

*We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, Michaela Goade – illustrator

*We Are Water Protectors* is a very timely read for children and parents alike. It was the winner of the 2021 Caldecott Medal, which is “most distinguished American picture book for children” published the previous year. The book, written and illustrated by Native Americans, urges us to protect the lands and water supplies of our Indigenous people. It’s written in a style that is lyrical and appealing to children, using simple words to convey the important message. Additionally, this book has the most gorgeous art I have ever seen in children’s book. The illustrations are absolutely stunning – a beautiful kaleidoscope of colors.

There is a note in the back of the book with more information on the cultural significance of water protectors, as well as a concise explanation of the conflict over the Dakota Access Pipeline, further reading, a glossary, a note from the illustrator, and an Earth Steward and Water Protector Pledge for kids. Lindstrom makes a very profound statement in her note here that stuck with me: “This is not just a Native American issue; this is a humanitarian issue. It is time that we all become stewards of our planet so we can protect it for our children and our children’s children.”

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