

Sample Pages from

**Objective Tests
with Answer Keys
for**

Sing Down the Moon

By Scott O'Dell

1971 Newbery Honor Book



A Teaching Pack
by Margaret Whisnant

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***A Note to Teachers
from the Author***

Bright Morning, the main character in *SING DOWN THE MOON*, remains nameless until the twenty-first chapter where she reveals her name, but not her secret name, to the white soldier at Fort Sumner. However, for the sake of clarity, I have chosen to use Bright Morning's name in every set of test questions, beginning with the first chapter.

Margaret Whisnant, Author

Table of Contents

Chapter Tests

	Pages
Chapter One—Chapter Two	1-2
Chapter Three—Chapter Four	3-4
Chapter Five—Chapter Six—chapter Seven	5-6
Chapter Eight—Chapter Nine	7-8
Chapter Ten—Chapter Eleven	9-10
Chapter Twelve—Chapter Thirteen	11-12
Chapter 14	13-14
Chapter Fifteen—Chapter Sixteen	15-16
Chapter Seventeen—Chapter Eighteen	17-18
Chapter Nineteen—Chapter Twenty	19-20
Chapter Twenty-One—Chapter Twenty-two	21-22
Chapter Twenty-three—Postscript	23-24

Whole Book Test	25-28
----------------------------------	-------

Answer Keys	29-30
------------------------------	-------

About Your Teaching Pack	31-32
-------------------------------------------	-------

SING DOWN THE MOON

By Scott O'Dell

One Pages 1-6
Two Pages 7-11

Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

- _____ 1. Spring was late arriving to the high mesas above the canyon where Bright Morning and her people lived.
- _____ 2. Bright Morning heard the waters come while she lay awake in the night
- _____ 3. When the rain came, in one night the peach trees began to bud and the yellow sand was covered with water.
- _____ 4. It was Bright Morning's belief that showing happiness made the gods happy and good luck would follow.
- _____ 5. Bright Morning's brother had been struck and killed by lightning.
- _____ 6. Bright Morning was not looking forward to taking the sheep up the long trail to the mesa.
- _____ 7. The year before, Bright Morning had made the mistake of staying on the mesa as storm clouds gathered.



- _____ 8. When she was ten years old, Bright Morning had seen her dead grandfather walking out of the trees in the snow and calling her name.
- _____ 9. In a moment of fear during a snowfall the previous spring, Bright Morning had gone home, leaving the sheep under the shelter of aspen trees.
- _____ 10. Lapana was ten years older than Bright Morning.
- _____ 11. Bright Morning's parents had not been concerned about her when they saw the storm brewing on the mesa.

- _____ 12. The sheep that Bright Morning left behind belonged to her father and uncle.
- _____ 13. Bright Morning's mother forced her to go back to the mesa alone and stay with the sheep through the night.
- _____ 14. Even though she made a mistake the first time she took the sheep to the mesa, Bright Morning was allowed to drive the sheep to pasture the rest of that spring and through the summer.
- _____ 15. The trail to the mesa was steep and easy to defend from enemies.
- _____ 16. Two other girls from the village also brought their sheep to the mesa to graze.



- _____ 17. Bright Morning was beautiful, very thin, and ate very little.
- _____ 18. It was possible that Tall Boy's parents wanted him to marry Bright Morning because her mother owned many sheep.
- _____ 19. Tall Boy would be riding west with the tribe's warriors the next morning.
- _____ 20. Bright Morning talked to Running Bird and White Deer about her feelings for Tall Boy and her fears for his safety.

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By Scott O'Dell

Three Pages 12-18 Four Pages 19-23

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Before they left for the west country, the warriors (A) had a great feast, (B) danced, sang, and beat on drums all night, (C) prayed and asked the gods for protection and victory.
- _____ 2. Tall Boy was (A) the largest of the warriors, (B) the leader, (C) the youngest warrior.
- _____ 3. Since the day he killed the brown bear beyond Rainbow Mountain, Tall Boy (A) was the most admired man in the village, (B) led all the hunting expeditions for the tribe, (C) was no longer known as River Boy, the name his father had given him.
- _____ 4. Bright Morning's mother (A) did not like Tall Boy, (B) thought Tall Boy was a fearless leader and would make a good husband, (C) waved good-bye to Tall Boy when he left with the warriors.
- _____ 5. When the ten white soldiers from Fort Defiance rode into the canyon, Bright Morning and Running Bird were (A) picking berries in the aspen grove, (B) building the morning fires, (C) on the mesa with their sheep.
- _____ 6. The summer before, white soldiers had (A) burned part of the village, (B) stolen most of the sheep, (C) threatened to burn the village if Bright Morning's people did not keep the peace.
- _____ 7. Tall Boy and the warriors had gone to (A) raid their enemies, the Utes, (B) hunt buffalo, (C) attack Fort Defiance and bring back the stolen sheep.
- _____ 8. Because of the sharp-looking knives on the ends of their rifles, Bright Morning's people called the white soldiers (A) Sharp Rifles, (B) Long Knives, (C) White Knives.
- _____ 9. The white soldier told Old Bear that, if the warriors had gone on a raid, then he would (A) burn the village and kill everyone including the women, children, and sheep, (B) move the whole village to another location, (C) take the women and children to live in the fort and leave the men to look after the crops and the sheep.
- _____ 10. Old Bear promised to keep the peace unless (A) the soldiers killed all the game in the area, (B) the village was attacked by Utes, Spaniards, or other enemies, (C) the white soldiers broke their word not to harm the women and children in the village.
- _____ 11. The night after the visit from the white soldiers, all the hogans in the village were (A) busy with talk of the threat from the soldiers, (B) without fire or food in honor of their warriors, (C) quiet.
- _____ 12. Bright Morning's sheep were marked by (A) a red circle on each ear, (B) a black dot on their backs, (C) a square clay bell worn around their necks.
- _____ 13. Bright Morning's mother (A) praised her for the work she did with the sheep, (B) gave her ten sheep, (C) encouraged her not to think about the danger Tall Boy might be facing.

