

# *Intercultural Storytelling with NATURE*

*I acknowledge Wichita, Kansas, occupies the sacred traditional homelands and hunting and camping territories of several Indigenous / Native nations: Kiowa, Osage, Wichita, and the people of the Seven Council Fires (Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota). I welcome the opportunity to grow in my understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and to honor a relationship of reciprocity with lands and waters and all life of this earth.*

**Dr. Lori Santos**  
**Wichita State University**

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**Robin Wall Kimmerer**  
**Honorable Harvest**

**Braiding Sweetgrass:** [https://sps.berkeley.edu/static/documents/EnI/Week\\_3\\_2.pdf](https://sps.berkeley.edu/static/documents/EnI/Week_3_2.pdf)

- ★ Never Take the First
- ★ Ask Permission
- ★ Listen for the Answer
- ★ Take Only What you Need
- ★ Minimize Harm
- ★ Use Everything You Take
- ★ Share
- ★ Be Grateful
- ★ Reciprocate the Gift



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

# All My Relations...

## Indigenous Pedagogy & Rematriation & Mainstream Science and Ecology

**Respect, Responsibility, Reciprocity, Relevance**

- **Eco / Social Justice**
- **Service Learning**
- **Collaborations**
- **Sustainable Practices**



*Water is Life & Mother Tongue*, Lori Santos

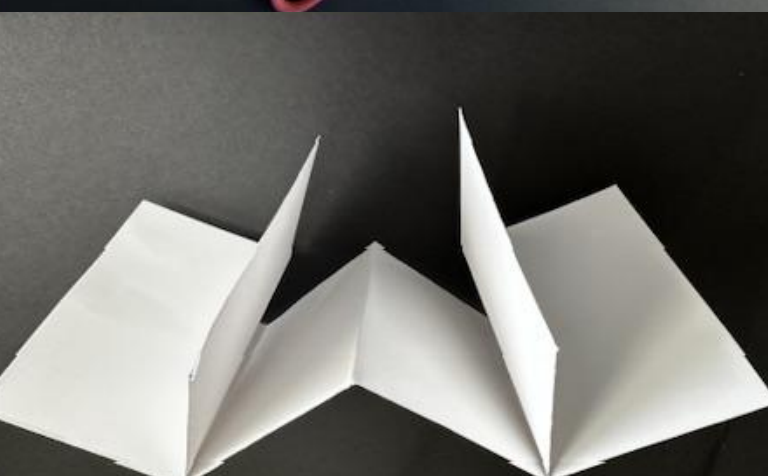
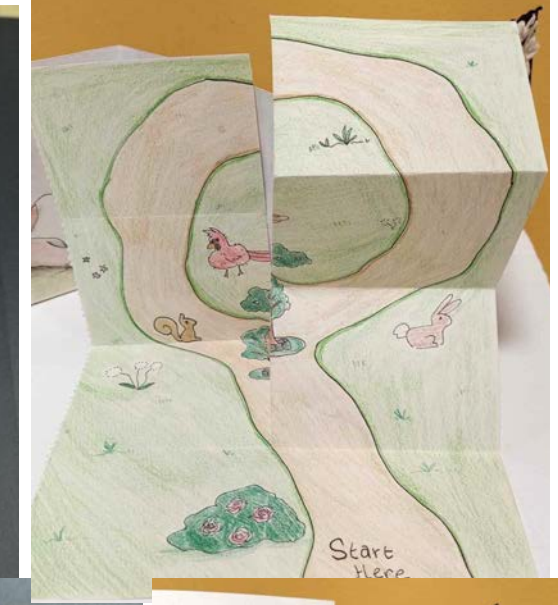
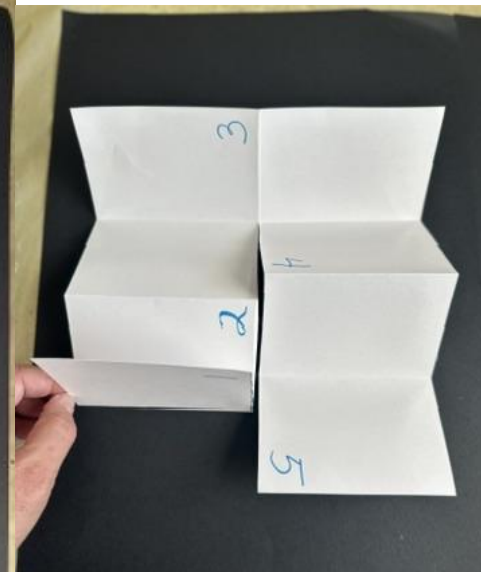
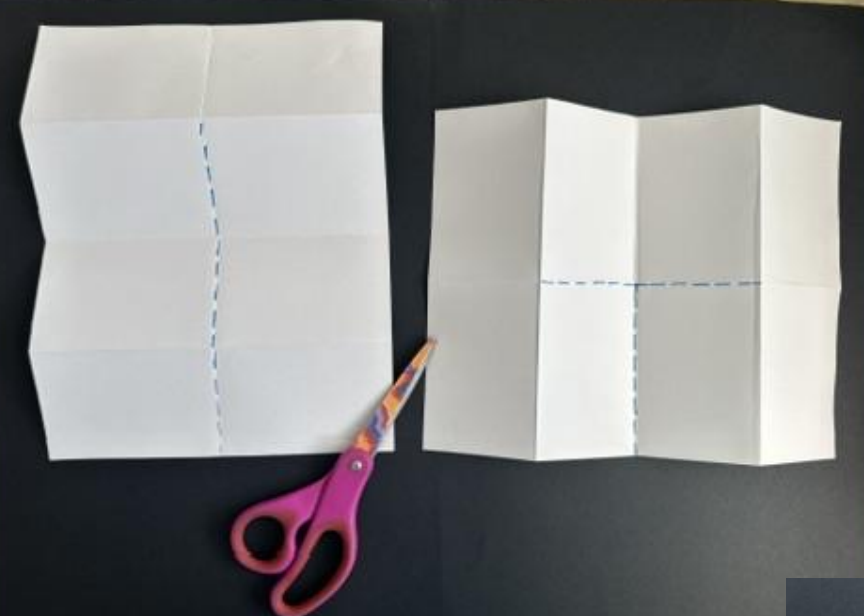


