



Reading the Roots

American Nature Writing before Walden

EDITED BY MICHAEL P. BRANCH

Reading The Roots American Nature Writing Before Walden

Steven Petersheim, Madison Jones IV



Reading The Roots American Nature Writing Before Walden:

Reading the Roots Michael P. Branch, 2004 Reading the Roots is an unprecedented anthology of outstanding early writings about American nature a rich influential yet critically underappreciated body of work Rather than begin with Henry David Thoreau who is often identified as the progenitor of American nature writing editor Michael P Branch instead surveys the long tradition that prefigures and anticipates Thoreau and his literary descendants The selections in Reading the Roots describe a diversity of landscapes wildlife and natural phenomena and their authors represent many different nationalities cultural affiliations religious views and ideological perspectives The writings gathered here also range widely in terms of subject rhetorical form and disciplinary approach from promotional tracts and European narratives of contact with Native Americans to examples of scientific theology and romantic nature writing The volume also includes a critical introduction discussing the cultural scientific and literary value of early American nature writing headnotes that contextualize all authors and selections and a substantial bibliography of primary and secondary sources in the field Reading the Roots at last makes early American landscapes and a range of literary responses to them accessible to scholars students and general readers

Early American Nature Writers Daniel Patterson, 2007-11-30 At a time when the environment is of growing concern to students and general readers nature writing is especially meaningful This book profiles the literary careers of 52 early American nature writers such as John James Audubon Ralph Waldo Emerson Caroline Stansbury Kirkland Thomas Jefferson Henry David Thoreau and Mabel Osgood Wright Each entry is written by an expert contributor and discusses the writer's life and works Entries close with primary and secondary bibliographies and the encyclopedia ends with suggestions for further reading Global warming pollution and other issues have made the environment a topic of constant discussion these days Many environmental concerns were treated by early American nature writers who recognized the beauty of the natural world in an age of commercial expansion Some of the most famous writers of the 18th and 19th centuries wrote about nature and their works are stylistic masterpieces At a time when students are being encouraged to read and write about nonfiction these masterworks of early American nature writing are all the more important This book gives students and general readers a welcome introduction to early American nature writers

Writing the Environment in Nineteenth-Century American Literature Steven Petersheim, Madison Jones IV, 2015-09-17 The nineteenth century roots of environmental writing in American literature are often mentioned in passing and sometimes studied piece by piece Writing the Environment in Nineteenth Century American Literature The Ecological Awareness of Early Scribes of Nature brings together numerous explorations of environmentally aware writing across the genres of nineteenth century literature Like Lawrence Buell the authors of this collection find Thoreau's writing a touchstone of nineteenth century environmental writing particularly focusing on Thoreau's claim that humans may function as scribes of nature However these studies of Thoreau's antecedents contemporaries and successors also reveal a range of other writers in the nineteenth century whose literary treatments of

nature are often more environmentally attuned than most readers have noticed The writers whose works are studied in this collection include canonical and forgotten writers men and women early nineteenth century and late nineteenth century authors pioneers and conservationists They drew attention to the conflicted relationships between humans and the American continent as experienced by Native Americans and European Americans Taken together these essays offer a fresh perspective on the roots of environmental literature in nineteenth century American nonfiction fiction and poetry as well as in multi genre compositions such as the travel writings of Margaret Fuller Bringing largely forgotten voices such as John Godman alongside canonical voices such as Nathaniel Hawthorne Herman Melville Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson the authors whose writings are studied in this collection produced a diverse tapestry of nascent American environmental writing in the nineteenth century From early nineteenth century writers such as poet Philip Freneau and novelist Charles Brockden Brown to later nineteenth century conservationists such as John James Audubon and John Muir *Scribes of Nature* shows the development of an environmental consciousness and a growing conservationist ethos in American literature Given their often surprisingly healthy respect for the natural environment these nineteenth century writers offer us much to consider in an age of environmental crisis The complexities of the supposed nature culture divide still work into our lives today as economic and environmental issues are often seen at loggerheads when they ought to be seen as part of the same conversation of what it means to live healthy lives and to pass on a healthy world to those who follow us in a world where human activity is becoming increasingly threatening to the health of our planet

Mapping Region in Early American Writing Edward Watts, Keri Holt, John Funchion, 2015-11-15 *Mapping Region in Early American Writing* is a collection of essays that study how early American writers thought about the spaces around them The contributors reconsider the various roles regions imagined politically economically racially and figuratively played in the formation of American communities both real and imagined These texts vary widely some are canonical others archival some literary others scientific some polemical others simply documentary As a whole they recreate important mental mappings and cartographies and they reveal how diverse populations imagined themselves their communities and their nation as occupying the American landscape Focusing on place specific local writing published before 1860 *Mapping Region in Early American Writing* examines a period often overlooked in studies of regional literature in America More than simply offering a prehistory of regionalist writing these essays offer new ways of theorizing and studying regional spaces in the United States as it grew from a union of disparate colonies along the eastern seaboard into an industrialized nation on the verge of overseas empire building They also seek to amplify lost voices of diverse narratives from minority frontier and outsider groups alongside their more well known counterparts in a time when America's landscapes and communities were constant

