

**Session 2009**

**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

**ANGLAIS**

**Langue vivante 1**

**Série L**

**Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 4**

**L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.**

<b>Compréhension Expression</b>	<b>14 points</b>
<b>Traduction</b>	<b>6 points</b>

**Le sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4 à 4/4.**

Joseph Netmaker brought the letter out to me. Winter had just started to settle itself into the country. Joseph walked on snowshoes from the town. 'This is for you, Niska,' he said. 'It is from the Canadian boss, their *hookimaw*.'

5 As soon as I saw the brown letter, the English words written upon it, I knew what it contained. I sat down beside the fire and stirred at it with a stick while Joseph read, first out loud and in his stumbling English, then for me in our language.

10 "Serial No. 6711. Deeply regret to inform you, Private First Class Xavier Bird, infantry, officially reported died of wounds in the field, November 3, 1918. Director of Records."

I waited for more, but that was all. When Joseph left, I was alone.

15 Many moons later, when the winter ice was leaving and travel was difficult, Joseph came back with another letter. He explained that it was in reference to Elijah, and that Old Man Ferguson had given it to him to give to me since I was the closest thing to a relation that Elijah had.

20 The letter said that Elijah had been wounded, that he had only one leg now, that he had tried to rescue another soldier, was given a medal for bravery. It said that although weak, he had healed enough to travel and was expected to arrive in the same town from which he and Xavier had left so long ago.

25 I had Joseph explain to me how the *wemistikoshiw* calendar worked, what month I was to be there, and I made careful preparations to journey by canoe to that town where Elijah would arrive. I left early in the summer and paddled up the river. It was difficult. I am older now, but I travelled light. Joseph had asked to come along, but I told him no.

I went alone.

30 I watch the beast pull up and give one last great sigh, as if it is very tired from the long journey, smoke pouring from its sides. People wave from the windows and people on the ground wave back, just as I have watched them do for days. Then men and women and children who have arrived start stepping down into the arms of others. I see a few soldiers and search among them for Elijah's face with his sly grin. The crowd begins to thin, and once again I do not see an Indian soldier with one leg.

35 I am turning to leave when I see through one of the windows the silhouette of a man inside. He walks slowly along the aisle, on crutches, in a uniform, a small bag slung over his shoulder. I step away from the shadow of the wall.

40 He wears a hat, just like the *wemistikoshiw* do, but this one is of their army and I cannot see his face for his looking down as he slowly makes his way down the steps on his crutches. He is an old man, I think. So skinny. This cannot be the Elijah I know. One leg of his pants is pinned up and hangs down a little way, empty.

45 When he is off the steps I begin to back away, thinking it is not him. He looks up and I see his face, thin and pale, high cheekbones, and ears sticking out from beneath his hat. I stumble a little, the blood rushing away from my head. The

ghost of my nephew Xavier looks at me.

50 He sees me at the same moment, and I watch as his eyes take a long time to register what they see, but when they do he begins to rock back and forth on his crutches. He falls to the ground. I rush up to him, kneel beside him, grab his warm hands. He is no ghost. I hold him to me. His heart beats weakly. I am struck suddenly that he is very ill.

'Nephew,' I whisper. 'You are home. You are home.'

Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*, 2005

## COMPRÉHENSION – EXPRESSION

*Vous traiterez les questions **dans l'ordre** en indiquant clairement **leur numéro** sur votre copie. Lorsque la réponse doit être développée, le nombre de mots sera indiqué dans la question.*

*En l'absence d'indications quant au nombre de mots, vous répondrez **brèvement** (moins de vingt mots) à la question posée.*

### A. General comprehension

1. In what country does the scene take place?
2. What historical event is referred to? Answer in your own words.
3. Define the narrator's identity (3 aspects).
4. What is the purpose of the narrator's journey?

### B. Detailed comprehension

5. Three seasons are alluded to.
  - a. List them in the order in which they appear in the story.
  - b. What event happens in each season? (20-30 words)
6. On two occasions, Joseph Netmaker brings the narrator some information. Explain what the information consists in.
7. Explain the role played by Joseph Netmaker. (25-45 words)
8. Who are Xavier Bird and Elijah? (20-30 words)
9. Identify and contrast the two worlds referred to in the story. Use your own words. (50-60 words).
10. Quote two elements from the text showing that the narrator is determined to travel to town.

11. The second half of the text (from line 28 to the end) is in the present tense. What is the effect produced? (30-50 words)
12. Line 43, "*When he is off the steps I begin to back away, thinking it is not him.*" Why doesn't the narrator recognize him immediately? Use your own words. (At least 50 words)
13. Describe both characters' emotions at the end of the passage (from line 43 to the end) and explain them. Use your own words (50-60 words).
14. Choose one of the following subjects. (250 words. Write down the number of words)

**Subject 1**

Continue the story, using the first-person narrative.

**Subject 2**

In your opinion, can one recover from a major traumatic experience?

**TRADUCTION**

Translate into French from line 43 ("When he is off the steps ...") to the end.