**Rita Joe Poem Notes**

Rita means for it be- I am responsible for myself in everything that I do.

It is important that Indigenous people share their stories, versus others (non-indigenous) sharing them.

It is ok for non-Indigenous people to start conversations surrounding Indigenous issues, but power comes from one’s own voice and narrative.

What is the burden that Rita Joe is referring to?

Does our Canadian society see Indigenous people as a so called “burden?” Does our society still stereotype Indigenous people? Is everyone in our society treated equally?

The poem may also be considered ironic to some because why should it be up to Indigenous people to carry this “burden” or misconceptions when it was the Canadian Government (comprised of white men) who forced aggressive assimilation upon Aboriginal people through Residential Schools.