

Critical Reading Template (Skywoman Falling)

Basic Info

- Title – Braiding sweetgrass (Skywoman falling)
- Author - Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Author's profession/credentials / claim of expertise
Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants and Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses.

Other credentials

A New York Times Bestseller
A Washington Post Bestseller
A Los Angeles Times Bestseller
Named a "Best Essay Collection of the Decade" by Literary Hub
A Book Riot "Favorite Summer Read of 2020"

Textual Genre

- What kind of text is this?
 - Book
- What audience (and level of familiarity with the topic) does this genre imply?
 - General audience
- What kind of information might I expect to get from this text?
 - Myth and folklore

Structure

- No sections but the text can be grouped into 5 parts
 - Interdependence - The story highlights the interdependence of all living beings and the importance of working together for the common good.
 - Stewardship - The story emphasizes the need for humans to care for the earth and protect its resources.
 - Women's power - The story highlights the power of women and their ability to bring life into the world.
 - Creation - The story offers a creation narrative that explains the origin of the world and the birth of new life on the turtle's back.
 - Spiritual beliefs - The story offers insights into the Haudenosaunee's spiritual beliefs and their relationship with the natural world.

Argument

The main argument is for us as humans to find ways to sustain the other forms of life in the world we live in. The other organisms in our environment are sustaining us, we also need to find a way to sustain them. Every living thing is connected and dependent on each other for survival, everyone has to play their part.

Sub arguments

The story is a lesson about the natural world and our place in it. The story goes on to teach that man must find ways to become indigenous to the earth and understand it. We as humans need to care for the earth and protect the resources in it. We have an intertwined relationship with the earth, and we are to care for it with respect. The story also highlights the power of women in recreation.

Critical Reading Template (In the Footsteps of Nanabozho by Kimmerer)

Basic Info

- Title – Braiding sweetgrass (In the Footsteps of Nanabozho)
- Author - Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Author's profession/credentials / claim of expertise
Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants and Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses.

Other credentials

A New York Times Bestseller
A Washington Post Bestseller
A Los Angeles Times Bestseller
Named a "Best Essay Collection of the Decade" by Literary Hub
A Book Riot "Favorite Summer Read of 2020"

Textual Genre

- What kind of text is this?
 - Book
- What audience (and level of familiarity with the topic) does this genre imply?
 - General audience
- What kind of information might I expect to get from this text?
 - Myth and folklore

Structure

- No sections but the text can be grouped into 5 parts
 - The Anishinaabe creation story of Nanabozho, who is said to have shaped the world and taught humans how to live in harmony with nature.
 - The importance of indigenous knowledge and deep understanding of the local ecosystem.
 - The ways in which modern ecological restoration practices can be informed by traditional ecological knowledge and practices.
 - The impacts of colonization and industrialization on Indigenous communities and their relationship to the land.
 - The potential for science and indigenous knowledge to work together towards ecological restoration and sustainability.

Argument

The chapter emphasizes the importance of developing a deeper connection to the natural world and how indigenous knowledge and cultural practices can play in achieving this goal. We are encouraged to understand and recognise the ecosystem in our locations and engage in practices that will sustain it.

Sub arguments

Developing a deeper connection to the land requires becoming "indigenous to a place," which involves recognizing the unique ecological characteristics of a particular landscape and the relationships between the various beings that inhabit it.

The author argues that indigenous knowledge, which is often based on a deep understanding of local ecosystems, is better suited to guiding ecological restoration efforts than Western science alone.

She notes that indigenous knowledge is often based on the concept of "reciprocity," which involves giving back to the natural world in exchange for the resources that we take from it.

The author notes that traditional ecological practices, such as controlled burning and harvesting of wild rice, are still being used by indigenous communities today. She argues that these practices can help restore

ecosystems and promote sustainability and should be considered as part of larger restoration efforts.