

THEMATIC GUIDE

How does (title of your book) relate to the over-arching theme of community resilience? (Why did the selection committee choose this book to be one of the six finalists?)

- This book provides an account of how Indigenous communities throughout the US and Canada have responded, both successfully and unsuccessfully, to mining and other forms of “development” that bring environmental risk and destruction.
- Whether you support mining, fracking, or other types of resource extraction, this book introduces an Indigenous perspective about the spiritual and historical way in which people relate to the environment.
- This book challenges the practices that threaten the physical environment and in presents a case for how environmental destruction impacts the physical and spiritual health of all people who occupy this earth.

Information about the author that might be relevant (biographical background, other published works, etc.)

- Winona LaDuke is an economist, environmentalist, and Indigenous and human rights activist. She has run for Vice-President twice in 1996 and 2000.

[Information about the publisher, if relevant]

- Fernwood Publishing
- Spotted Horse Press

How does this book’s content intersect with the other books? (How does (title) overlap with/ contest/ reinforce/ etc.

- Threadbare: Overlapping issues of poverty or having little power within another system. Being a domestic dependent nation is much like living in poverty... but it is important to add you can be part of a domestic dependent nation and frequently also very impoverished.
- This Changes Everything: this book intersects with Klein in the idea that we need a full accounting. LaDuke discusses consumerism. This also echoes with the There is a

section (but it is brief) that talks about historical Indigenous food production and environment. This middle of the

- **Salvage the Bones:** Both books talk about gender, race, and generational poverty.
- **Community Resilience Reader:** LaDuke's book discusses activism in the final chapter and makes a call for action and celebrates the leaders who are no longer here.

Overview

Winona LaDuke wrote this book as a process of healing after a time of profound loss. A house fire and series of personal losses left her in deep pain. This book was both process and product of healing “after the burn.” Winona reflects on her work as an environmental activist, expresses her beliefs as a Western-educated economist, and weaves stories together illustrating the social and community costs of failing to protect our environment.

Chapter-by-Chapter Guide

On Place

This chapter focuses on explaining cultural ties to place. Beyond place-based pedagogy, Winona introduces Indigenous living and the cultural connection and impact to earth’s resources as a way of being, not just a point of reference. She epitomizes this with the statement, “denied a homeland, we are without a compass” (p.15). This chapter links the historical context of Western thinking and exploitation of resources to ongoing injustices relating to Indigenous lands and environmental landscapes.

Questions:

What is your connection to place? Describe how your connection to place affects your involvement with local community and concerns.

Winona explains the idea of *full cost accounting*. What challenges does full cost accounting present?

In this chapter, the case of the Nur and the Winnemem Wintu is presented. This is perhaps particularly salient because Salmon is so deeply connected to many Alaskan Indigenous communities. What parallels can you see, if any, between projects here in Alaska? (i.e: the Chuitna mine and Tyonek, the Pebble Mine Project and Bristol Bay, and coal mining in Chickaloon.)

Short Stories and Fargo Forum Communications

This chapter introduces previously published writings and stories by Winona. Some are circular in nature. She acknowledges this in her introduction, naming this style of storytelling as the long form “often moving backwards and forwards between history and present, characters dead, and those yet to come” (p.2). This chapter has sections that are less linear and embody the beautiful rhythm of Indigenous storytelling.

Questions:

How do you think Indian Mascot Identity Loss Syndrome helps dehumanize Indigenous peoples and in turn minimize their concerns about land, resources, and living?

What do you think about Winona's take on consumerism? How would you characterize yourself? A consumer? A "fixer"?

There is a new trend of zero waste. What would it take for you to achieve a zero waste life?

In this chapter, the Irish Potato famine is discussed as being a product of a mono-crop policy. How does food play a role in community resilience or community stability? What role should Native foods and subsistence policies have in a "modern-day" world?

Writings on Women Idle No More and Canadian Colonialism

This chapter discusses the intersection of race and gender, the residue of colonialism, and the impact of colonial policy on the exploitation of Indigenous women.

Questions:

What do you think about Idle No More? How does it compare to the Zapatista Movement? Black Lives Matter?

What is your understanding of colonialism? How significant is it as a force? How does it influence politics today? Race relations?

This chapter cites that Alaska alone has 700 toxic military sites (p. 147) What is your response to this number?

Black Snake and the Pipeline Chronicles

Winona presents oil exploration and exploitation in this chapter. She provides numerous examples of oil and gas production; she also addresses the history of broken treaties and lack of full accounting of the risk levied against the benefit of these operations.

Questions:

What do you know about the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)? If you had a viewpoint before read this chapter, did reading it change your opinions or ideas in any way?

Focusing on Alaska, can we afford not to pump and extract oil? Can we afford to pump and extract it?

Winona makes the case that safety is not a guiding principle. What parameters or risks are worth taking for a community's well-being?

On Foods

Marijuana and Indigenous foods are discussed. Food quality, sustainable practices and honoring place-based seeds and grains are discussed. Winona challenges modern family practices and supports decolonizing food production.

Questions:

What do you think about the legalization of marijuana? Of other drugs?

What do you think about bio-diversity in farming? What efforts do you make to buy local foods or plant, grow, and/or harvest food?

Winona talks about the economics of large-scale agriculture. What factors contribute to current farming practices? What leads to the use of GMO products or glyphosate in our grains? Is it surprising to read that organic food can be grown more efficiently?

Tributes and Gratitude to Those who have Joined the Ancestors

This chapter focuses on honoring Indigenous activists who passed away during Winona's time of loss. She offers profiles of six leaders.

Questions:

What makes a great leader in the face of adversity? Do you see commonalities in these profiles?

Who do you identify as leaders in your community? Who do you think has positively impacted your community politically, environmentally, or socially?

How do people mobilize or become active in your community?

Geronimo, Militarization and the Indian Wars

This chapter demonstrates that Indigenous peoples are still viewed by some as "savages" and asserts that the U.S. military continues to exploit Native lands with seemingly little regard for consequences. From the social constructivist perspective that language demonstrates sentiment, Winona builds her case demonstrating the recent disrespectful use of the mission name "Geronimo" in the killing of Osama Bin Laden. The chapter further speaks to the physical impact of the military, citing environmental wastelands created as byproducts of military operations and experiments.

Questions:

Alaska is often portrayed as a “last frontier” and “pristine wilderness.” What reactions do you have when reading about Project Chariot, Point Hope, Fort Greely and the information presented about Alaska?

Economics for the Seventh Generation

This is a chapter on what is to come. Winona provides one last story of Emma and her plight in the face of Detroit’s industrialization. It is a chapter of concern for the future.

Questions:

When you read a story like the one with Emma, how do you respond? Are we so inundated with tragedy and injustice on the television or news that we respond with numbness? Outrage? What emotions do you feel?

How has this book improved your understanding of the history of Indigenous lands in the U.S.?

How has this book impacted how you look at environmental justice? How do you define your role/relationship to the environment you live in?