## Place, Identity, Environmental Rematriation

- Connects learning to a specific place, and thus knowledge is situated in relationship to a location, experience, and group of people. Learning in connecting to land and all our relations.
- Focuses on personal and holistic development of a human being as a whole person, including self-awareness, emotional, social, and spiritual growth.
- Focuses on Two- Eyed seeing reconnecting to Mother Earth by honoring traditional Indigenous knowledges of the land and also connecting to mainstream environmental science for a holistic and complementary approach.









# Why Nature Journaling?

## Nature is...

Universal and timeless

Unpredictable

Bountiful, Beautiful

Alive, Nourishing and healing

Develops our sense of wonder

**PAUSE** for a 5 minute mediate / interpretative sketch.....focus on lines, shapes, colors, your mark making and connecting with the plant, not a descriptive illustration. Try this as a daily practice. Choose a plant, shell, leaf... something close by.



# IDEAS FOR CREATING A DAILY PRACTICE: START WHERE YOU ARE

- Fifteen minutes with \_\_\_\_
- Zoom in Zoom out on a plant or animal or landscape
- Lines, shapes, colors you notice
- Draw the 5 Senses
- Focus on one bird, leaf, insect etc.
- Rubbings, shadows, textures of a plant or animal
- 4 Seasons in the same area
- 4 Directions as you sit somewhere
- Nature Artist focus - google an artist and get inspired
- Materials and techniques - explore a variety (draw same bird with different materials)
- Draw or write a plant's story - feelings, place
- Draw or write a conversation w/ a plant
- 4 square
- Bird's Eye, Ant view
- Detailed study of a nature relative
- Multiples and variations of the same nature relative
- Walking Map - draw as you walk
- Stories between plants
- Sit Spot - sit in the same spot daily and draw
- Venn Diagram - compare ideas
- Words - rooted, nourished, seeded,...



