

# Three day road summary



**ASSIGN  
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The Three Day Road by Joseph Boyden starts off in a town called Moose Factory in Canada shortly after WW1. "Auntie" is waiting for the arrival of her nephew, Xavier's, friend Elijah. However, she is shocked to find that it is her nephew who returns. She had received a letter that said her nephew had died in the field of battle and that Elijah was wounded, and only had one leg. When her nephew steps off the steps she thinks he is a ghost until he falls to the ground, because he too is shocked for he had heard that she was dead. Then they start their journey down the river to their home in the bush.

On this journey they both reminisce of the past from when Auntie was a young girl all the way up to the end of the war. Auntie believes that Xavier is struck with a sickness that the wemistikoshiw, white men, medicine has on him. She starts to tell him a story of when she was a little girl during a harsh winter that her tribe had to go through. In hope that the spirits of the story would scare the sickness out of him. As she tells this story Xavier starts thinking back of times in the war. Him and Elijah started off as just two ordinary privates in their platoon.

Then sergeant McCaan realizes that they are great hunters and can move about in the trenches without the enemy spotting them so he begins to train them to be snipers. Elijah being the shooter and Xavier as his spotter they become very famous during the war. The trauma of the war starts to get to both of them. Xavier begins to get home sick and just wants to go back to the bush, but Elijah gets blood drunk from all the people he has killed. During this time Auntie keeps telling more stories to Xavier from her childhood, to when Xavier meets Elijah, all the way up to when they went off to the war.

Auntie had taken Xavier from the nuns in Moose Factory when he was a little boy, and they lived in the bush as she taught him the ways of the bush as he grew from a boy into a man. Auntie starts to tell a story of when she was little. Her dad was the last of the Cree who could perform the ritual of killing and ridding of the windigo disease which the Cree believed strikes a man when he eats the flesh of another human. She tells one story of when she was a young girl and having to watch her father perform the ritual.

Then she tells the story of when she had to perform it and Xavier watch as she choked a young man to death to rid him and his tribe of the windigo disease. One day Xavier came to her and said that he wanted a friend, although she did not like the idea she agreed that he could go to Moose Factory to find a friend. That is when he met Elijah. Xavier taught Elijah how to hunt and the ways of the bush during his summer breaks from the school at Moose Factory. This is when they learned how to shoot so well, because Elijah had stole a gun from one of the nuns.

Then Xavier starts to remember how Elijah died.. Shockingly Xavier is the one who kills him in the field. They both had gone mad from the war. Xavier was then blown away by a bomb and as the other soldiers and medics are around him all he can do is scream out Elijah's name and he has his dog tags so they think that he is Elijah. Then Xavier and his Auntie make one last stop along the river before they reach their home. Xavier's pain getting worse, almost unbearable, as they lie there on the bank Auntie says; " By tomorrow we'll be home. "