

The Birchbark House Seasons Graphic Organizer

Neebin (Summer)	Identify the challenges that Omakayas faces.	Explain how Omakayas responds to the challenges that she faces.	Other characters and Omakayas' interaction with them.	Summarize the chapter.	In what ways does Omakayas grow and gain strength in this chapter?
"The Birchbark House"			Angeline- Omakayas's sister "Angeline was so perfect that Omakayas despaired." Omakayas is jealous of her sister's beauty. Omakayas thinks her brother, Pinch, is greedy.	We are introduced to the main character and her family. Omakayas is 7 years old. She is playful and is a Native American.	
"Old Tallow"	Old Tallow's dog threatens Omakayas's. Omakayas meets bear cubs in the forest on the way back from Old Tallow's home.	Omakayas looks at the dog and imagines that the dog speaks to her. She speaks to the bear cubs and the mother. Omakayas tells the mother bear that she would never hurt her cubs.	Old Tallow- older, powerful woman, not afraid of anything "She didn't scream at her, or heap disdain on her, order her away from her cabin or set her dogs on her." Omakayas wonders why Old	Omakayas goes to Old Tallow's house to get scissors. On the way back, she takes her time to avoid chores and to avoid seeing her sister, Angeline.	

			Tallow treats her differently and offers that it may be because Old Tallow respects her mama and grandma.		
"The Return"	Omakayas is left with the responsibility of watching her youngest brother, Neewo.	Omakayas lets Neewo out of the carrier, against her mother's direction. She soothes the baby and puts him back in the carrier before her mother returns.	<p>Nokomis, Omakayas's grandmother, has the gift of speaking to animals and spirits.</p> <p>Deydey, Omakayas's father, comes home.</p> <p>Omakayas holds Neewo, her baby brother. The author writes, "She felt, in her heart, streams of love for the baby pouring through and she begged her mother to let her take Neewo out and cart him to the lake on her hip. Omakayas was fond of Neewo.</p>	Omakayas realizes that what happened with the bear was special and that she did actually communicate with the mother bear.	Omakayas takes responsibility for the first time in the text after her encounter with the bears. She completes her chores and watches her baby brother.

"Andeg"	<p>Omakayas and her sister are tasked with the chore of keeping the crows off the crops.</p> <p>Omakayas and her sister have to clean and pluck the birds that they capture.</p>	<p>Omakayas and her sister use a net to trap the crows.</p> <p>Omakayas saves Andeg, a black crow, who becomes a part of the family.</p>		<p>Omakayas and her sister keep the harvest safe.</p> <p>Omakayas rescues a bird and it becomes her pet.</p>	<p>Omakayas is upset that Deydey's gift to her was not a feminine gift like Angeline's ribbon. Omakayas got a hide flesher. This shows that Omakayas wants to get grown up gifts, but she is still being treated like a young girl. Her parents see her differently than they see Angeline.</p>
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Notes about stories in the story: "Deydey's Ghost Story"

This story is about people arguing and being greedy. A ghost grabs Deydey's shirt and tears it.

Identify the main events of the season:

Throughout this season, Omakayas is unsure of herself and what she is capable of. She is young and is still learning how to relate to members of the village, how to help her family, and she is discovering her own talents. She helps her sister capture crows for a meal. She talks to animals. Omakayas does not know the events of her past and is unaware of the challenges that she had faced as an infant.

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Dagwaging (Fall)	Identify the challenges that Omakayas faces.	Explain how Omakayas responds to the challenges that she faces.	Other characters and Omakayas' interaction with them.	Summarize the chapter.	In what ways does Omakayas grow and gain strength in this chapter?
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“Fishtail’s Pipe”			Omakayas and Angeline hide in the grass listening to Fishtail, LaPointe, and LaPautre discuss the white man wanting the Ojibwa people to leave the island and move west – again	“They are like greedy children. Nothing will ever please them for long.” The men of the village are clearly upset at the white man’s intrusion on land. Omakayas quietly listens to the conversation and learns much of the impact that the white man has had on her people.	
“Pinch”	Omakayas goes into the forest with her mother to look for Andeg.	Omakayas acts mature about her lost bird and goes with her mother to look for the bird. While in the forest, she sees the bears and speaks to them in front of her frightened mother.	Omakayas allows her mother to see her interact with the bears. Up until this point, no one had seen her interact or speak to animals. Omakayas is still envious of her sister. (92) Omakayas forms a bond with Two Strike girl as they dance in	Pinch eats the berries, blames Andeg, and mama’s yelling causes the bird to run away. Omakayas and her mother are in the forest and Omakayas once again sees the bear cubs. She talks to them in front of her mother.	“Pinch got in trouble and Omakayas was glad.” Omakayas still does not like her brother, Pinch. Although she has shown maturity in some ways, this is not one of them. This shows that she is still young. Omakayas helps her mother find Andeg, talks to the animals, and helps Two Strike Girl with chores.

