

The commotion dies down.

JUDGE DUNDY

As both the Plaintiff and Defendant have completed their argument, this court is now adjourned. The court will issue its decision at a later date, in a written opinion. We are adjourned for now, but the court acknowledges Standing Bear, who would like to speak. You may proceed, sir.

BRIGHT EYES

(to CHIEF STANDING BEAR) He says you may speak now. *(she stays by his side, interpreting his every word)*

CHIEF STANDING BEAR

(in Ponca) *(he turns to JUDGE DUNDY)* **This hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both.**

BRIGHT EYES

This hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR

I seem to stand on the bank of a river. My wife and little girl are beside me. In front, the river is wide and impassable, and behind are perpendicular cliffs. No man of my race ever stood there before. There is no tradition to guide me. I turn to my wife and child with a shout that we are saved. We will return to the Broad Water that pours down between the green islands. There are the graves of my fathers. There again we will pitch our teepee and build our fires.

But a man bars the passage. He is a thousand times more powerful than I. Behind him I see soldiers as numerous as the leaves of the trees. They will obey that man's orders. I too must obey his orders. If he says that I cannot pass, I cannot. The long struggle will have been in vain.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR points to JUDGE DUNDY.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR

You are that man.

Silence.