

Curricular Connections

The Magic Pouch

Place-based Ecology and Natural History:

This story is about favorite places, the landscape and ecology of the coast of Maine, in its grandmother characters of the Hobblebush Viburnum, the fresh water spring, and the rounded rocky mountain tops. It is an opportunity to look at the earth as a living relative. It is also about those big events that happen once or twice in an era, like the covid 19 pandemic we are living through now, and also those big events that our grandmothers, great grandmothers, and great great grandmothers all lived through. Perhaps the Great Depression or the World Wars or the Spanish Flu, or something else entirely. This story offers a moment to connect with our ancestors, learn from them, and tap into the strength and resilience that they have handed down to us throughout time.

Explore:

- Spend time outdoors and see what/who calls to you the most. What relatives of the land can you meet and get to know during your playtime outdoors or your daily walks?
- Make/sew a pouch and collect treasures that remind you of important values in your life.
- Search for a fresh water spring, a hobblebush, and sunlight slanting through the forest.
- Hike a mountain and discover what type of bedrock makes up the summit (a geology lesson...!)
- Write a journal about what it is like living through the era of covid 19.

Reflect and Share:

- What does it feel like living through this time of upheaval and uncertainty? What is most important to you right now? What comforts you during this time?
- Who in your circle of family and friends really inspires you and makes you feel strong? Why do they have this effect on you? What are they like? Share a story about them.
- Find out the names/stories, anything you can about your ancestors - choose a matrilineal or patrilineal line to follow back in time. What were they like? What did they pass on to you perhaps?
- If you could choose a “nature” grandmother, who would it be?

Photos:

