In Their Own Words: Seminar Prep #2
For Weds, 1/14, read all the introductory materials to *Ishi in Two Worlds*, the Prologue beginning on page 3 and Chapters 1-3.

**Read actively.** Note your responses, your “ahas,” your questions, your new terminology, etc. in the margins as you read. Think about the central question for essay #1—how does the genre or kind of text influence how we tell history and so how we interpret, teach, understand, history? This book’s subtitle is “A Biography of the Last Wild Indian in North America.” How does this book compare so far to other biographies you’ve read? Think about Jane Tompkins and her struggles with “textualism, morality, and the problem of history.” How does Kroeber take us through the difficult territory of the past and of white and Yahi perspectives and the morality/horror of the events she relates? How/when/why does Kroeber use both primary and secondary sources to create and support the history she tells here? Also, note all the different disciplines she uses to write this history so far—geography, linguistics, anthropology, archaeology to name a few. Why does she need all these to write this biography?

**Writing the seminar prep:** Look back over your margin notes and reconsider our course focus on the ways we tell, write, and learn history. Note that the questions above all tie to this larger question. Select three quotations from the book so far that relate to this focus for you.

1) Set up each quotation by explaining its context. Where are we in the unfolding history/story? What topic or event is under discussion? This set-up should be as concise as you can make it, if possible
2) Write down each quotation word for word and put the quotation in quotation marks. Cite the page # in parentheses at the end of the quotation.
3) Underneath each quotation, paraphrase it in your own words—restate the quotation’s content.
4) Explain how and why this particular quotation is significant for you when discussing the ways we tell, write, and teach history.

**Sample: Quotation 1.**
1) Kroeber outlines many ways the native population was decimated by the influx of white colonials, from enslavement to disease to relocation. She then says,
2) “Forced migrations account for some hundreds of Yana deaths; but death by shooting and particularly by mass-murder shooting interspersed with hangings were the usual and popular techniques of extermination” (47).
3) Although several hundred Yana died because of forced migration, the colonials used more direct means of killing the Yana like shooting them one at a time, hanging them, and gunning them down in larger groups.
4) In her phrasing, Kroeber uses passive voice. She doesn’t identify the killers because of this sentence construction, so in this way the sentence feels less distinct and less directly accusatory. However, the word choice of “mass-murder” to name the way natives were hunted and killed en masse and the pairing of “usual and popular” to describe these modes of eliminating the native people highlight the criminality and savagery of these events.