

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?

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

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?

Priscilla Kincanon

To me, being “indigenous to the land” means to have a connection with a particular area that you feel you have a relationship with. Many people who feel connected with land may take on a role for future generations to make sure the land stays in their culture to be passed down. I think there is a strong identity that goes with the land and responsibility.

I think that there is a different connection with native people compared to European settlers when it comes to land and before colonization. When I think of indigenous, what comes to mind is a long history of culture and identity.

I love to go hiking, so I feel connected to the divine through my relationship with the land by looking at nature. Being in nature also helps a lot of people feel mindfulness. Relationships with family, for example, have a great impact on the feeling of feeling connected. Spiritual beliefs are another example of feeling connected.

There are many features that invite lots of the kind of interaction Kimmerer seems to think is valuable. Storytelling allows for people to share their own experiences for other people to hear and may be a benefit for further generations to pass down. Kimmerer also mentions the importance of Reciprocity quite a few times. She wants us to give back to the land and treat it as well as it treats us. The engagement with nature in general is very important and helps people

take a moment and appreciate the land. With these features we can better understand nature and our role with the earth.