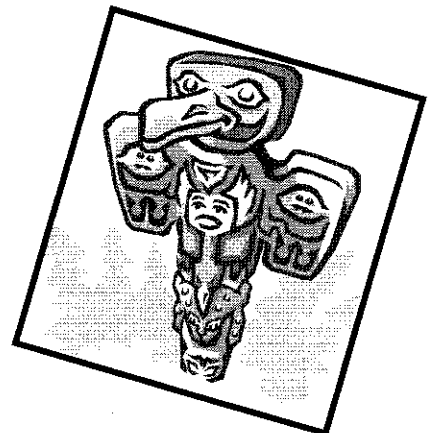
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## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with an \* must be answered in complete sentences. Answer on this sheet!*  
Chapters 22-25, pp. 185-214

- \* 1. What does Cole do to his skin to make himself invisible?
2. How does Cole betray the beaver's trust?
- \* 3. What does Cole discover he has to do to make himself invisible?
- \* 4. What does Cole address as if it's a person from his past during his dance of anger?
5. Who has Cole forgiven by the end of the dance of anger?
- \* 6. Why hasn't Cole been able to carve anything in the empty space of the totem to show forgiveness?
- \* 7. How does Cole celebrate Christmas?
- \* 8. What has Peter tried to do?
- \* 9. What is Cole's plan to help Peter?
10. Who will stay with the boys on the island?





## **DEEP THOUGHT**

**Directions:** Write a well-developed paragraph with your thoughts about the following question and Cole's progress with his own thoughts about Peter.

**How would the novel have changed if Peter had succeeded in his suicide attempt? Would Cole have ever found peace?**

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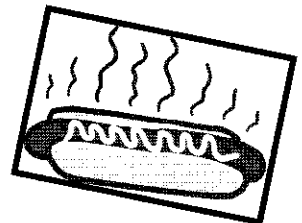
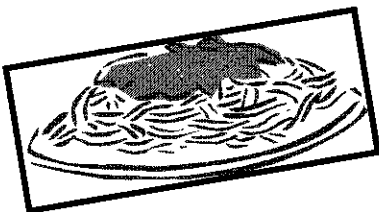
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## STUDY GUIDE

**Directions:** Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the novel. Use the questions to guide your reading and prepare for class discussion. *Answer all questions in ink. Questions with an \* must be answered in complete sentences. Answer on this sheet!*  
Chapters 26-28, pp. 215-240

1. What is Cole's favorite meal on the island?
- \* 2. What does Mr. Driscoll tell Cole will happen if he hurts Peter again?
3. In one of his first overtures to Peter, what does Cole give him?
4. Who has filed for custody of Cole?
- \* 5. What is Peter's first aggressive act toward Cole?
6. Who tells Cole he can come inside the cabin?
7. Who destroys Cole's totem pole carving of the bear?
8. What is Peter's first dance?
- \* 9. In the past, why did Cole have to prove things?
10. After Cole hugs Peter, what do the boys see?
11. What do the boys carve in the empty space of Cole's totem pole?



# VOCABULARY

**Directions:** On a separate sheet of paper, write in ink (or word-process) the part of speech, definition, and your own sentence for each word. Be sure to check the word's context in the book, to make sure you choose the correct of multiple definitions. Spelling counts...

## CHAPTERS

### 1-5

defiantly (3)  
omen (3)  
banishment (3)  
humility (4)  
smirk (5)  
feigned (5)  
grudgingly (15)  
shrouded (16)  
venomous (24)  
sullenly (26)  
scoffed (33)  
collapsed (42)  
wavered (44)

### 6-10

taunted (47)  
unflinchingly (49)  
persistent (52)  
turbulent (60)  
charred (61)  
cavity (62)  
eternity (67)  
haphazard (75)  
relentlessly (76)  
torrents (77)  
solitary (82)  
suffocating (85)

### 11-21

dredged (92)  
parched (99)  
surged (100)  
delirium (101)  
vengeance (108)  
reverently (124)  
scouring (136)  
galvanized (159)  
quizzically (170)  
hypnotic (172)  
talons (180)

### 22-28

hectic (189)  
writhed (193)  
treacherous (198)  
assaulted (217)  
withdrawn (223)  
incident (223)  
massive (238)

Symbolism in Spirit Bear  
The Circle

Skim over the book. List all of the passages below that refer in some way to a circle.

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How many times did you find some form of the word "circle" used in the story? \_\_\_\_\_

What point or points is the author trying to make to the reader about life through circle  
symbolology?

