



Ground School Reading Discussion: *Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

1. How did Kimmerer use the serviceberry as a metaphor for abundance and reciprocity in the relationships between humans and nature? How has this changed your view on your relationship with nature?
2. What are major differences between a “gift economy” and a capitalist system? What are some consequences of our capitalist system?
3. How can people in urban settings participate in a gift economy?
4. What are some barriers preventing a larger shift to a “gift economy mindset” and how can we eliminate those barriers?
5. How can we teach people to remember that what’s good for the land is also good for the people? How can we re-imagine our economy?
6. What is the interdependency between humans and plants? And, what happens if we don’t live up to our end of the relationship?
7. How does the idea of “sustainability” differ from the idea of “reciprocity?”
8. “Evolutionary biologist David Sloan Wilson has found that competition makes sense only when we consider the unit of evolution to be the individual. When the focus shifts to the level of a group, cooperation is a better model, not only for surviving but for thriving.” How does conventional agriculture prioritize competition over cooperation? What problems might this cause?



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