Movie Notes: The Tightrope of Power (Part 1)

Mohawk/ Canadian Aboriginal Peoples

*The 'power' spoken of in the title represents the power to be yourself, speak your own language. *Take away language and you take away the culture; take away the culture and you take away the power.

The Mohawk reserve of Kahnawake, also known as Caughnawaga, is located on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River, on the bank of Lake Saint Louis, 10 km southwest of Montreal, Canada. The surface area of the reserve is 5,059.17 hectares. Three highways, the 132, 138 and 207, provide the main access routes to Kahnawake. A gravel road network (31,610 meters), a paved road network (52,780 meters), and more than 1,700 houses are to be found within the territory.

Questions: Why is language important to the Mohawk people? Who are the primary people who are currently speaking Mohawk? Who are the 'lost generation'?

*Nature is the cathedral for the Aboriginal peoples

* When speaking in Mohawk, one woman says that she can be much more specific and that she sees different pictures in her head when speaking Mohawk rather than English. *retaining and speaking the language is also a way that people are able to 'think alike'

* most Aboriginal People learned English to keep from being a "dumb ol' Indian stuck on a reserve."

Look at what Assimilation and Acculturation mean in your textbook in Chapter 2. How do these terms speak to the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and all over the world?

Question: Why did Canada attack the Mohawks of Kahnawake?

* golf course on Mohawk burial ground