**Whole Class Discussion Questions [Teacher Guide]**

**Directions:** The teacher will use the following questions to lead the students in a discussion of Indian Removal. The teacher should facilitate the discussion, letting students truly explore their own ideas. Following the discussion, students will complete their individual writing assessment.

Reviewing the Arguments

1. As a review, someone tell me which two people were for the removal of Indians? Which two people were against Indian removal?
2. In general, how do you think women viewed Indian removal? [Do you think a white settler women would agree with Catherine Beecher?] What about Indians? What do you think most Indians thought about removal? What about white settlers in the southeast?
3. Now that you’ve heard from all of the experts, what do you think were the advantages or benefits of removing the Indians from the southeast?
4. What were the disadvantages of Indian removal, especially for the Indians?

Examining the Issues

1. Some of the people of this time called the Indians names including “savage” which of course they were not. Why do you think some people called the Indians “savages”? Have you ever called someone a nasty name? Why do people say mean things?
2. Is it ever right to force people off of their land? What if you promised those people that they could keep their lands? Is it ever ok to break that promise?
3. Many of the settlers wanted Indian lands so they could farm it, sell it to someone else, or so that Indians would be out of their way. Is it ever okay go after your individual needs even if that means hurting a lot of other people?

The Decision

1. What do you personally think Jackson should have done?