			the rice together.		
"The Move"	Omakayas and her family are preparing to move for the winter.	Omakayas helps her family pack.		Deydey leaves again. Omakayas's family is preparing for winter.	
"The First Snow"			<p>On page 112, Omakayas and Angeline "catch" Fishtail walking out of the white man's school house. He tells the girls that he was there to learn the white man's language so that the Ojibwa can not be cheated on treaties. This reveals to the reader that there is no trust between the two groups.</p> <p>On page 115, we notice the way that Old Tallow feels for Omakayas. "Old Tallow was looking at her the same way</p>	Omakayas and her sister learn that the Native American men want to learn the white man's language.	

			she looked at her dogs!" Because Old Tallow was closely connected to her dogs, the reader can infer that Old Tallow feels a connection to Omakayas.		
<p>Identify the main events of the season:</p> <p>Omakayas is more comfortable with her gift of talking to animal spirits and is braver than she was in summer. Omakayas is being more responsible and doing more chores.</p>					

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Biboon (Winter)	Identify the challenges that Omakayas faces.	Explain how Omakayas responds to the challenges that she faces.	Other characters and Omakayas' interaction with them.	Summarize the chapter.	In what ways does Omakayas grow and gain strength in this chapter?
"The Blue Ferns"	Omakayas hears her father and other men talk about the white man pushing them farther west.	Omakayas does not become involved in the conversations that she overhears.	Omakayas becomes upset because she can not bead like Angeline and Ten Snow. "Her heart	Omakayas beads with her sister, who responds kindly to her.	

			shrunk cold in her chest..."Ten Snow gives Omakayas a gift and Angeline encourages Omakayas to bead. This is the first form of encouragement that we see between these two.		
"The Visitor"	Omakayas cares for her family and feels tremendous loss as she loses her baby brother to the disease. She is also faced with a challenge as her father almost succumbs to the disease by attempting to go outside in the cold.	To keep him from going outside, Omakayas hits him on the head and knocks him out. She awakes the next morning terrified that she might have killed her father, but in fact, she has used her quick wit and bravery to save him from the cold, which ultimately saves his life	<p>Omakayas holds her brother Neewo as he takes his last breath.</p> <p>Omakayas is also forced to knock out her father before he walks out into the freezing cold due to the illness.</p>	The entire family, except for Nokomis and Omakayas become sick with the smallpox disease. Omakayas is forced to care for the family. Her baby brother dies in her arms.	The visitor causes Omakayas to grow up and take care of her family.
"Hunger"	Omakayas goes out to find food for her family. On her journey to find food,		It is clear that Old Tallow cares deeply for Omakayas.	The family has not yet recovered from the loss of Neewo and Ten Snow. It is	Omakayas has grown from a child who was taken care of by those around her to her being the caretaker.

	she is attacked by one of Old Tallow's dogs. Old Tallow comes to her aid and kills the dog because it injured Omakayas.			winter. Food is scarce. The family is depressed.	
Notes about stories in the story: "Grandma's Story: Fishing the Dark Side of the Lake" <i>Nokomis tells a story of a woman coming out of the water. She says it was her grandmother and that her grandfather walked over to join her grandmother in the afterlife.</i>					
Notes about stories in the story: "Nanabozho and Muskrat Make an Earth" <i>This story is about the creation of the earth.</i>					
Identify the main events of the season: Throughout this season, Omakayas wonders why she has not become infected with smallpox. Inferences can be made that she has already had the disease and that Omakayas was possible the infant on Spirit Island. This leads the reader to the question, "If everyone on Spirit Island had died, except for Omakayas, how did she end up with her current family?"					

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Zeegwun (Spring)	Identify the challenges that Omakayas faces.	Explain how Omakayas responds to the challenges	Describe Omakayas' interaction with the other characters.	Summarize the chapter.	In what ways does Omakayas grow and gain strength in this chapter?
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		that she faces.			
“Maple Sugar Time”	Pinch gets a bad burn.	She heals her brother Pinch from a bad burn with a remedy that she puts together.	Nokomis and Omakayas finally speak about Omakayas’s gift. Omakayas tells Nokomis that she can speak to animals.	Omakayas has learned how to become comfortable with herself when she was faced with the challenges of caring for her family. In this chapter, we see her finally becoming happy again.	Omakayas finally talks to her grandmother about her gift. She is also proud of healing her brother.
“One Horn’s Protection”	Andeg leaves.	Omakayas is upset. She cries over the loss of her bird.		Andeg leaves.	The author writes, “Like Andeg, she couldn’t help being just who she was, Omakayas, in this skin, in this place, in this time. Nobody else. We learn that Omakayas is finally happy being in her own skin and being who she is.
“Full Circle”			Old Tallow tells Omakayas that the events of her life happened so that she could save her family and others in	We learn that Old Tallow’s husband had rescued Omakayas from Spirit Island and that Old Tallow had	

			her village and says “Now the circle that began when I found you is complete.”	cared for her and brought her to the family that she called her own.	
<p>Identify the main events of the season:</p> <p>Omakayas finally finds out about her past.</p>					