

Women of Wonder

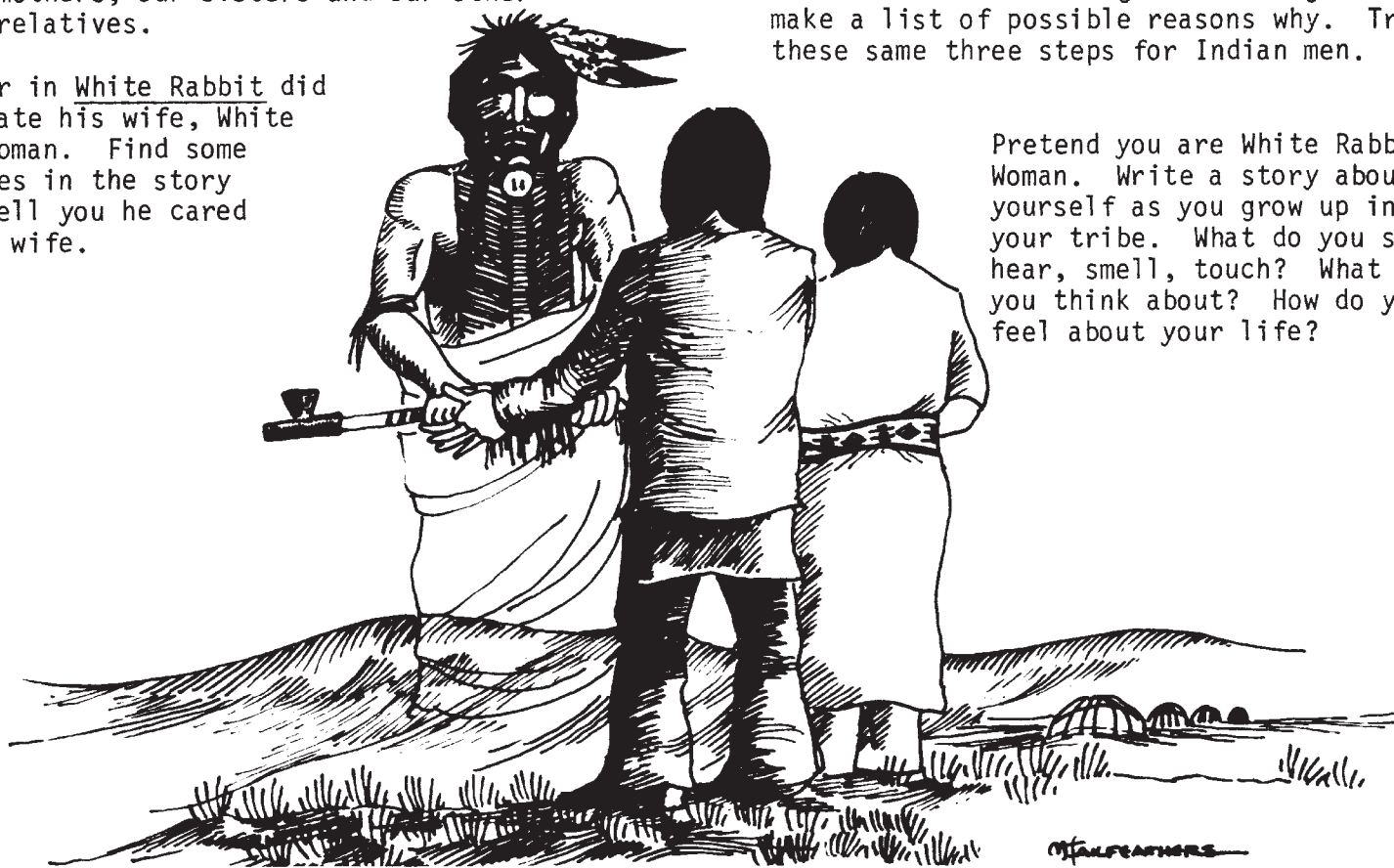
AIM ➡ To better understand the importance of the roles of Indian Women.

Coyote Man in Ghost Woman was punished because he did not appreciate his wife. We are often guilty of taking for granted the many things that are done for us each day - especially by our mothers, our sisters and our other female relatives.

Mad Bear in White Rabbit did appreciate his wife, White Horse Woman. Find some sentences in the story which tell you he cared for his wife.

- Make a list of things that women did for their family and tribe in the time of these two stories. Read the description of Indian women on the other side of this card.
- Make a list of things that women do today.
- Discuss how these things have changed and make a list of possible reasons why. Try these same three steps for Indian men.

Pretend you are White Rabbit Woman. Write a story about yourself as you grow up in your tribe. What do you see, hear, smell, touch? What do you think about? How do you feel about your life?



Indian Women

Indian women have had strong roles in their families and their tribal governments and religions. Throughout history they have been guides, interpreters and scouts as well as negotiators for peace. They could also be medicine women and even chiefs. In some tribes, Indian women had quite a bit of power and in other groups they were supreme.

There were powerful female spiritual forces who had much to do with creating the world and were honored highly by their tribe.

In traditional cultures men and women divided their duties. Because the woman is the creator of life, she took care of things that were related to creativity: planting and harvesting crops, making mats, baskets, pottery and beadwork and caring for the children.

Indian women did not think their lot in life a hard one. They did what had to be done for the survival of the tribe. There was a pattern to life and the joy of creating was fullfilling. They knew their place was an honored one. Indian women did not have to fight for their rights.

