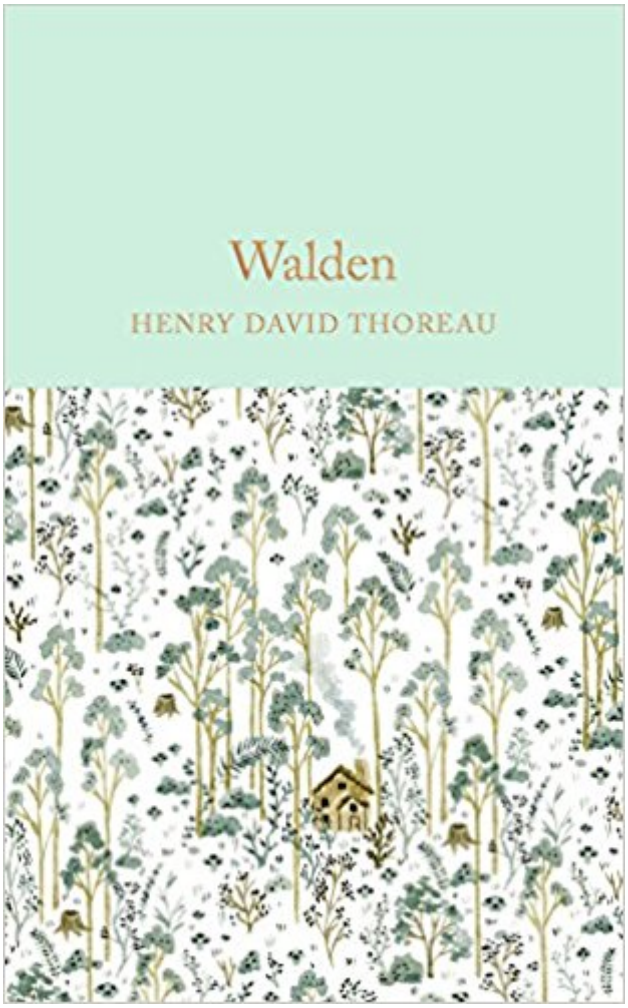
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Walden (Macmillan Collector's Library)



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Synopsis

Henry Thoreau is considered, along with Edgar Allan Poe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman and Nathaniel Hawthorne, as one of the leading figures in early American literature, and Walden is without doubt his most influential book. It recounts the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s experiences living in a small house in the woods around Walden Pond near Concord in Massachusetts. Thoreau constructed the house himself, with the help of a few friends, and one of the reasons why he moved into it was in an attempt to see if he could live independently and away from society. The result is an intriguing work which blends natural history with philosophical insights and includes many illuminating quotations from other authors. ThoreauÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wooden shack has won a place for itself in the collective American psyche, a remarkable achievement for a book with such modest and rustic beginnings.Designed to appeal to the book lover, the Macmillan Collector's Library is a series of beautifully bound pocket-sized gift editions of much loved classic titles. Bound in real cloth, printed on high quality paper, and featuring ribbon markers and gilt edges, Macmillan Collector's Library are books to love and treasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-Henry David Thoreau's classic, first published in 1854 and reporting on his experiences at the eponymous site where he lived in physical and social independence during the mid-1840's, receives refreshing treatment here. William Hope reads leisurely but with feeling, offering listeners

the illusion that the author is speaking directly to them. The abridgements are not substantive, so listeners will feel that they have become acquainted with the complexities of a text that is both orderly and sprinkled with irony and other literary devices. The chapters are tastefully set off by musical interludes that complement Thoreau's own rhythms. Not only is this an excellent alternative for students assigned to read the text that is often offered in tiny print without benefit of margins, but it is also possible to suggest this to thoughtful teens who are seeking an intellectually engaging listening experience for their personal enjoyment. Hope's pacing invites readers with minimal skills to accompany their print foray with his narration. The careful editing here assures that they will not become lost between page and sound.Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Walden's original publisher releases an annotated edition to celebrate the book's 150th anniversary.Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

How could I not love Henry David Thoreau? I found him remarkable. As I got deeper and further into the book Walden, I found his musings and enlightning and uplifting. He was a father of environmentalism, a naturalist, A minimalist,an abolitionist, and a Transcendentalist experiencing nature as God and God in nature. What a surprising treat!

Civil Disobedience written during saber rattling with Mexico and the countryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s concern over the abolition of slavery in 1848 it is as relevant today as it has ever been, as it transcends space and time.Thoreau's main point is that the best - and many times, the only - method for fighting injustice is through passive disobedience. By refusing to cooperate with the machinery of injustice, the individual can become the friction that stops the machine. Active resistance is bound for failure, as the machine (the State, society, etc.) is too formidable for the individual to fight. But, by refusing to cooperate, justice can be achieved and injustice toppled. "Any man more right than his neighbors constitutes a majority of one ".Other gems:I heartily accept the motto ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“That government is best which governs least or not at allÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Man has a conscience (not government) we should be Men first and subjects second.Current political thought could use the purity, consistency and clarity that were second nature to thinkers near the American RevolutionThe government never started any enterprise; it

does not keep the country free. It did not settle the West. It does not educate. The chapter of the American people accomplished it all. I would have done more if the government got out of the way.Today we are faced with some of the same issues about control. The Government takes our labor (money) and decides who and what wars to fight and how to spend the rest with or with our consent.It is a book about convections of a manÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s right and wrong (not government) and the fight for injustice.

I'm only writing something in this case because it's required in order to rate the work. My friend is a Walden expert. To my shame, I put off reading it for years. I finally did so, from cover to cover. It's a great reading experience. Thoreau was very wise, extremely original, and highly educated too. He was also a very resourceful surveyor. Thoreau was no primitive. Many of the paragraphs in "Walden" are famous out of context. If you haven't read it, give yourself a treat.

while at times i found the book a little difficult to read because of the writing style, I found the insight to be well worth the challenge.It touches upon the true role of the individual within a society and the manner in which a government should view the individual which, Hayek reference in his Road to Serfdom another book worth the time of anyone who has read Civil Disobedience.The one shock for me though was upon reaching the final page of the book with the recommendations for further reading to find Marx who in truth stand on the opposite footing of Thoreau with his collectivism were as Thoreau was a true believer and support of the individuals ability to chose how they relate to the state. I believe we as citizens should be given the choice of which taxes to support and which to not have to pay. Case in point I pay property taxes through the money that I give to my landlord for the schools in my area but yet I have no children those in a community should be given the option to say no to a portion of their property taxes if they do not have children in school and also those that chose to send their children to private school should be given the same option. The state needs to realize that the money they use is our money and as the governed if we chose to revoke our mandate they will receive nothing.

I can't believe I got to be this old and had never read this philosophical treatise on the role of the individual and government in society. In this day where the political right has shifted the political center for all parties, Thoreau would be considered a revolutionary. Writing in the time of slavery and the Mexican American war, you would think that the essay, being over 150 years old would be dated, but oppression and wars of aggression are the same issues we face today. Civil

Disobedience leaves a lot to think about - the role of government, the individual, the difference between society and government, and what would be the consequence if everyone embraced Thoreau's ideas; a better society or anarchy? The English is sometimes a bit had to digest (a lot of double negatives) but I found Spark Notes a helpful companion.

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