read them A Coyote Columbus Story by Thomas King. While I was reading they had to write down things they liked and didn’t like using specific examples on their T chart. Afterwards each student wrote a positive and negative recommendation. I have to admit that I selected this book for a secondary reason. I am planning on teaching a unit on Ancient Civilizations of the North America. I used this book as a thermometer of sorts to gage the students reactions to the content of the book.

The book uses many Indigenous storytelling methods from oral traditions and presents an Indigenous worldview of King retells the stories of history (through non-linear, overlapping versions of stories) from new perspectives as he attacks the cultural icons of patriarchal settler society by obliquely critiquing materialism, capitalism, and neo-imperialism. He does all this through an almost lighthearted circular storytelling style. King’s fiction explores what it means to be native in a predominantly white culture. Set in the American border town of Truth and the Canadian town across the river, Bright Water, the novel is the story of two cousins, a dog, and an artist returning home. The boys search for the identity of a human skull found in the river between the two towns. In the process they come to terms with their own positions in the community.