

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Kimmerer writes, “Plants tell their stories not by what they say, but by what they do.” What plant story stuck out to you the most? What was the most surprising thing you learned?

Some plants hold special meaning to us, as Kimmerer describes. Is there a plant that is special to you?

One essential Indigenous teaching is that humans ought to be thinking of the future generations in how they treat the Earth. Do you consider this when moving throughout your life? How might we all be more mindful of creating a better world for our descendants?

Discuss the concept of tree communities. Does this help you view forests differently now?

Discuss the gift economy. Did this concept shake loose new ideas for you regarding what we owe the planet, and each other? Did it inspire you to think about how to incorporate the gift economy in your own life? What lessons did you pick up on about our own economy of overconsumption?

How do you think you might be able to give back to the earth in concrete ways? How can we inspire our communities to give back?

What can you do to support Indigenous efforts to take care of the land?

How might reciprocity and sustainability differ? Why does this difference matter?

Dr. Kimmerer's unique perspective and background sometimes meant that her two worlds seemed at odds. Have you ever had that experience? How did you reconcile moving between two worlds or two different ideologies?

What did you learn while reading this book that surprised you? Did this book inspire you to take action or change a specific action you already engage in?