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By Scott O'Dell

Five Pages 24-26

Six Pages 27-30 Seven Pages 31-37

the Spaniards	leather thongs	food	her black dog
the old Indian woman in the hut	a Navaho wolf	night	Running Bird
the Señora in the house	the North Star	daytime	the Apaches
dog meat	Bright Morning	Rosita	the Nez Percé
Tall Boy	pigeon-toed		

From the list above, choose the name, word, or phrase that fits each of the clues below and write it in the blank. **All** answers will be **used at least once**. **Some** answers will be **used more than once**.

- _____ 1. The Spaniards did not kill him because they thought Bright Morning would be happier with him around.
- _____ 2. The Spaniards stopped to sleep during this time.
- _____ 3. In the house, she told the Indian girl who spoke Navaho that she was not hungry, although she had eaten little for five days.
- _____ 4. Occasionally they stopped what they were doing to listen for the sound of hoofs, not knowing that the tribe's young warriors were away.
- _____ 5. Like Bright Morning, she had been surly and unhappy when the Spaniards brought her to the house two years before.
- _____ 6. Bright morning and Running Bird thought the one they saw might be a witch intending to do harm.
- _____ 7. Once they had been blood brothers of the Navaho.
- _____ 8. She bought Bright Morning from the Spaniard.
- _____ 9. The unhappy Indian girl Bright Morning saw sweeping the earth had the mark of this tribe on her cheeks.
- _____ 10. She was fifteen years old.
- _____ 11. At night, the Spaniards used these to tie the girls' hands and feet so they could not stand or crawl.
- _____ 12. The Señora complained that Bright Morning walked this way.
- _____ 13. She assured Bright Morning she would be happy in the house where the woman was kind and the work wasn't hard.
- _____ 14. Bright Morning knew the Spaniards were taking them south because this was behind them.
- _____ 15. She wanted an Indian girl who could meet guests at the door and wait on table.

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By Scott O'Dell

Eight **Pages 38-42**

Nine **Pages 43-49**

Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Did the white woman take Bright Morning to the store and buy dresses and a pair of red shoes for her?
- _____ 2. Did Bright Morning plan to run away with Running Bird when the next full moon came?
- _____ 3. When Bright Morning began working for the Señora, did she know where Running Bird was?
- _____ 4. Was it the Nez Percé girl who warned Bright Morning not to trust Rosita?
- _____ 5. Did Rosita find out where Running Bird was and tell Bright Morning?
- _____ 6. Did Bright Morning spend the afternoon before the Señora's party peeling chili peppers?
- _____ 7. When she came to the Señora's house to help prepare for the party, was the Nez Percé girl friendly toward Bright Morning?
- _____ 8. Did Bright Morning smile, as the Señora had told her, when she served food to the Long Knives at the party?
- _____ 9. According to Rosita, had Nehane, the Nez Percé girl, run away last year, been caught, and beaten with a long leather whip as punishment?
- _____ 10. Did Rosita warn Bright Morning she would be punished if the Señora caught her talking to Nehana?
- _____ 11. Because of the food, the clothes, the soft bed, and the big room, was Rosita happy with her life as a slave?
- _____ 12. Did Nehana say anything to Bright Morning before she left the house?
- _____ 13. Did Bright Morning listen with interest to the story Rosita told about the Easter celebration and Jesús Cristo?
- _____ 14. When Bright Morning fell and got dirt on her velveteen dress and scuffed her red button shoes, was the Señora concerned that she might be injured?
- _____ 15. Was Bright Morning sure, when Nehana held up one finger, that it meant she wanted her to come back to the church the following night?
- _____ 16. Did Bright Morning slip away to her room early without Rosita or the Señora knowing where she was?
- _____ 17. Even though the adobe wall that surrounded the house was covered with pieces of broken glass, were Bright Morning and her black dog able to climb over it by using a blanket?
- _____ 18. At the church, did Bright Morning find both Nehana and Running Bird waiting for her?

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WHOLE BOOK TEST



Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Bright Morning and her people were (A) Utes, (B) Cheyenne, (C) Navahos.
- _____ 2. In Bright Morning's tribe, the sheep were owned by (A) the strongest warriors, (B) the women, (C) everyone in the group.
- _____ 3. The first year she was given responsibility for the sheep, Bright Morning (A) took great care of them all summer, (B) was always accompanied by her older sister, (C) abandoned them in fright during a snow storm.
- _____ 4. Bright Morning's tribe lived (A) in a canyon, (B) on a hidden mesa, (C) in a region of forests and green meadows.
- _____ 5. Which of the following was **not** true of Tall Boy? He (A) wanted to marry Bright Morning, (B) was well-liked by Bright Morning's mother, (C) was the leader of the warriors.
- _____ 6. Tall Boy changed his name from River Boy after he (A) killed a bear, (B) led a raiding party against the Utes, (C) killed a white soldier.
- _____ 7. Bright Morning's people called the white soldiers Long Knives because (A) they carried large swords, (B) they wore knives on their belts, (C) of the sharp knives they fastened on the ends of their rifles.
- _____ 8. If Bright Morning's people broke the peace, the white soldiers would (A) take all the warriors as prisoners, (B) take the women of the tribe to Mexico and sell them as slaves, (C) burn the village and kill all the people and the animals.