



Transcript for *We Are Water Protectors* written by Carole Lindstrom (Roaring Brook Press)

Introduction (approximately 0:00 – 3:03)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited for today's Story Book Science. We are going to be reading *We Are Water Protectors*. It's written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade.

Before we start reading, though, I do want to give some people an opportunity to join us. So while we wait for those people to join us, I want you to take a moment, and I want you to think about water because this book is about water. And I specifically want you to think about why water is important to you. So I'm going to share my thought; and when I think about water, and I think about its importance, what I think about is how I like clean drinking water. And I think about how everyone deserves clean drinking water no matter who they are or where they live. Everyone deserves clean drinking water. So what about you? What do you think about water and its importance? Take a moment to think about that.

Alright. So now that more people have joined us, I want to go ahead and get started. First, we are going to go over the guidelines for Story Book Science. We are not in the museum, but we are still going to follow museum rules. So what that means is that we are going to be kind and considerate. So if you have a question or you make a comment, you need to make sure you're using kind and considerate words. If you respond to someone's question or comment, you also need to make sure you're using kind and considerate words. Because we want to make sure that this virtual space is a welcoming environment.

Now we are reading *We Are Water Protectors* today. This is today's Story Book Science. It's written by Carole Lindstrom, and it's illustrated by Michaela Goade; and this book is published and being read with permission from Roaring Brook Press. So thank you to Roaring Brook Press for the permission to read this book. I really like this book because as I mentioned earlier, it's all about water and the importance of water not just to humans but also to all living things. And it also discusses the many Indigenous-led water movements for protection of water resources all throughout North America. So I'm glad that we get to learn about those movements today.

The last thing I want to say is that if you need a partial transcript of this reading, that will be available on the museum's website later today. And in order to find it, you just need to follow the link in this video description.

Let's go ahead and get started with our reading.

We are Water Protectors.

Reading from *We Are Water Protectors* (approximately 3:04 – 7:49)

We Are Water Protectors includes copyrighted materials, and we do not have permission to include the written text of the book in this transcript.

Conclusion (approximately 7:50 – 15:30)

Alright. So that is the end of *We Are Water Protectors*. And I'm really glad that we were able to read this book because it is related to so many of the Story Book Sciences that we've read earlier. So earlier we've read about aquatic macroinvertebrates. We've read about birds. We've read about mammals. And when we've read and we've learned about those animals, we have also talked about why water is important to them. So as a reminder, I just wanted to show you those specimens again and share with you why water is important.

So first I wanted to talk about the crawling ones: the aquatic macroinvertebrates. So aquatic macroinvertebrates, because they are aquatic, they spend some time of their life in water. And some of those aquatic macroinvertebrates include the dobsonfly, and I have some in a vial I'll put close to the camera. And we also talked about stoneflies, and I have some stonefly nymphs. And I'm also going to put those close to the camera as well. So these aquatic macroinvertebrates, they spend some time of their life cycle, whether that is as a larva like the dobsonfly or as a nymph like the stonefly; they live in water, and they need clean water in order to survive. They do not tolerate pollution. So what that means is that if the creek or the stream or other aquatic environment they live in is dirty, they can't survive. So it's very hard for them to live in conditions where water is dirty. So crawling ones like aquatic macroinvertebrates need clean water.

We also talked about winged ones: the birds. And we specifically talked about a bird named Wisdom. She is a Laysan albatross. And Wisdom, like all Laysan albatrosses, she spends a lot of her time out on the open ocean. So she is foraging for food. She's looking for food not just for herself but also for her chicks or her babies. And Wisdom, like all other Laysan albatrosses, they need a clean ocean in order for them to find their food. They like to eat things like squid, and sometimes squid can be confused if there's a lot of plastic or a lot of trash in the ocean; and the birds don't want to eat the trash. So they also need to have clean water, specifically clean ocean water, in order to find food for themselves and for their babies.

We talked about mammals like beavers and brown bears. They're four-legged. And when we talked about the mammals, we talked about adaptations they have related to their diet. And we specifically talked about what their teeth looked like. Now, although they have different diets and their teeth have different shapes, they are still aquatic in some ways because they rely on water resources for their food. So for example beavers, and I have a beaver skull right here, they have those wide, bumpy cheek teeth. And those wide, bumpy cheek teeth, those are really good for plant material to be grinded up and easy to eat. And with beavers, they have those wide, bumpy cheek teeth and that allows them to eat plant material. So they're herbivores, and a lot of the plant material they eat is aquatic. So that means that it comes from a water resource. For brown bears, and I have a brown bear skull as well. The brown bear has very different teeth than the beaver. The brown bear has very sharp canines at the front; and the bear's cheek teeth, they're wide, but they're still quite sharp. And that's because brown bears, they're omnivores. So they eat plant. They eat meat. They have a very diverse diet. And for brown bears, especially if they live in coastal areas of Alaska, they tend to eat a lot of salmon. And salmon are a fish that towards the end of their life will swim back upstream; and those salmon rely on clean, cold streams in order for their survival. And that means the brown bears also require those clean, cool streams for their survival since that is where the salmon live, and that's where they get their food from.

So when we talk about water resources, we know that so many living things rely on clean water resources whether they live there or whether that is where their food comes from. Clean water is super important not just for animals like aquatic macroinvertebrates, and birds, and mammals like beavers and brown bears, but also for humans, the two-legged animals as well, because humans are animals. And we're related to all other living things.

The last thing that I want to go over from this book was the movements that have happened in order to protect water resources. Because we know water is important, and we know it needs to be protected. So this

book is amazing because it shines light on the many Indigenous-led movements for water protection all across North America. And what we can do is we can acknowledge those movements. We can acknowledge the hard work of Indigenous Peoples throughout North America fighting and protecting water resources. We can also listen, and we can learn from them. And we can take action in support of their work.

So thank you so much for joining me today while we read *We Are Water Protectors* and learned all the reasons why water is important. I hope you join me next week for Story Book Science. Story Book Science next week is going to be *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13*. It's written by Helaine Ba – Becker, and it's illustrated by Dow Phumiruk. Katherine Johnson was a human computer which means that she could do amazing math skills in her head. And we're going to learn about how her amazing skills were able to change NASA and save a lot of the space missions that NASA has done. So I hope you join me next week for Story Book Science. It will be here at 10am on Facebook Live. I'll see you then. Bye!