Imaginary Citizens Courtney Weikle-Mills, 2013-01-15 How did Ichabod Crane and other characters from children's literature shape the ideal of American citizenship 2015 Honor Book Award Children's Literature Association From the colonial period to the end of the Civil War children's books taught

young Americans how to be good citizens and gave them the freedom autonomy and possibility to imagine themselves as such despite the actual limitations of the law concerning child citizenship Imaginary Citizens argues that the origin and evolution of the concept of citizenship in the United States centrally involved struggles over the meaning and boundaries of childhood Children were thought of as more than witnesses to American history and governance they were representatives of the people in general Early on the parent child relationship was used as an analogy for the relationship between England and America and later the president was equated to a father and the people to his children There was a backlash however In order to contest the patriarchal idea that all individuals owed childlike submission to their rulers Americans looked to new theories of human development that limited political responsibility to those with a mature ability to reason Yet Americans also based their concept of citizenship on the idea that all people are free and accountable at every age Courtney Weikle Mills discusses such characters as Goody Two Shoes Ichabod Crane and Tom Sawyer in terms of how they reflect these conflicting ideals

American Environmental History Carolyn Merchant, 2007 By studying the many ways diverse peoples have changed shaped and conserved the natural world over time environmental historians provide insight into humanity's unique relationship with nature and more importantly are better able to understand the origins of our current environmental crisis Beginning with the precolonial land use practice of Native Americans and concluding with our twenty first century concerns over our global ecological crisis *American Environmental History* addresses contentious issues such as the preservation of the wilderness the expulsion of native peoples from national parks and population growth and considers the formative forces of gender race and class Entries address a range of topics from the impact of rice cultivation slavery and the growth of the automobile suburb to the effects of the Russian sea otter trade Columbia River salmon fisheries the environmental justice movement and globalization This illustrated reference is an essential companion for students interested in the ongoing transformation of the American landscape and the conflicts over its resources and conservation It makes rich use of the tools and resources climatic and geological data court records archaeological digs and the writings of naturalists that environmental historians rely on to conduct their research The volume also includes a compendium of significant people concepts events agencies and legislation and an extensive bibliography of critical films books and Web sites

Music and the Skillful Listener Denise Von Glahn, 2013-04-09 Explores the relationship between listening and musical composition focusing on nine American women composers inspired by the sounds of the natural world

Literature and Nature in the English Renaissance Todd Andrew Borlik, 2019-06-20 Featuring over two hundred nature themed texts spanning the disciplines of literature science and history this sourcebook offers an accessible field guide to the environment of Renaissance England revealing a nation at a crossroads between its pastoral heritage and industrialized future Carefully selected primary sources each modernized and prefaced with an introduction survey an encyclopaedic array of topographies species and topics from astrology to zoology bear baiting to bee keeping coal mining to

tree planting fen draining to sheep whispering The familiar voices of Spenser Shakespeare Jonson and Marvell mingle with a diverse chorus of farmers herbalists shepherds hunters foresters philosophers sailors sky watchers and duchesses as well as ventriloquized beasts trees and rivers Lavishly illustrated the anthology is supported by a lucid introduction that outlines and intervenes in key debates in Renaissance ecocriticism a reflective essay on ecocritical editing a bibliography of further reading and a timeline of environmental history and legislation drawing on extensive archival research *The ISLE Reader* Michael P. Branch, Scott Slovic, 2003 This volume gathers nineteen of the most representative and defining essays from the journal ISLE Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment over the course of its first ten years Following an introduction that traces the stages of ecocriticism's development The ISLE Reader is organized into three sections each of which reflects one of the general goals the journal has sought to accomplish The section titled Re evaluations provides new readings of familiar environmental writers and new environmental perspectives on authors or literary traditions not usually considered from a green perspective The writings in Reaching Out to Other Disciplines promote cross pollination among various disciplines and methodologies in the environmental arts and humanities The writings in the final section New Theoretical and Practical Paradigms are especially significant for the conceptual and methodological terrain they map The ISLE Reader documents the state of research in ecocriticism and related interdisciplinary fields provides a survey of the field and points to new methodologies and possibilities for the future

Pagan Roots Yvonne Aburrow, 2025-04-22 Have you ever been told that prayer is not a Pagan practice or that it is just passive magic and found that these claims did not sit right with you Or that you ought to kill the ego because that is supposedly part of every spiritual quest but that did not feel right to you Have you ever been presented with a spiritual practice or concept and wondered if it was compatible with your Pagan ideals and values Have you ever asked yourself why there are certain words you just can't say in Pagan circles Or have you had a conversation with an adherent of another religion and found it difficult to communicate because they did not understand where you were coming from Fascinated by the etymology of words and the history of ideas Yvonne Aburrow has set out to disentangle Pagan spirituality from ideas that do not serve the needs of Pagans and to reclaim religious concepts that have been rejected Just as there are people who assume that religion does not change over the centuries there are people who assume that the meaning of words does not change The meaning of words and the concepts they represent do change over time and are shaped by the context in which they are used Yvonne Aburrow is here with Pagan Roots to illustrate those changes and reclaim religious language and concepts in a way that centers contemporary Pagan practice and belief

Reading The Roots American Nature Writing Before Walden Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In a global driven by information and connectivity, the energy of words has become more evident than ever. They have the capacity to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such is the essence of the book **Reading The Roots American Nature Writing Before Walden**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep to the significance of words and their impact on our lives. Published by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we shall explore the book's key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall effect on readers.

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