We Are Water Protectors
Reader's Guide
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Grade Levels: 2-5th Grades

Objective: Students recognize how water is important and understand how indigenous people are stewards of Earth.

EBR Core Action Support - Text, Task, Talk
● 1 - High Quality Text & Supports Foundational Skills
● 2 - Employ questions and tasks that are text dependent and text specific.
● 3 - Provide all students with the opportunity to engage in the work of the lesson.

Before Reading:
● Preview the front cover of the book.
● Ask students what they think this book will be about, explain that is called making predictions.
● Explain: Indigenous people, also known as Native Americans or Indians, lived in America long before Columbus and immigrants arrived and they continue to live in America today. In Baton Rouge we live on the ancestral land of the Choctaw Nation many of whom were forced to move to what is now called Oklahoma.

● Student Spark: How is water important to you and your daily life? Brainstorm all the ways we use water every day. Talk about where your water comes from and why we need clean water.

After Reading:
1. Reactions
   ○ What did you think about the book, do you have a favorite part?
   ○ How do you think the art was made?
   ○ Go back through the book and discuss what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.

2. Question / Discussion
   ○ Water is essential to life on Earth. Over half of your body is made up of water.
   ○ The four-legged, the two-legged, the plants, trees, rivers, lakes, the earth. We are all related.” Discuss the ways in which Earth and all its creatures are related. (Water is recycled; the water that dinosaurs drank may be inside you.)
   ○ What is the black snake that is poisoning the water, plants, animals, and land? (Oil pipes). How can oil pipelines be dangerous for plants, animals, and water?
   ○ Discuss environmental concerns in your community and what you can do to be better stewards (helpers) for Earth.
   ○ In the book, a young girl talks about fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves— the animals, plants, trees, rivers, and lakes. How can you fight for them?

3. Draw or Write:
   ○ Draw a picture of something from nature that you would like to protect. Write a sentence explaining why you want to protect it.

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