

# *There There* by Tommy Orange (2019)

## About the book...

Tommy Orange's wondrous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind... Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American – grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Hailed as an instant classic, *There There* is at once poignant and unflinching, utterly contemporary and truly unforgettable.



## About the author...



Tommy Orange was born and raised in Oakland, California. He grew up straddling two worlds, never quite feeling like he belonged. His father, who spoke Cheyenne as his first language, was a Native American Church ceremony leader. His white mother, a wandering hippie and spiritual seeker, later converted to evangelical Christianity and denounced her husband's religious practices as demonic. Orange wasn't sure what to believe.

Currently, he is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and lives in Angels Camp, Calif. He holds an MFA program from the Institute of American Indian Arts and has won numerous prestigious awards.

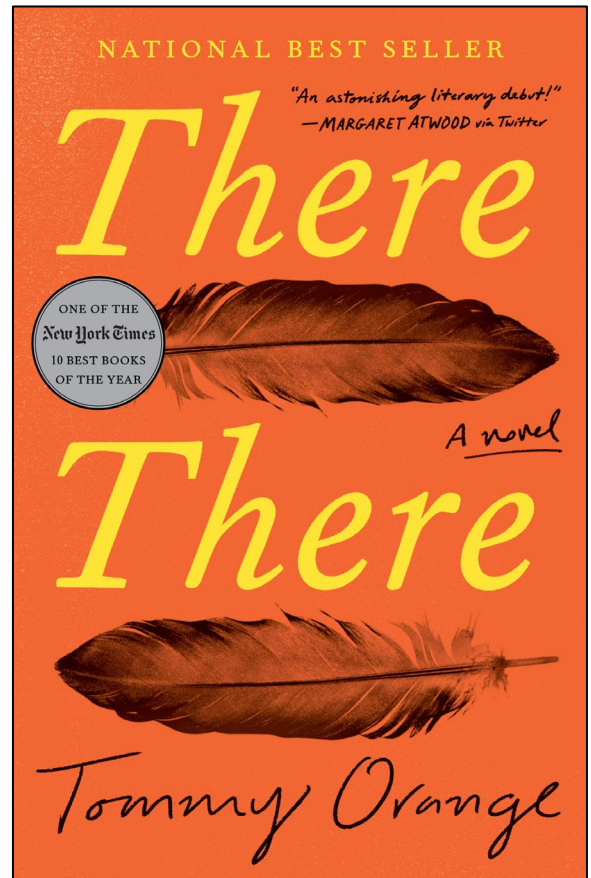
## Quotes from the book...

*Some of us got this feeling stuck inside, all the time, like we've done something wrong. Like we ourselves are something wrong.*



*When you hear stories from people like you, you feel less alone. When you feel less alone, and like you have a community of people behind you, alongside you, I believe you can live a better life.*

*The wound that was made when white people came and took all that they took has never healed. An unattended wound gets infected. Becomes a new kind of wound like the history of what actually happened became a new kind of history. All these stories that we haven't been telling all this time, that we haven't been listening to, are just part of what we need to heal. Not that we're broken. And don't make the mistake of calling us resilient. To not have been destroyed, to not have given up, to have survived, is no badge of honor.*



## Key Questions

- Is it more productive to focus on the past, present, or future?
- What is our greatest source of power, our individuality or our membership within a community?
- What does it mean to have power, and who has the most?

## Key Facts

Literary Period: Contemporary

Genre: Fiction

Setting: Oakland, Calif., 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Point of View: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> person

## Summer Reading Journal

11<sup>th</sup> GradeText: *There There* by Tommy Orange**Due:** Submit your work in **Google Classroom** by **5 PM on Monday, August 17**

**Directions:** During the first week of school, you will engage in a DEBATE and write an ESSAY on the summer reading. It will be *challenging, thought-provoking, and FUN*. In order to guide you through the reading and prepare for these first two assignments of 11<sup>th</sup> grade, please respond to each prompt below.

NOTE: 1) Introduce yourself through this work: put your BEST FOOT FORWARD! 2) While it is okay to discuss the text with a peer, you will earn credit for evidence and responses that are unique to YOU.

## Key Characters Bank:

Tony Dene Opal Edwin Bill Calvin Jacquie Orvil Octavio Daniel Blue

**Character 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you would get along with this character? Why/not? As part of your response, use at least 2 quotes from the text (with page numbers).

**Character 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you would get along with this character? Why/not? As part of your response, use at least 2 quotes from the text (with page numbers).

**Character 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you would get along with this character? Why/not? As part of your response, use at least 2 quotes from the text (with page numbers).

Essential Questions

**1. Is it more productive to focus on the past, present, or future?**

Possible Claim Starter: It is more productive to focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ because...

Claim:

Quote 1 (page \_\_\_\_):

Quote 2 (page \_\_\_\_):

Analysis: How do these quotes above support/prove your claim?

**2. What is our greatest source of power, our individuality or our membership within a community?**

Possible Claim Starter: Our greatest source of power is \_\_\_\_\_ because...

Claim:

Quote 1 (page \_\_\_\_):

Quote 2 (page \_\_\_\_):

Analysis: How do these quotes above support/prove your claim?

**3. What does it mean to have power, and who has the most?**

Possible Claim Starter: Having power means you have \_\_\_\_\_, **and** \_\_\_\_\_ has the most because...

Claim:

Quote 1 (page \_\_\_\_):

Quote 2 (page \_\_\_\_):

Analysis: How do these quotes above support/prove your claim?