



# Discussion Guide for "An Indian Among Los Indígenas: A Native Travel Memoir" by Ursula Pike

1. Do travel narratives have a tendency toward voyeurism and conquest? What are some "tropes" of travel narratives? Is this book different?
2. What did Pike's work at the Children's center involve? How did she help the center and the greater community as tasked by the Peace Corps? How did the Peace Corps train her to integrate into and engage with Bolivian communities?
3. In what ways was Pike "invisible" in the United States, but privileged in Bolivia?
4. What various methods of transportation does Pike use to get around Bolivia? What impact might each method have on her safety and what precautions does she take?
5. On p. 201 Pike states "As for the affair ... I was living a romance novel about a hot brown dude having a passionate and illicit romance with a good white lady. Here I was the good white lady. Back in the States, I was the brown person in the scenario." What do you think Pike means by the statements? What did the scenes featuring Fernando add to the overall storyline? Could Pike have easily excluded them?
6. On page 204 Pike purchases one item each for two boys she had worked with throughout her peace corps services, and then reflects if she should be doing this for all the children at the children's center. She then asks, "what is the meaning of charity?" and asks how a person "does it right". What does she mean by this? How do you think a person goes about "doing charity right"?
7. On page 215 Daniel, in reference to Pike's coming service end date in Bolivia, says, "They will become ghosts to you". Do you think that is true? How did this make Pike feel?