

Jean Baptiste Charbonneau is Born

Streams to the River, River to the Sea p. 69

I heard Blue Sky say to someone in Minnetarree, “What is to be done? She is dying.”

Dying? The word soothed my pain somehow. I lay quiet. I waited for my Guardian Spirit to speak. I waited for the voices of those who were no longer living, my mother, my friends in the land of the Shoshone. I felt very calm.

Captain Clark spoke to Drewyer, who spoke to Blue Sky: “The Captain has something he would like to do. He has tried it before. Sometimes it works and sometimes it does not work.”

“What is it?” Blue Sky said.

“He has the rattle from a rattlesnake in his pocket and he wants to break up two of its rings. Make small pieces of them in a little water and make her swallow.”

“Why not,” Blue Sky said. “She is dying.”

The stuff had no taste, only a scratchy feeling as it went down, but it sent me to sleep. When I woke up it was daylight and the baby was being born.

How does Sacagawea feel while giving birth to her baby?

Facts from page 40 of *Going Along with Lewis & Clark* that match Scott O’Dell’s story:

How does Sacagawea feel while giving birth to her baby?

Underline the facts from the journals of Lewis and Clark that match Scott O’Dell’s story.

11th February Monday 1805—

About five o’clock this evening one of the wives of Charbonneau [Sacagawea] was delivered a fine boy. It is worthy of a remark that this was the first child which this woman had born, and as is common in such cases, her labor was tedious and the pain violent. Mr. Jessome informed me that he had frequently administered a small portion of the rattle of the rattle-snake, which he assured me had never failed to produce the desired effect, that of hastening the birth of the child; having the rattle of the snake by me I gave it to him and he administered two rings of it to the woman broken in small pieces with the fingers and added a small quantity of water. Whether this medicine was truly the cause or not I shall not undertake to determine, but I was informed that she had not taken it more than ten minutes before she brought forth.

How does Sacagawea feel while giving birth to her baby?