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Complete the following statements:

Create a list of adjectives to describe Cole at the beginning of *Touching Spirit Bear*.

Create a list of adjectives to describe Cole around the time he is rebuilding his shelter on the island.

Create a list of adjectives to describe Cole at the close of the novel.

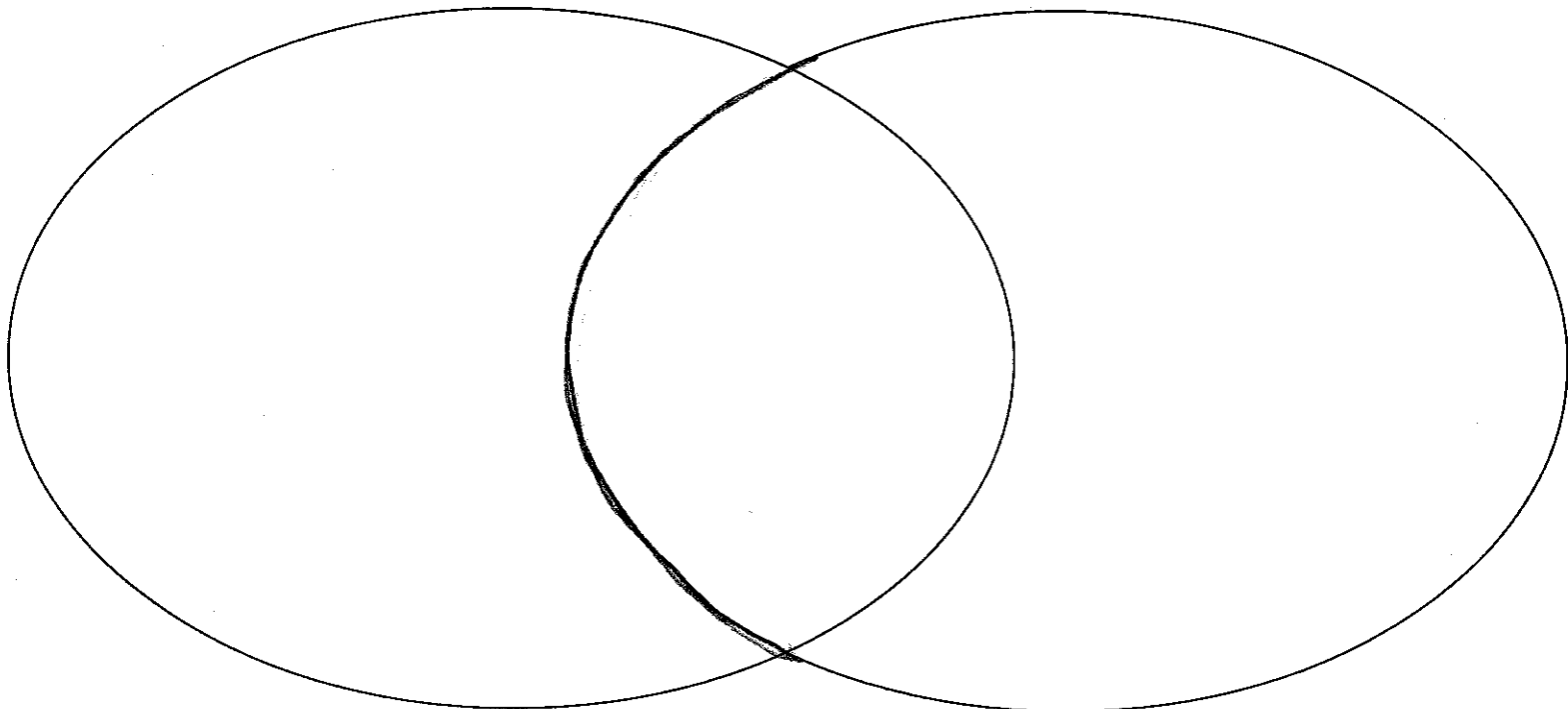
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Note: This could also be done using a Venn Diagram:

Cole Before Island

Cole soon after Island return

Cole at end of novel



**Symbolism in *Touching Spirit Bear***

What lesson, lifeskill, or lifelong guideline does Cole learn from:

- the baby sparrows who died in the storm

- the tree killed by the lightning p. 83

- the spirit bear

- the ancestor rock

- the hot dog

- sitting in the cold pond

- each of the animal dances:

- the whale

- the wolf

- the mouse

- the spirit bear

- the eagle

**Symbolism in *Touching Spirit Bear***

What lesson, lifeskill, or lifelong guideline does Cole learn from:

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- the whale

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