

Multicultural Moments

November 2023



Honoring Indigenous Voices

As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month this November, it is important to not only focus on the history and past of Indigenous people but also listen to the voices of those present. This issue of Multicultural Moments will feature three Native American authors who share their perspectives on themes such as land acknowledgments, nature, and connections.

There There. Tommy Orange's 2018 debut novel, *There There*, tells the story of 12 people from different Native American communities all traveling to a powwow in Oakland, California.

- Hear author the author read excerpts of the text and answer questions at a 2018 Politics and Prose event: https://youtu.be/hsHNa0JbMlg?si=7O6HNbeRH-eo_6lz
- *There There* has been chosen as the 2023 One Maryland One Book text. You can read more about this initiative and learn how to participate in the programs on the Maryland Humanities Council website: <https://www.mdhumanities.org/programs/one-maryland-one-book/>. For supplemental resources to use with the book, check out the MC Library research guide: <https://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/c.php?g=340991&p=9823931>.
- You can read the full text of *There There* online via MC Library using your MC credentials.

Braiding Sweetgrass. Robin Wall Kimmerer, an indigenous botanist, shares the concept of listening to and learning from plants and animals in her 2013 work, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*.

- Gain insights from the author in this 2021 interview sponsored by the Museum of Native American History: <https://youtu.be/ngHofRNSFS8?si=citbulquumgfXxOF>
- See [Announcing the Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults Teaching Guide – The Lerner Blog](#) for resources that explore themes such as gratitude, kinship, and responsibility. This resource is a companion to the young adult adaptation of the book.
- The young adult adaptation [Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults](#) is available to read online via MC Library using your MC credentials.

Becoming Kin. Patty Krawec's 2022 book *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future* presents a view of settler colonialism through an indigenous perspective and speaks to the themes of indigenous ways of knowing and movements that help indigenous groups reconnect with the land and their common heritage.

- In the CBC *Tapestry* episode, the author shares her perspective on land acknowledgments and “how going back and acknowledging harmful histories helps pave the way for a more hopeful future.” [Becoming Kin with Indigenous author Patty Krawec | CBC.ca](#)
- Learn about [Pay Your Rent](#), an initiative started by the author in 2018 as “a way for those who live on occupied land of the Indigenous to give back.”
- Read the full text of [Becoming Kin](#) online via MC Library using your MC credentials.

May we avoid blaming or bias based on our circumstance and continue to be grateful for the gifts of the global community.

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