

himself. The bear symbolizes Tom's heritage because he arrived just as Tom had started to learn the old ways of his heritage and he was separate from Tom when he learned the new ways of life. In the new ways of life Tom's difficulty is that he cannot find a place to run from his past. When Tom realizes that bear symbolizes his past, he sets out to kill it, with the comment: "This bear did not make trouble. The trouble is in me." (S.283, Borland)

The similarity between *When the Legends Die* and *Dances with Wolves* is really close. One important similarity is the water. Both, John and Tom have water around them. This symbolizes that both want to be clean and being one with the nature. The animals which deal with John and Tom have a strong connection to them. It seems that every feeling John and Tom have, can project one's feeling to the animals. In John's case the wolf and in Tom's the bear.

At the end of the story John decided to live in the Indian culture and to leave his old life as an American soldier behind. Even though both of the symbolic animals had died, he remained strong in his friendship with the Indians and chose to never go back to the people who killed them. In contrast, Tom only has one of his symbols die. The reservation was just a part of a much larger circle, the circle of Tom's life. After leaving the reservation, Tom was just about to reach the other end of the spectrum from where he was born, when he finally understood that he was not a Clout Indian anymore and never would again. He was taught a new way of life, but for a time he wanted to go back to the old ways, to make his peace with his world and himself.