

U.S. POET LAUREATE **JOY HARJO** AND CALDECOTT MEDALIST **MICHAELA GOADE**

# REMEMBER



Art © 2022 by Michaela Goade

**EDUCATORS' GUIDE**

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Remember the sky you were born under,  
know each of the star's stories.*

*Remember the moon,  
know who she is.*

*Remember the sun's birth at dawn,  
that is the strongest point of time.*

So begins the picture book adaptation of the renowned poem that encourages young readers to reflect on family, nature, and their heritage. In simple and direct language, Harjo, a member of the Mvskoke Nation, urges readers to pay close attention to who they are, the world they were born into, and how all inhabitants of earth are connected. Michaela Goade, drawing from her Tlingit culture, has created vivid illustrations that make the words come alive in an engaging and accessible way.

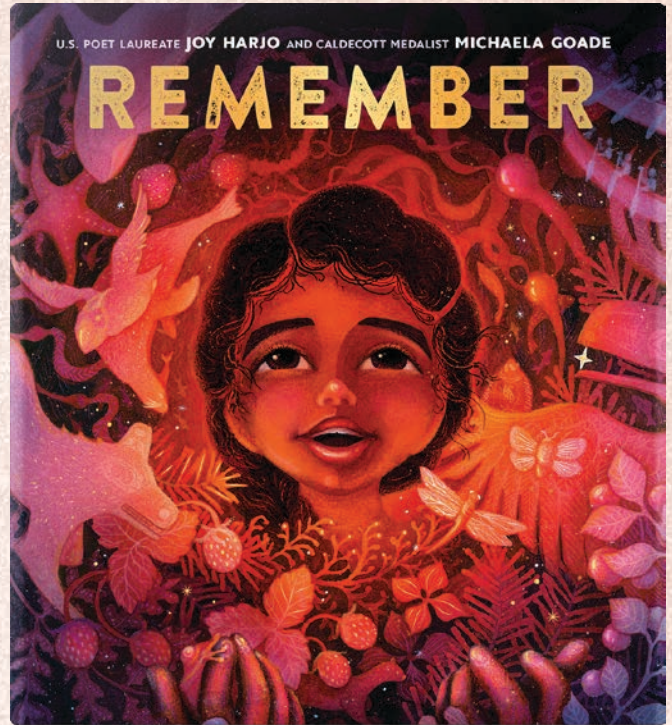
This timeless poem paired with magnificent paintings makes for a picture book that is a true celebration of life and our human role within it.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**JOY HARJO**, the twenty-third poet laureate of the United States, is an internationally renowned performer and writer. Harjo is the author of nine books of poetry, several plays, children's books, and two memoirs;

she has also produced seven award-winning music albums and edited several anthologies. Her many honors include the Ruth Lily Prize from the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets' Wallace Stevens Award, two NEA fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Tulsa Artist Fellowship. She is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and chair of the Board of Directors of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is the first artist-in-residence for the Bob Dylan Center. Find her on Twitter at @JoyHarjo and on Instagram at @joyharjoforreal.



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## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



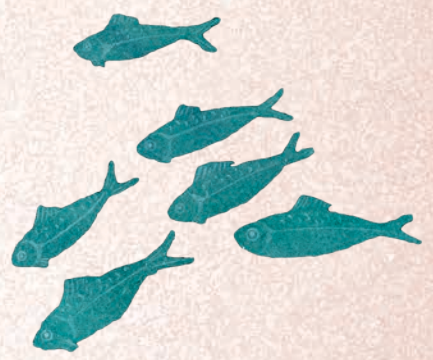
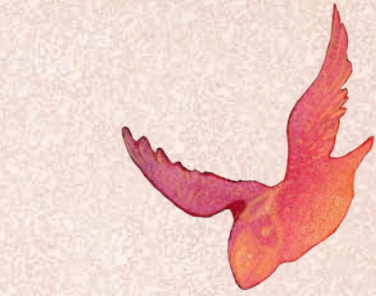
**MICHAELA GOADE** is a Caldecott Medalist and #1 *New York Times* bestselling artist. She is the illustrator of award-winning and bestselling books, including *We Are Water Protectors* by

Carole Lindstrom and *I Sang You Down from the Stars* by Tasha Spillett-Summer.

Her latest title, *Berry Song*, is her first as an author-illustrator. She is a member of the Tlingit Nation and grew up in her ancestral homelands along the southeast coast of Alaska, where she lives today on an island at the edge of a wide, wild sea.

Find her on Twitter at @MichaelaGoade and on Instagram at @michaelagoade.





Stories and where they come from are important. *Remember* is influenced by Joy Harjo’s Mvskoke heritage and Michaela Goade’s Tlingit heritage. To learn more, read the author’s and artist’s notes at the end of the book. As you work through each part of the following activities, explain the concepts that guide each section of questions using the Mvskoke words below.

## PREREADING

### Hoporenkv (Hopo - thling - ga) *Wisdom*

Reading is not always saying the words. Reading is looking at the pictures and the colors, too. Select several illustrations from *Remember* to share with your young readers. Ask them how the colors make them feel. Happy, sad, excited? Tell them, YOU are an author today. Ask what is happening in each illustration. Have the children write down their answers or take turns sharing the story they see on the pages as a group.

## DURING READING

### Vrakkueckv (Uh - thlah - kweech - ka) *Respect*

The poem says, “Remember you are this universe. And this universe is you.” Ask young readers to think of similarities between themselves and the universe. Ask them, how are you like the moon? The sun? Could you ever be the wind? If you were the wind, where would you like to fly? Have the children write down their answers or share with the group.

## AFTER READING

### Mecvlke (Mee - jul - gee) *Responsibility*

To remember is your duty. Remember the history of the world, not only of people but also of living things. Ask young readers, what is your history? What is one thing you remember about the universe’s living past—the history of every living thing? Have the children write down their answers or share with the group.

# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Know Each of the Star's Stories

All the stars above are our ancestors, it is said. Stars are there during the day and night. The stars are there to protect and guide you. Stars are born of clouds, of dust, and of you. Share this message with your young readers. Ask them, if you could name a star, what would its name be? Have them draw the star's story below.



A large, empty rectangular box with a red border, intended for drawing the star's story.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (continued)

### Alive Poems

The poem says,

*“Remember the plants, trees,  
animal life who all have their tribes,  
their families, their histories, too.  
Talk to them, listen to them.  
They are alive poems.”*

Have the children create a concrete poem in the shape of a plant, tree, or animal. The poem should tell the story of their subject.

### Letting Go of What Does Not Serve Us

When the sunset occurs, ask your young readers to think of things that happened during the day—the good, the bad, and the in-between. Explain to them why it’s important to let go of negative feelings and emotions and why it can be helpful to recognize things we are thankful for. Tell them, if there is anything they would like to let go, they should tell it to the setting sun this evening. Ask them, if you were to say thank you for something today, what would it be? Have the children write down their answers or share with the group.

## PRAISE FOR REMEMBER

★ **“A contemplative, visually dazzling masterpiece that will resonate even more deeply each time it is read.”**

—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

★ **“Evoking the cyclical feeling of a slow breath in and out, it’s a smartly constructed, reflective picture book based in connection and noticing.”**

—Publishers Weekly, starred review



*This guide was created by Allison Waukau,  
American Indian Outreach & Engagement Specialist*



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