



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Kimmerer

1. The book lends its title from the sweetgrass that is such a mainstay of Indigenous tradition. In what ways does sweetgrass represent the author's beliefs about ecology and the environment?
2. The author, Robin Wall Kimmerer, orients much of the text around her own personal memories, experiences, and research. How did you feel about this?
3. The author's identity as an Indigenous woman informs much of the text. In what ways does she explain Indigenous culture and tradition to those unfamiliar with such beliefs?
4. Does the concept of trees having a community relationship, and the scientific explanations of their possible means of communications change how you view your relationship with a forest? If so, how?
5. Do you see the earth as property or as a gift? How does this perspective change the way in which you view the value of what you take from the earth?
6. What action can you take within your community to bring about positive environmentalism and ecological restoration/preservation?
7. "The Onondaga people still live by the precepts of the Great Law and still believe that, in return for the gifts of Mother Earth, human people have responsibility for caring for the nonhuman people, for stewardship of the land." (pg. 319) What do you believe are the responsibilities of our government and our society in aiding the Onondaga Nation in its efforts to restore Onondaga Lake to a healthy state?
8. Are there practical insights and wisdom you will take from this book and incorporate into your everyday life? Do you already practice some?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.sawyerfreelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Discussion-Questions-Sweetgrass.pdf>

to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She lives in Syracuse, New York, where she is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

<https://www.robinwallkimmerer.com/>

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