

Viewer's Guide

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL FILM FEST

***Barking Water* (NR) Viewer's Guide**

Recommended for an adult audience

Terminally ill Frankie convinces his ex-lover Irene to take him on a road trip to visit his estranged daughter. Will the older couple resolve their past differences and make it on time to see Frankie's family?

Stream the film here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxi55o8b>

Movie Resources:

Film review (New York Times – Biography in Context)

<https://tinyurl.com/yyxuh85b>

Q&A with director and actors (Sundance)

<https://tinyurl.com/y5bkccok>

Interview with director (IndieWire)

<https://tinyurl.com/y2zb7py8>

Discussion Questions/Guide:

- Where would you go on your next road trip and with whom?
- The mixed tape given to Irene and Frankie seemed to relax Frankie. What songs would you have on your road trip playlist?
- It was important for the director to create a film about an older couple. Would the story change if Frankie and Irene were a younger couple? Why?
- Mvskoke is spoken throughout the film. After listening to Mvskoke hymns, Frankie recalls his grandmother's song. In another scene, he asks a little girl if she knows how to speak her Native language. Why do you think there was such a focus on the Mvskoke language?
- While passing a factory, Irene mentions how many of their friends and family have developed health problems because of it. Sadly, many Native communities are also located in or are nearby natural resources, making them a mining or drilling community. Safety regulations aren't as high in these communities which lead to other health complications. Why do you think this is the case? And why isn't this more publicized?
- Frankie must come to terms with his oncoming death. How does he do this?



Watch-A-Likes:

Smoke Signals (DVD)

<https://tinyurl.com/y3sehe8k>

Growing Native Oklahoma: Red People (Kanopy)

<https://tinyurl.com/yy3ytd4l>

Language Healers: Native Americans Revitalizing Native Languages (Kanopy)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9uupqhn>

The Creek Runs Red: The Toxic Legacy of Picher, Oklahoma's Lead Mining Industry (Kanopy)

<https://tinyurl.com/y48dztyv>

Other Resources:

Create a playlist on Freegal with the soundtrack's featured artist, Samantha Crain

<https://tinyurl.com/y4njyptj>

Brief biographies of Richard Ray Whitman (Biography in Context)

<https://tinyurl.com/y3kkjktj>

<https://tinyurl.com/y4cy2vac>

An American Sunrise: Poems by Joy Harjo (OverDrive)

<https://tinyurl.com/yyb8lhfv>

Spiral to the Stars: Mvskoke Tools of Futurity by Laura Harjo (book)

<https://tinyurl.com/y4b863v9>

Creek Country: The Creek Indians and Their World by Robbie Franklyn Ethridge (book)

<https://tinyurl.com/y5mqk77h>