



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/>

Book Club in a Bag Terms of Use

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! Visit our website at www.cplma.ca/bookclubinabag to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar, and submit a request.

Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance.
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability.
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the service desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick-up date.

Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit.
- 6-week loan period.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any CLMA library location.
- Kit must be returned at the service desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All items are checked out to one person's card.
- The person who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
 - The distribution and return of all items to their group members; and
 - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items.
 - The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.