# Draw your memory tree then free write - workshop with Janisse Ray

Prompt:

- **I love this tree because....**

*She is imagination and play.*

*She is grounded and safe.*

*One day she spoke to me. She told me to feel her textures and see her shadows and colors. Smell the water and dirt I live in.*

*She said, you are with me and I am with you.*

*I will be here when you return another day.*



## ***More Nature Journaling Tips***

Observe and listen first, Slow down  
Draw your senses and experiences  
Draw the walk  
Embrace time and seasons of a place  
Draw what she is sharing with you  
Experience all directions  
Draw the textures, colors, shapes, and lines of nature  
Sit with nature -- she wants to know you & you know her  
Notice what you are noticing  
Use natural materials, with permission  
Leave a gift

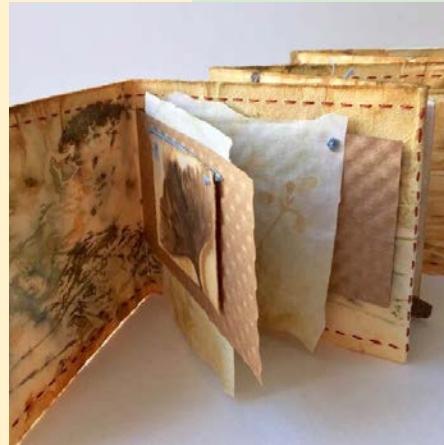
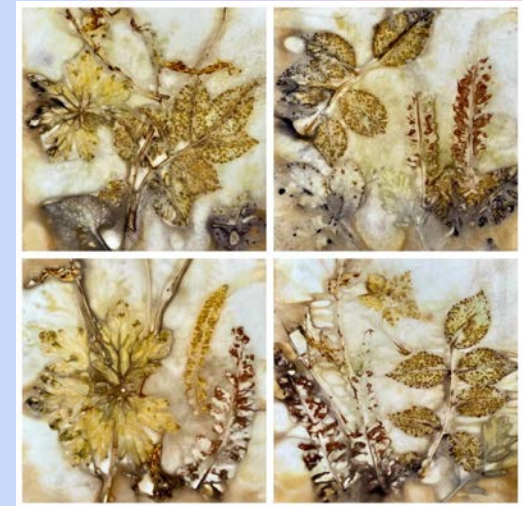
“In some Native languages the term for plants translates to “those who take care of us.”

— **Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass**

“Our indigenous herbalists say to pay attention when plants come to you; they’re bringing you something you need to learn.”

