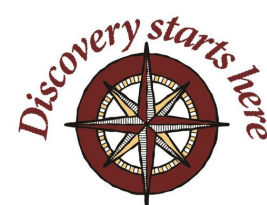


BOOK CLUB

Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Wall Kimmerer



SUGGESTIONS ~ THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

"Skywoman Falling"

- According to Kimmerer, what does it mean to be Indigenous to a place? How do you become Indigenous?
- What are Skywoman's "original instructions"? What is one new way you can act on those instructions in your own life?

"Asters & Goldenrod"

- Kimmerer mentions a mentor who "engaged all the human ways of understanding" (44). What are those ways of understanding? Can you think of a practical use for a "new species of knowledge" (47) in your own life or in the world today?
- Can you relate to the feeling of "teeter[ing] precariously with an awkward foot in each of two worlds" (47)? Has this chapter made you think differently about your own path and if so, how?

"Learning the Grammar of Animacy"

- Explore the idea that "there are intelligences other than our own, teachers all around us" (58). Seek a non-human teacher and practice learning using all the ways of understanding.
- For one whole day, pay attention to how you talk about things and the words you use. Did anything about your words and speech habits stand out to you?

"In the Footsteps of Nanabozho"

- Nanabozho "understood that all the knowledge he needed in order to live was present in the land" and that he needed "to learn from the world how to be human" (208). Spend some time with that idea and note the feelings and thoughts it evokes in you, if any.
- If you found a non-human teacher, what did they teach you about being human?

"Putting Down Roots"

- Do one thing, however big or small, that will cause "the land [to] give thanks for the people" (263).
- Recalling that "ceremonies are the way we 'remember to remember'" (5) and noticing how Kimmerer finds her "own ceremony of reconciliation" (266), create a personal ceremony you can easily practice that will help you remember to practice Original Instructions and strengthening your roots in this place.

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WANT MORE?

**Recommended
Reading & Viewing**

Upstream: Selected Essays, Mary Oliver

Oliver contemplates the pleasure of artistic labor, her boundless curiosity for the flora and fauna that surround her, and the responsibility she has inherited from Shelley, Wordsworth, Emerson, Poe, and Frost, the great thinkers and writers of the past, to live thoughtfully, intelligently, and to observe with passion.

Emergence Magazine

<https://emergencemagazine.org/>

Emergence shares stories that explore the timeless connections between ecology, culture, and spirituality.

Conversations around the Green Fire with Robin Wall Kimmerer, Center for Humans & Nature

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WRY3GoKYPc>

The Garden Awakening: Designs to Nurture Our Land & Ourselves, Mary Reynolds

The Garden Awakening is both art and inspiration for any garden lover seeking to create a positive and natural space while incorporating sustainable living such as growing your own food. It combines practical step-by-step instructions with spiritual, ancient Celtic stories to help you awaken any garden space, nurturing it to benefit both the land and the people in it.

The Hidden Life of Trees, Peter Wohlleben

In this international bestseller, Wohlleben opened readers' eyes to the amazing processes at work in forests every day. Through rich language highlighting the interconnectedness of forest ecosystems, the book offers fascinating insights about the fungal communication highway known as the "wood wide web," the difficult life lessons learned in tree school, the hard-working natural cleanup crews that recycle dying trees, and much more.

Enduring Seeds: Native American Agriculture & Wild Plant Conservation, Gary Paul Nabhan

A gem of a book: scientifically sound, ethical, full of interesting and timely information about one of the paramount yet neglected environmental issues of our times.

REMINDER: BOOK CLUB PART II

Thursday, August 17 at 6:30pm