

Walden, by Henry David Thoreau

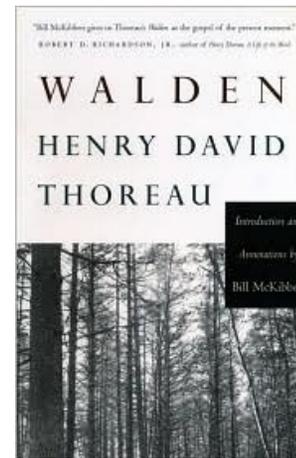
Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was born in Concord, Mass., and lived there most of his life. His parents were permanently poor. His academic record was good but not outstanding; nevertheless, he entered Harvard in 1833 as a scholarship student. After graduating he taught in the town school and at a private school his brother John had started.

While developing his writing, he did odd jobs. He helped in his father's pencil-making and graphite business and developed skill as a surveyor.

Thoreau believed that a writer's work and life should be one, and he devoted both his writing and his life increasingly to public issues. With word and deed he fought against the Mexican-American war and was involved in the struggle against slavery.

He never married. As he grew into middle age, Thoreau inevitably made a few concessions. He had to take over the family business after his father died. He did some surveying. He also had to make concessions to age itself. His spells of illness increased during the 1850s. By 1861 he no longer left the Thoreau house. He died of consumption (tuberculosis) on May 6, 1862.

- Adapted from *Encyclopedia of World Biography* via the *Gale Biography In Context* database



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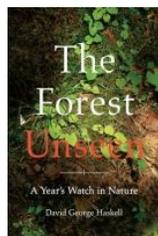
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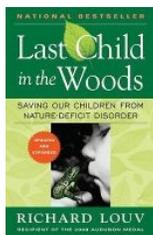
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Read-Alikes for *Walden*



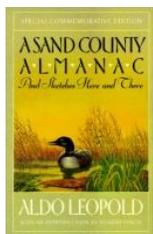
The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature by David George Haskell / 577.3097 Haskell
Biologist Haskell uses a small patch of old-growth Tennessee forest as a window onto the entire natural world. Visiting it almost daily for one year to trace nature's path through the seasons, he brings the forest and its inhabitants to vivid life.

A Country Year: Living the Questions by Sue Hubbell / 508.7788
Alone and broke on a small Ozarks farm, Hubbell found solace in the natural world. This much-loved book is about life on the land and a woman finding her way in middle age.



Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv / 155.418 Louv. A child advocacy expert directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as rises in obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and depression.

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard / 818 Dillard
In this 1975 Pulitzer Prize-winner, Dillard tries to understand God by chronicling the seasons in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, and by exploring the paradoxical coexistence of beauty and violence.



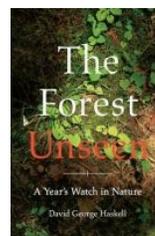
A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold / Oversize 508.73 Leopold
In 1953 Leopold and his family began to manage and restore 80 acres of badly eroded farmland along the Wisconsin River. Written with the knowledge of a scientist and the eye of a poet.

The Unsettling of America by Wendell Berry / 338.1 Berry
Berry argues that today's agribusiness takes farming out of its cultural context and away from families, and as a nation we suffer loss of community, the devaluation of human work, and the destruction of nature under this economics in pursuit of products and profits.

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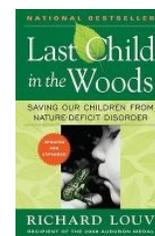


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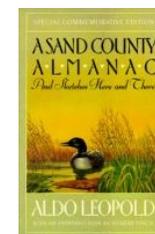
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