— **Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass**

# Nature Based Artists





# WSU STUDENT EXAMPLES

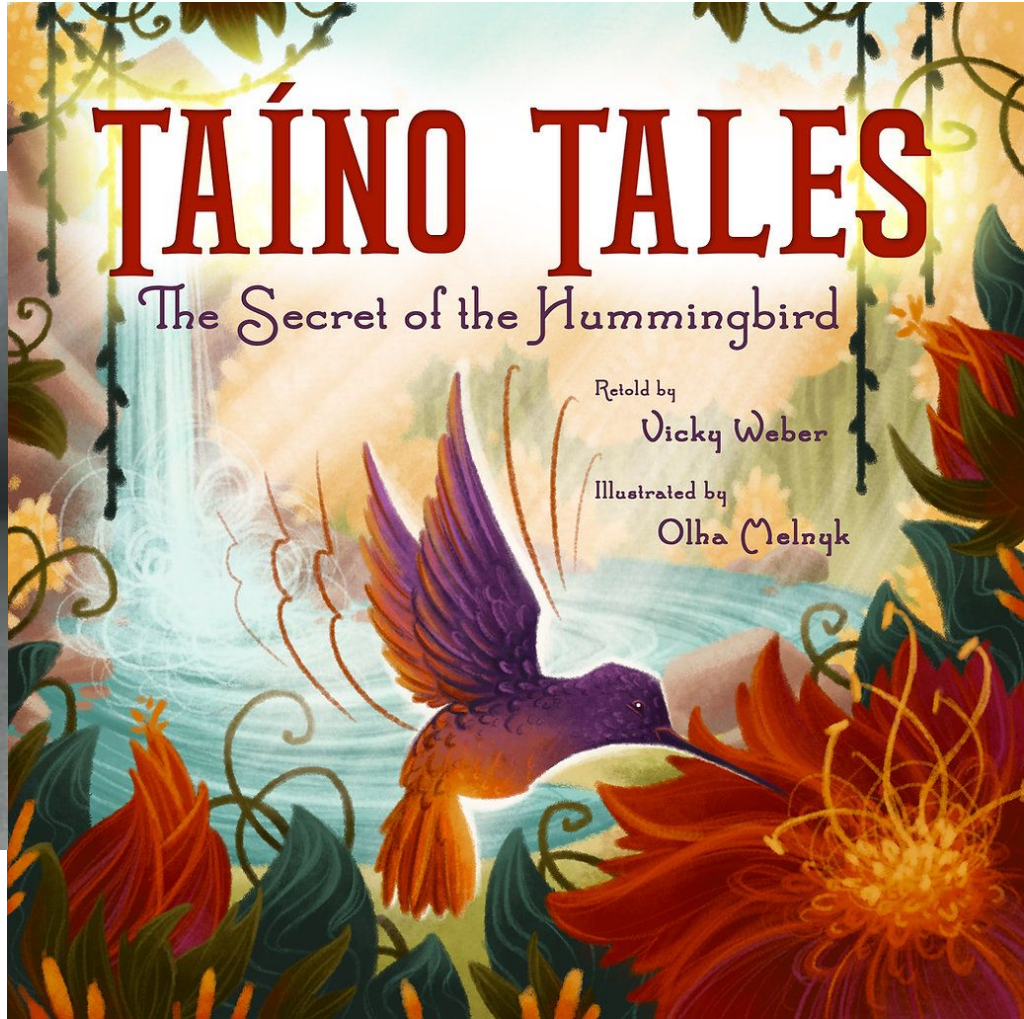


# TAA 2023: Heather W., Howard D., Angela D.





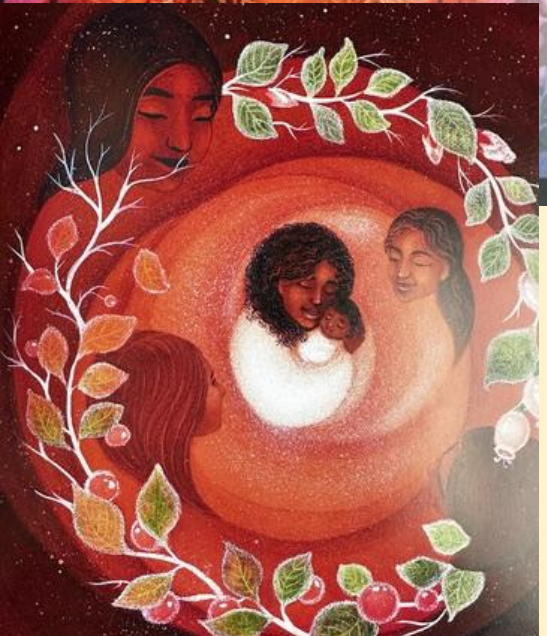
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U.S. POET LAUREATE **JOY HARJO** AND CALDECOTT MEDALIST **MICHAELA GOADE**

# REMEMBER



**JOY HARJO**, the twenty-third poet laureate of the United States, is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Mvskoke Nation. Harjo is the author of nine books of poetry, several plays, children's books, music albums, and two memoirs. Her many honors include the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize from the Poetry Foundation, the Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets, two NEA fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Tulsa Artist Fellowship. Harjo is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is the first artist-in-residence for the Bob Dylan Center.



