I have prepared some questions for you to answer as while reading Mary Brave Bird Crow Dog’s autobiography. This book is a personal account of the American Indian Movement from the point of view of those involved.

*** At the end of each chapter, after answering my question in one paragraph, write another paragraph about what struck you most about the chapter. Give me your reaction and thoughts about what Mary has said. *** (So, I’m expecting two paragraphs for each chapter, about five to six pages total.)

Chapter 1: What Indian nation does Mary belong to? Where is she from? Why is Mary prouder of her husband’s family than she is of her own?

Chapter 2: What was one incident of racism Mary encountered growing up?

Chapter 3: What does Mary say are the differences between traditional Lakota child-rearing and Indian schools? Why did Mary leave school?

Chapter 4: Why did Mary begin drinking? What does she think causes the “Indian drinking problem?”

Chapter 5: What was Mary’s life like as a teenager? How do you think you would have reacted under similar conditions?

Chapter 6: Describe the Trail of Broken Treaties and the takeover of the BIA.

Chapter 7: What is the significance of peyote in Indian religion? What does Mary think about non-Indian use of peyote?

Chapter 8: Why did the Indians pick Wounded Knee to make a stand? How did Mary end up there?

Chapter 9: What were conditions like during the siege at Wounded Knee? What was the government’s reaction to the occupation? Do you think the government overreacted? What could have the government done instead?

Chapter 10: Why did Crow Dog revive the Ghost Dance? Describe the original Ghost Dance.

Chapter 11: Why did Mary want to have her baby at Wounded Knee? Why was she afraid to have her baby in a hospital? How did the occupation of Wounded Knee end?

Chapter 12: Describe Mary’s relationship with Leonard Crow Dog and his family.

Chapter 13: Describe Annie Mae.
Chapter 14: What do you think the Eye of the Heart is? Describe a sweat bath and explain what it is used for.

Chapter 15: Describe the situation for Leonard Crow Dog after Wounded Knee. Describe the jail conditions for Crow Dog. What did he do to survive?

Chapter 16: Describe what happened after Crow Dog was released from prison. Describe vision seeking. What did Crow Dog see on his vision quest?

Epilogue: How has Mary’s life changed? What is she doing now?