

In “Picking Sweetgrass,” Robin Wall Kimmerer talks about how we should have a better relationship with nature. She wants us to think about what we take from the Earth and how we can give back. She shares the idea of “reciprocity,” which means giving and receiving in a fair and respectful way. This made me think about how we live today and how we use things without thinking about where they come from.

Robin Kimmerer asks, “How do we consume in a way that does justice to the lives we take?” We buy things with money. If we have money, we can get what we want. But that doesn’t mean it’s right. When we buy food, clothes, or other things, we often don’t think about how they were made, or what had to be taken from the Earth. When we eat meat an animal had to die. We don’t always say thank you or try to give anything back to the earth for the harming we do.

Today we (Everyone ) order stuff online, and it comes to us without us moving a muscle for real. That makes life feel easy. But Robin Kimmerer says, “Not everything should be convenient.” I agree with her. When everything is too easy, we stop being thankful for the stuff, we start taking too much and waste things. If we had to work harder for things, we would respect it more. For example, when my parents buy me things I wouldn’t care for real dirty my shoes up, break my phones etc but when I started to buy those things and get those things fixed I started to be more careful and thoughtful about them.

Robin Kimmerer also talks about something called the “Honorable Harvest.” These are rules for how to take from nature in a good way. Some of the rules are ask before you take, take only what you need, never waste, and give back. I think these rules are smart because we would keep nature healthy by being grateful. If we followed them, we would hurt nature a lot less. But some people don’t even these ideas because we been doing it so long

These ideas connect to how we use energy. We use a lot of energy from things come from the Earth such as gas and soil, but they are not on the earth where we can just get them and use them. We have people digging and drilling hurting the land. Kimmerer says this is not part of the Honorable Harvest. We should use less energy and find cleaner ways to power our homes and cars, like the wind.

At the end of this section Robert Kimmerer wants us to stop and think before we take. She wants us to ask, “Do I really need this?” and “What can I give back?”. If more people lived this way, we could help the Earth and live in a good natured world. We should treat nature like it’s our friend.