Setting: This book takes place in past in the arctic environment of Alaska. The atmosphere is bleak and gloomy.

Main Conflict: Two old women, Sa’ and Ch’idzigyaak are left behind by their tribe and must fend for themselves in the Alaskan wilderness.

Rising Action: Sa’ and Ch’idzigyaak recall old skills, and begin travelling to a place they remember camping long ago. They catch lots of salmon and are now thriving on their own,

Climax: Daagoo has tracked the two old women and calls out to them. The women hear him and are afraid because they do not know if he is a friend or an enemy.

Falling Action: Daagoo tells the women about the tribe and how they are starving and suffering. He also tells them about how the chief is sorry for leaving them behind.

Resolution: The women agree to help the tribe by sharing food. Ch’idzigyaak makes amends with her daughter, Ozhii Nelii.

Theme: There is no limit to one’s ability — certainly not age — to accomplish in life what one must. Sa’ and Ch’idzigyaak overcome their aches, pains, and depression in order to survive without the tribe.

External Conflict: Sa’ and Ch’idzigyaak experience a conflict with their tribe and nature. Because the tribe is starving, they leave the two old women behind to die. Sa’ and Ch’idzigyaak must survive the cold and possible starvation in the harsh Arctic conditions of Alaska. Another conflict is between Ch’idzigyaak and her daughter. Ch’idzigyaak is angry and hurt that her daughter did not stand up for her when the chief decides to leave them behind. Ohzii Nelii, Ch’idzigyaaks daughter, was afraid to visit her mother at the end of the story because she was afraid her mother would not forgive her.

Internal Conflict: When Sa’ was young she stood up of an old woman the tribe was going to leave behind. Because she protested so much the chief ordered Sa’ to stay with the old one. Sa’ could choose to apologize to the chief in order to stay with the tribe or stay with the old one and remain true to her principles. She chooses to stay true to herself and remains with the old one.

Their society by the end of the novel.

Quote: “Like the younger, more able wolves who shun the old leader of the pack, these people would leave the old behind so that they could move faster without the extra burden.” page 5

Type of figurative language: Simile. The people are being compared to wolves.