

Excerpt from Prologue to The Way to Rainy Mountain by N. Scott Momaday

Read the following excerpt from a memoir. For each underlined section, summarize it and explain how it reflects ideas similar to the literary excerpt..

Memoir text	Explanation of how the underlined part of the text reflects similar ideas to the literary excerpt..
<p>"In one sense, then, <u>the [journey] to Rainy Mountain is preeminently the history of an idea, man's idea of himself, [. . .].</u> What remains is fragmentary: mythology, legend, lore, and hearsay--and of course the idea itself, as crucial and complete as it ever was. That is the miracle.</p> <p>"<u>The journey herein recalled continues to be made anew each time the miracle comes to mind, for that is peculiarly the right and responsibility of the imagination. [. . .]</u> And <u>the journey is an evocation of three things in particular: a landscape that is incomparable, a time that is gone forever, and the human spirit, which endures.</u> The imaginative experience and the historical express equally the traditions of man's reality. Finally, then, the journey recalled is among other things the revelation of one way in which these traditions are conceived, developed, and interfused in the human mind."</p>	<p>This journey may be literally about one man, but it is an experience that every man goes through. The literary excerpt also relates a singular experience of all Americans.</p> <p>The journey is one that is constant. It begins each time someone thinks of it. This is similar to the way the literary excerpt states that people journey to their dreams. Each time a dream is conceived, the journey toward that dream begins.</p> <p>This text states that the journey is composed of a vision that is unknown, history (a time that is gone forever), and the human spirit. For a person to embark on a journey there has to be a destination or a goal, as well as a knowledge of where he/she is coming from. The human spirit acts as the catalyst that moves us toward the future. Similarly, the literary excerpt states that our dreams are rooted in the past and that past pushes us toward our future.</p>