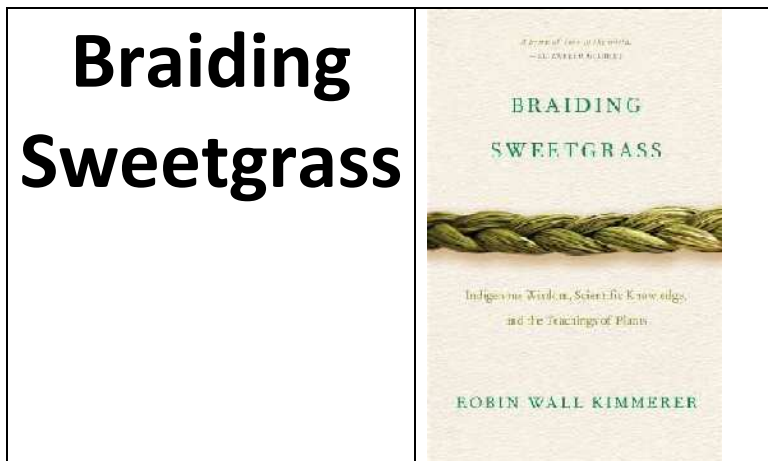


Library Exhibit - Left Panel



A book to change our view of the world.

Who is Robin Wall Kimmerer?

Kimmerer is a plant ecologist, writer, and distinguished teaching professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY and a member of the Potawatomi First Nation.

From *Braiding Sweetgrass*:



from Concord Academy

<https://concordacademy.org/robin-wall-kimmerer/>

In the Powatami language, there is no "it." In English the only way to talk about a tree, the moon or the Earth as "it." This is once more the colonialist approach -- the language of takers. In the Powatami language ... everything is alive. In the Western world, trees and plants and the land and the world are "it" and outside the orbit of our moral responsibility

When we value land as capital, property, or as “natural resources,” we value the earth for what we can take from it; conversely, when we value the world around us as a gift, we value it for its intrinsic nature. Through an indigenous lens, land is our home, our sacred source of knowledge, and our identity: Who we are is inseparable from the place that sustains us. In this framework, land is our moral responsibility, not a place over which we claim rights.

What do we owe the Earth?

We owe the world gratitude and respect.

The world is so richly endowed that the least we can do in return is pay attention.

Imagine walking through a richly inhabited world of Birch people, Bear people, Rock

people, beings we think of and therefore speak of as persons worthy of our respect, of inclusion in a peopled world...

We need to restore honour to the way we live so that when we walk through the world we don't have to avert our eyes in shame, so we can hold our heads up high and receive respectful acknowledgement of the rest of the world's beings

*I like to imagine what it would be like if the **Honourable Harvest** were the law of the land to-day, as it was in the past. Imagine if a developer, eyeing open land for a shopping mall, had to ask the goldenrod, the meadowlarks and the monarch butterflies for permission to take their homeland. What if he had to abide by their answer. Why not?*

The guidelines for the Honorable Harvest are not written down, or even consistently

spoken of as a whole – they are reinforced in small acts of daily life:

Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them.

Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life.

Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer.

Never take the first. Never take the last.

Take only what you need.

Take only that which is given.

Never take more than half. Leave some for others.

Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.

Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.

Share

Give thanks for what you have been given.

Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.

For more information about
Robin Wall Kimmerer on the
OBEC website:

