

# Classroom Kit

Includes Discussion Questions, Classroom Activities, Reproducible Activities

Interested in healing land, building community, and transforming love of land into social change? Head to <https://plantbabyplant.com/> to learn more about Robin Wall Kimmerer's new grassroots movement called Plant, Baby, Plant.



## About the Author

**Robin Wall Kimmerer** is a mother, scientist, writer, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* and *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. Dr. Kimmerer is a 2022 MacArthur Fellow and was named to the *Time* list of the 100 Most Influential People of 2025. She lives in Syracuse, New York, where she is the founder of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment and a grateful student of nature.

## About the Book

When you see the world move around you, it can be challenging to know what your place in it is. Join Bud on her quest to learn what gift she can offer the Earth—and you might fight your own gift along the way!



## About the Illustrator

**Naoko Stoop's** love of drawing began when she was a young child growing up in Japan. Naoko now lives and paints in Brooklyn, New York. She uses found materials including plywood and brown paper bags as her canvas. She has illustrated a number of picture books, including her own Red Knit Cap Girl series, the first of which was named a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book. Through her artwork, she hopes to inspire the child within everyone.

Photography by John D. and Catherine T.



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# Discussion Questions

1. Bud notices that all the people in her life have important things to do. What are the important things that you notice the people in your life doing?
2. Bud visits Nokomis, her grandma, when she has a problem. Who do you go to when you need help?
3. Nokomis invites Bud to do something important early one morning. Why does Nokomis think saying thank-you for the gifts of the Earth is important?
4. How do you show your thanks, your gratitude, for the gifts of the Earth?
5. Bud and Nokomis pick wild strawberries together. What are your favorite gifts from the Earth to receive?
6. Bud hears a robin sing its song. What message does the bird sing? What bird songs do you notice in your neighborhood?
7. Bud notices that the moss gives a gift. How does Moss help the birds?
8. Bud laughs as she thanks Poop but sees that Poop also has a gift. How does Poop help the Earth? How does what Bud notices about Poop change her thinking?
9. Bud notices how everything needs everything else to live. What connections does she notice? What connections do you notice in your schoolyard, backyard, and community?
10. What advice does Nokomis offer Bud to help her find her gift?
11. How does Bud change after learning her gift? Why was it important for Bud to discover her gift?

Guide prepared by Odia Wood-Krueger, a consultant who focuses on community engagement and curriculum writing projects. She is Métis from Saskatchewan, Canada, and currently calls Minneapolis home.

# Classroom Activities

**Name That Tune:** When Bud listens to Robin's song, she knows it's a gift. What songs do the birds in your community sing? Using the Merlin app created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, learn to identify which birds sing your favorite songs. Share facts you learn with your classmates.

**I'm a Poet and Didn't Even Know It:** In the story, all the gift-givers recite a poem to share what they have to offer. The first two lines are the same, "Everyone, from the day of their birth, was given a gift to share with the Earth." The next two lines identify their individual gifts. Pay attention to how the last words in each rhyme. Write a poem about your own gift and share it with your class.

**Many Hands Make Light Work:** The Earth takes care of us in so many ways, but what can we do in return? Create a three-column chart on paper. In the first column, list the ways the Earth cares for us. In the second column, make a list of things you currently do to care for the Earth. In the last column, brainstorm additional ways you will start showing gratitude toward the Earth—think of this as your "goals" section!

**Hearts Aflutter:** Throughout the book, Bud is seen with many butterflies. Make a paper template of a butterfly outline and give one to each student. Using a variety of art supplies, ask students to decorate their butterflies. The completed butterflies can be used to decorate a bulletin board or display. Did you know that a group of butterflies is called a flutter?

**Into the Blue:** The butterflies Bud sees in the story are blue. While there are blue butterflies in real life, they can be difficult to see in the wild. Research whether blue butterflies can be found in your part of the world. What are common species found in the place you call home?

# Nature Map

**Directions:** Find a place outside to sit by yourself and notice what is happening around you. Using your senses, turn the circle below into a map, with the X representing where you are sitting. Draw what you see, write what you hear, and describe any smells. Can you feel anything? How about the wind or the grass? This nature map is an opportunity to visualize how nature is all around us.



X

Reproducible Activity



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# The Seven Teachings

Robin Wall Kimmerer is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Potawatomi tradition includes the Seven Grandfather Teachings that guide people to live a good life.

**Bravery**

**Wisdom**

**Honesty**

**Love**

How does Bud embody the Seven Teachings of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom? Write examples from the story in each of the boxes.

**Truth**

**Respect**

**Humility**

This is how I feel when I share my gifts!

Reproducible Activity



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