

ELCC ADVISORS' BOOK CLUB



Our Book Recommendation:

We are Water Protectors

By: Carole Lindstrom

Synopsis

We Are Water Protectors is a story about a child who is learning about water and why it is sacred. From the beginning of life, we are surrounded by water, and it continues to sustain all living things on Earth. Through conversation with her family member, the child begins to understand her role and responsibility in protecting water.

The story also introduces the image of “the black snake”, which represents the harm and pollution that threaten our water sources. The child learns that protecting water requires courage and speaking up for others, especially those who do not have a voice. This book highlights courage and the importance of collective responsibility and caring action in protecting water.



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Age

Recommendation

Preschool, Kindergarten
and School-Age

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Why We Love It

The illustrations in We Are Water Protectors are powerful and meaningful. They support children's understanding of water as sacred by showing its deep connection to the land, animals, and people. Rather than focusing on fear, the images and story emphasize responsibility, care, and collective action. Children are invited to see themselves as protectors of their world and to understand that even small, everyday actions matter. The book nurtures empathy, environmental awareness, and early allyship, while reinforcing the idea that caring for water, living beings, and the Earth is a shared responsibility.



Métis Connection

Waterways have played an important role in the history and daily life of Métis communities in Ontario. Rivers, lakes, and portage routes supported travel, trade, harvesting, fishing, hunting, gathering, and connections between communities. This book can help educators introduce conversations about the relationships between people, water, land, and community, while creating space to explore Métis histories and perspectives connected to waterways and the environment.

HDLH Foundation Belonging

Children develop a sense of belonging when they explore how water connects people, animals and the land. Learning about the Métis relationship with water helps children see themselves as part of a larger story that includes Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and respect for the environment. Through discussion and collaborative play, children see themselves as part of a community that works together to protect the Earth.

Provocation Ideas

Create a loose parts provocation inspired by the story. Use blue fabrics, scarves or translucent materials to represent water, along with animals, trees and natural loose parts such as stones, sticks, and leaves. This open-ended invitation lets children create their own world while retelling the story or using their imagination to create their own.

HDLH Foundation Expression

Dramatic play, storytelling, and creative arts provide a meaningful way for children to express their understanding of water and responsibility. Through pretend play, children can explore roles such as water protectors and can express their growing understanding of the connections between community and the natural world.

Creative Art Medium: Painting

Offer children a variety of paint colours so they can create their own artwork inspired by the story. Children can choose colours that reflect how the story made them feel, or explore different shades of blue to represent water and its importance. This process allows children to express their thoughts and emotions, make personal connections to the book, and explore ideas about caring for water through creative expression.



Sensory Water Exploration

Fill a sensory bucket with water and provide open-ended materials such as cups, scoops, funnels, stones, and other natural materials. As children explore, educators can observe, narrate, and listen closely, asking simple, open-ended questions such as, "What do you notice?" or "What happens when you pour the water?"

As children's curiosity grows, the learning can be extended by inviting reflection with questions like, "How can we take care of our water?" This play-based experience supports early conversations about clean water and shared responsibility. Adding animal figures further encourages children to consider how water supports all living things.

For older preschool children, recycled and garbage items can be added to the water. With clearly labelled containers using pictures and words, children can sort the materials, supporting problem-solving, collaboration, and an emerging understanding of how their choices help protect water for both people and animals.

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Let's Chat About the Book!

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Water First

To extend your learning, check out Water First, an organization that works with Indigenous communities to support access to safe, clean water. This resource helps deepen their understanding of water issues in Canada and supports meaningful, respectful conversations about water stewardship with children.



**Métis Nation
of Ontario** 

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