🐦 @JoyHarjo | 📷 joyharjoformal

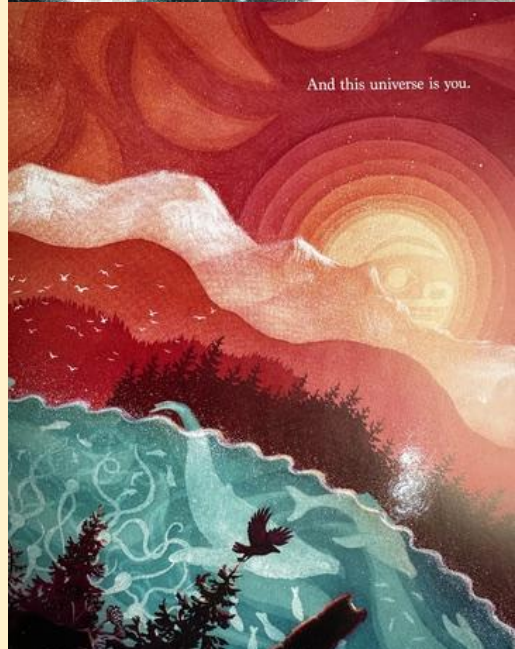
**MICHAELA GOADE** is a Caldecott Medalist and a number one *New York Times* best-selling artist. She is the illustrator of several award-winning books, including *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom and *I Sing You Down from the Stars* by Tasha Spillert-Sumner. Her latest title, *Berry Song*, is her first book as an author-illustrator. She is a member of the Tlingit Nation and grew up in her ancestral homelands along the southeast coast of Alaska, where she lives today on an island at the edge of a wide, wild sea.



🐦 @MichaelaGoade | 📷 michaelagoade



Remember the plants, trees,  
animal life who all have their tribes,  
their families, their histories, too.  
Talk to them, listen to them.



And this universe is you.

# WRITING PROMPTS

- The bird sings...
- The (flower/tree/plant) tells me...
- I sit in nature and ...
- The sun shines....
- The earth feels...
- Water is.....
- The place I want to get back to....
- What I know about winter /summer, etc....
- I see...I hear...I smell... feel...I taste...

I stand..

I honor..

I walk

My home is

My people are

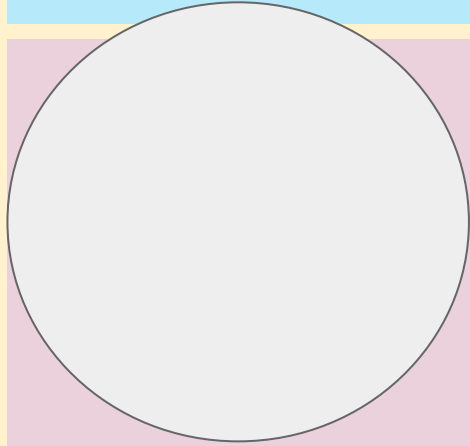
Land is

Water is

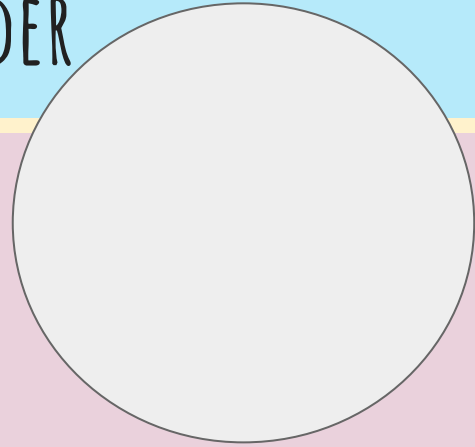
The Earth is

#IndigenizingArtsEd

# REFLECT: WILD WONDER

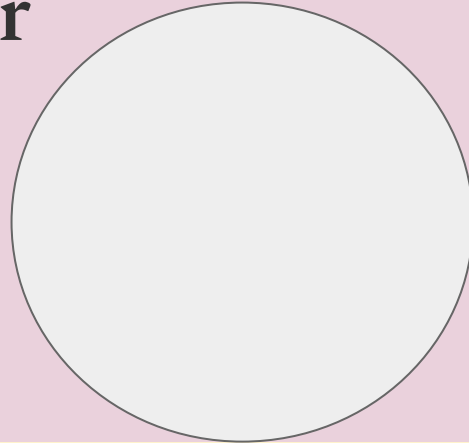


**I notice**



**I wonder**

**It reminds me of**





# REFLECT

Start where you are, be kind to yourself, build your pencil miles.....

“To help you get started, I encourage you to leave behind the idea that a journal page has to look pretty or that your writing must be profound. Your journal is a tool that will help you connect with nature. **That connection is our goal...not the journaling itself.**” - John Muir Laws

**Where would you like to spend more time outside, how can you make that happen?**