**Ms. McLeod**

**ELA A30**

**Allen Sapp: Keeper of Stories**

**Big Idea: How have natural and constructed landscapes deeply influenced Canadian artists, speakers, and authors and their texts?**

**Allegory: A Visual Representation of Meaning**

Merriam Webster Dictionary Definition of Allegory: a story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for a political or historical situation.

Allegory is most often associated with works of literature; however, Allegory in the visual arts is the representation of meaning beyond or in addition to the literal meaning of what has been depicted. For example, the Statue of Liberty is a statue that literally depicts a woman wearing a crown and carrying a torch; allegorically, the statue represents the concept of "liberty."

Allen Sapp’s paintings depict First Nations characters in historical settings; this is the literal meaning of his paintings. His paintings also have an allegorical intent: “to open insight to the whole world of what life was like on the plains or on the Red Pheasant reserve and to allow people who had an interest in indigenous culture to learn more about it. His work is a real personal account of his life growing up on the Red Pheasant reserve… He's documented a rich legacy in Saskatchewan — a cultural legacy and an historic one.” (CBC news, Dec. 29th, 2015)

A picture is worth a thousand words…

“To the outside observer, the importance of the Sapp-Gonor relationship became largely overshadowed by the emergence of Sapp himself. At each new show the focus became more clearly fixed on Allen Sapp, his gift, and its value to all Canadians. In Ottawa, then Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien stated, "He has made a great contribution to the cultural background of his own people." Others described Sapp's work as "a story (of his people) more vivid on canvas than has been told by hundreds of printed words... he must be credited with having already done a real service to his people..." (Saskatoon Star-Phoenix). "Allen has developed a powerful language that communicates better than words,"… (www.allensapp.com)

**Turn and Talk:**

**What is Allen Sapp’s allegorical intent (what concept is he representing through his visual art)?**

**Create a caption (2-3 sentences) for one of Allen Sapp’s paintings. You may use dialogue. If you include dialogue, don’t forget to use quotation marks.**

**TCHR NOTE: GO To Images and article-https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/grandfather-of-saskatchewan-art-allen-sapp-dies-at-87-1.3383937**

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