SOME OF OUR SMART THINKING FOR CIRCLE OF LIFE AND BIRCHBARK HOUSE:

1. What does Black Elk’s quote mean?

* Everything comes and goes in a circle. Years come and go. EX: Tuck Everlasting, the ferris wheel showed years coming and going but never changing. In the story, Tuck and his family were immortal so they couldn’t grow older or change. Ferris wheel talks about coming and going but Tucks didn’t change unlike others.
* Seasons come and go
* The ways of worlds repeat itself.
* Humans and generations repeat. People die while babies are born. Generations of families go on even when family members pass away.

Circle of Life: Living with scars---facing challenges and tragedy—example-death.

In end—sails through trouble—being talked to—hears voices to let her know Neewo is fine—spirit with her—comforts. We are all comforted by ancestors and their love and support—even if not physically there anymore. It still a source of comfort and guidance—to persevere through hardship.

1. How does it connect to Birchbark House and Omakayas’ life? Give at least two specific examples.

* Time is important. The story is told in seasons. During each season and as time changes, In Omakayas’ Native American community, each season brings with it, different rituals and stories. Winter, they had to prepare to cabin and hunt for clothing and food. The weather is harsh and leads to disease and death. Then in spring, it is sugar season. They go to the maple sugar camp to gather syrup to trade for materials they need to survive. they prepare Birchbark House for summer.

1. What is the theme of “Circle of Life?” Give two examples from song to support your opinion.

* Life is about taking chances and risks—taking care of yourself (wheel of fortune). Fate-luck—life is filled with obstacles and not knowing what may happen—facing the unexpected.
* We each have to make choices—to be brave, strong and self-relaiant-independent or suffer the consequences.
* On path unwinding, we experience new things—yarn ball—the unexpected
* Little girl in beginning is Okamkayas—survived—only one in community who survives. Birds sang to her. The White sparrow sang to her it made her think what Neewo would say and go on with her life.

There’s more to be seen then can ever be seen. IN end, she realized how she survived illness and challenges on Spirit Island. ..keep exploring and moving on.

Soaring to stars—achieving goals

Scars can be way of being special

P 235—Old Tallow tells Omakayas that circle is complete—she remembered song of birds. When she woke up, listening to same song from Spirit Island—long ago.

Story end the way it begins. In beginning of book, everyone was dead—Omakayas alone and by herself. She’s aloe at end—listening to the same song—of White Sparrow. Chapter one and 14, end same way—building Birchbark House. In prologue, lost everything or everyone but in the end, lost neemo and andway temporarily—there is hope in the end. Way of showing change. When sparrows were singing—it was sad. But in the end, the song represents hope for better life.

Seasons—go in circle. Starts in summer and ends where building Birchbark House again.

Once again and again..done many times before…building house…doing chores….

Far too much to take in—Omakayas deals with a lot of loss, she finds out she used to be in different island but life goes on.

Living with scars---Omakayas alone—everyone died from smallpox, men didn’t help her..at the end of the book, she also had scars of losing Neemo..family members couldn’t help her.

Beginning—others took care of her but then builds up independence. She becomes a healer. She matures.

At first..no worries. But then others died from smallpox and had to take care of herself.…