

All Our Relatives

Traditional Native American
Thoughts about Nature

ABOUT THE BOOK

- This book is a collection of traditional Native American thoughts about nature
- The title “All Our Relatives” is based on the Lakota saying *mitakuye oyasin*, which is often repeated in Lakota ceremonies to acknowledge that people and all things are connected in nature
- Beautifully illustrated it brings nature and animals to life in a way the child might not have imagined
- Promotes the appreciation of all life that surrounds us and the special importance of animals and nature
- Goble’s intimate knowledge of the American Indian world and the nomadic life transports the reader into a vision of the sacred beauty and wisdom that defined traditional Native America

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

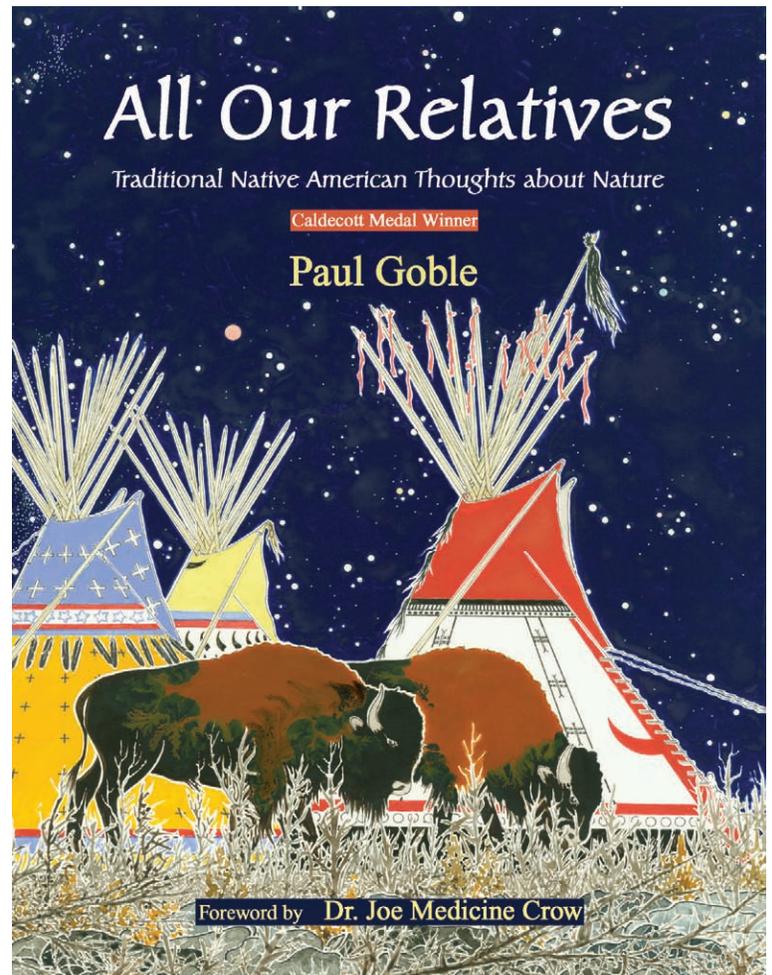
Paul Goble is an award-winning author and illustrator of over 40 children’s books. His book, *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*, won the prestigious Caldecott Medal. For more than four decades, he has participated closely in the life of the Plains Indians of the American West and has met old-timers who knew the pre-reservation days and shared the friendship of many tribal elders.

\$15.95, 36 pages, paperback, 8x11

36 color illustrations

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Lexile® measure—950L, Grade 5 and up



“The pages of this book are chock-full of quotations, songs, and brief stories that exemplify Native American attitudes toward nature. No segment is longer than half a page; most are a few sentences. Black Elk, Standing Bear, Brave Buffalo, and others observe the importance of various animals and the sacred qualities of all living things.”—*School Library Journal*



“A beautiful compendium of First Nations’ prayers, aphorisms and storytelling about animals. Each spread holds a story or two, and then a series of quotations or sayings about the animal in the story, all carefully but unobtrusively footnoted. The profusion of illustrations are both fascinating and pleasing to look at.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Wisdom Tales
Stories from Around the World

ALL OUR RELATIVES — WISDOM TALES DISCUSSION GUIDE

- 1) Why did animals play an important part in American Indian culture?
- 2) On page 1 Standing Bear, a Lakota, said “Life for the Indian is one of harmony with nature and the things which surround him. The Indian tried to fit in with nature and to understand, not to conquer or rule. Life was a glorious thing, for great contentment comes with the feeling of friendship and kinship with the living things about you.” How do American Indians live in harmony with nature? Provide some specific examples. Do you feel you are living in harmony with nature?
- 3) Why do the American Indians think the animals have powers? What type of powers do some of the animals have?
- 4) There is a Cheyenne story about a man who captured two baby eagles (page 8). Why did he do that? What happened to them?
- 5) Which animal story was your favorite and why? Describe the animals in the story you selected and discuss their characteristics.
- 6) True or false? Indians pay very close attention to nature. They believe that the rocks, the trees, the rivers and the storms are all alive and can teach us something.
- 7) Why do the Indians believe you should not harm animals for sport or pollute the earth?
- 8) Why are even the smallest animals important?
- 9) Horses were very important to the some American Indians. Instead of giving them medals for doing something brave, what did the Indians give the horse to wear?
- 10) To the Indian, many animals seem to be singing. What animals do you think sound like they could be singing?
- 11) Have you ever listened closely to the birds in the trees? What do you think they might be singing about?
- 12) Many of the Indian stories are about animals who teach us lessons. Can you make up a story where an animal teaches a valuable lesson?

