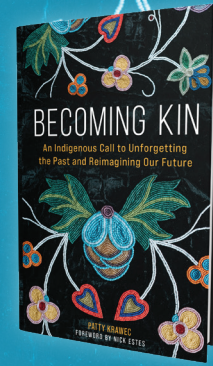


BECOMING KIN

An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting
the Past and Reimagining Our Future

BY PATTY KRAWEC



DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Storytelling is central to Indigenous tradition and history, and Krawec weaves Anishinaabe stories through the book to introduce themes. What do you think we can learn about storytelling today? How does storytelling help us understand our histories? What is the story you've been told about your history? Does it differ from what you have learned reading this book?
2. Krawec describes the US as a "settler-colonial nation" as opposed to a "nation of immigrants." What do you make of this distinction? Does this affect your understanding of the US?
3. *"I think Christianity has the potential to liberate, to actually help us reject those colonial ideas."* p. 14

What support does Patty offer for this claim? How can Christianity help us reject colonial ideas?

4. One of the main themes of the book is the process of "unforgetting." In the context of your life and the stories you have been told, what does "unforgetting" look like for you? What is challenging about this process? What advice do you have for yourself as you continue along this journey?
5. As you prepare to reconsider the history you have been taught, where do you see influences from Indigenous people? Where are Indigenous stories present? Where are they absent?
6. When was the first time you heard a land acknowledgment? What was your reaction to it? Have you investigated who lived in your area before it was colonized?
7. *"Names are never neutral; they have something to teach us about our history and how we see ourselves in a place. They create a relationship."* p. 77

Do you know the story of your own name? Have you noticed the names of the places, buildings, streets, and rivers that surround you? Do you know the history of the names that surround you?

8. How might Indigenous ways of knowing help you to move forward? Help us all to move forward? Which of Patty's stories stand out in your mind? And what would it mean to center Indigenous perspectives and representation?

9. Have you sat down and made a timeline or visual history of your family as Krawec sketches in chapter 7? *Aanikoobijigan* is the Ojibwe word for “great-grandparent” or “ancestor.” Its root, *annikaw*, refers to the act of binding or joining. Krawec imagines this concept as a web where we exist as a bead surrounded by connections and relationships. What does *aanikoobijigan* look like for you?
10. Doing the work of “unforgetting” and becoming kin is difficult. What have you discovered? Where have you felt uncomfortable along the way? How can you lean into this important work?
11. What “bundles” can you pick up? Where can you be involved in imagining a new world of becoming kin that isn’t based on a settler-colonial state built on erasure and displacement? What ancestral ways of knowing might you return to? How could this returning impact your way of seeing and interacting with the world?
12. “*As the saying goes, when you know better, you have to do better.*” p. 187

How does Patty’s story, as well as the stories she shares through the book, help you think about your own life stories? How do you think you might be able to get involved in the work of dismantling settler-colonialism?