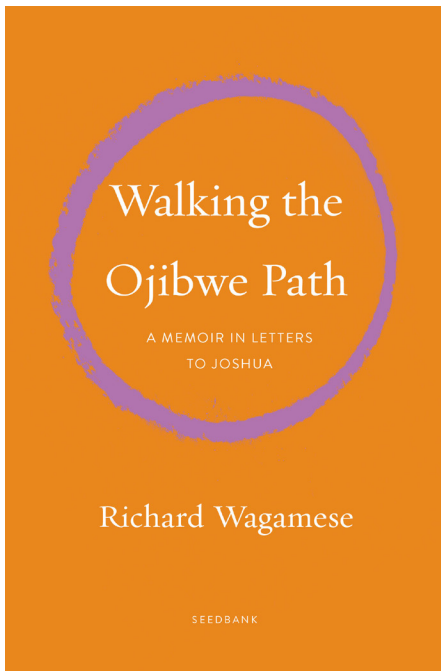


WALKING THE OJIBWE PATH

A MEMOIR IN LETTERS TO JOSHUA

BY RICHARD WAGAMESE



Following the Ojibwe tradition of fathers walking their children through the world and teaching them life's great lessons, *Walking the Ojibwe Path* is an intimate series of letters written by one of Canada's foremost writers, Richard Wagamese, to his six-year-old son from whom he was estranged.

Walking the Ojibwe Path fulfills this traditional duty with grace and humility, describing his own path through life—separation from his family as a boy, substance abuse, incarceration, and the discovery of books and writing—and braiding this extraordinary story with the teachings of his people, in which animals were the teachers of human beings, until greed and a desire to control the more-than-human world led to anger, fear, and eventually profound alienation.

At once a deeply moving memoir and a fascinating elucidation of a rich indigenous cosmology, *Walking the Ojibwe Path* is an unforgettable journey.

Walking the Ojibwe Path suggested courses include Social Studies and the Cultures of Environmentalism, Nonfiction Writing, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous Cultures in the Modern World, Ethnographic Approaches to Human-Environment Relations, Entangled Lives of Humans and Animals, and more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pre-Reading Question: What are some of the greatest lessons in life that you have learned? Who taught them to you?
2. Wagamese writes about his feelings of displacement being the only Native child in school and the pressure to play into harmful stereotypes. What does that say about Indigenous cultures and their relationship with modern society? Has this relationship changed since Wagamese's childhood in the 1960s? How or how not?
3. Richard Wagamese was one of Canada's foremost writers and one of the leading Indigenous writers in North America. Read another example of his writing and craft an in-depth analysis. What is it about? What is its desired affect? Who is the target audience?
4. During his time on the hill, Wagamese recounts a story John told him about how animals were meant to be Man's teachers. Is this story still relevant in modern society? Why or why not?
5. Reflect on the role nature plays in *Walking the Ojibwe Path*. For four days Wagamese sits exposed in a dirt circle on the top of a hill. What does he learn? How does the world around him lead him to his many revelations?

ABOUT THE SEEDBANK SERIES

This series of world literature expands Milkweed's publishing program to bring ancient, historical, and contemporary works from cultures from around the world to American readers. Just as repositories around the world gather seeds to ensure biodiversity in the future, Seedbank gathers works of literature from around the world that foster conversation and reflection on the human relationship to place and the natural world—exposing readers to new, endangered, and forgotten ways of seeing the world.