**Week 10 Reflection**

Complete the following reflection in your own 400 words:

What does it mean to you to be “indigenous to the land?” Is it possible for the descendants of European white settlers to be indigenous to the land our ancestors occupied by displacement of native people? Why or why not?

To be “Indigenous to the land” means being knowledgeable about the land itself. Truly understanding and appreciating the land for what it is. Not just using it for what it can do but giving in return for what the land has given to us. I do think it is possible for the descendants of European white settlers to be indigenous to the land our ancestors occupied by displacement of native people. I say that because having knowledge doesn’t only pertain to a specific group of people. Anybody can be indigenous to the land if they take the time to understand and study the land and the different ways that it works.

In what ways do you feel yourself connected to the divine through relationship with the land?

A way that I feel myself connected to the divine, which to me is God, through my relationship with the land is just by appreciating His beautiful creation. Taking time out to realize how beautiful nature truly helps me feel connected to Him. I just see how He’s truly working and always there. Having that mere appreciation just makes me feel connected because none of these things could be here, and as I grow my relationship with Him, it allows me to appreciate nature way more than I ever did because He did this with the work of His hands.

An implicit part of all the stories Kimmerer shares is that she has somehow developed intimate familiarity with each of the natural settings with which she interacts. What are the features that invite lots of the kind of interaction Kimmerer seems to think is valuable

The features that invite lots of the kind of interaction Kimmerer seems to think are valuable are a variety of different things. One early in the book, I realized the appreciation for fruit, specifically strawberries, and not just seeing them as strawberries but seeing them as girls. This kind of all reminds me of the three sisters, which were corn, beans, and squash, which highlights their individuality but also how they impact one another and play a vital role. Another thing was water lilies. Most people, including myself, would just look past the water lilies, but she really recognized how they're all so beautifully made individuals, and not just water lilies, but they have a complex way of themselves as well. Lastly, what stood out to me was the pond and how she realized the different things within the pond. The different things that make a pond a pond, its like those things within the pond makes it its own personality like us. We are just a body, but we have things within us that make us, and that’s exactly what she did with the pond, realizing the different things specifically; I remember the tadpoles, and she highlighted how they matter as well within the pond even though they're so small. Like with us even though the event that could’ve possibly happened with us was “small”, rather it was big or small, it still contributes to us as humans.