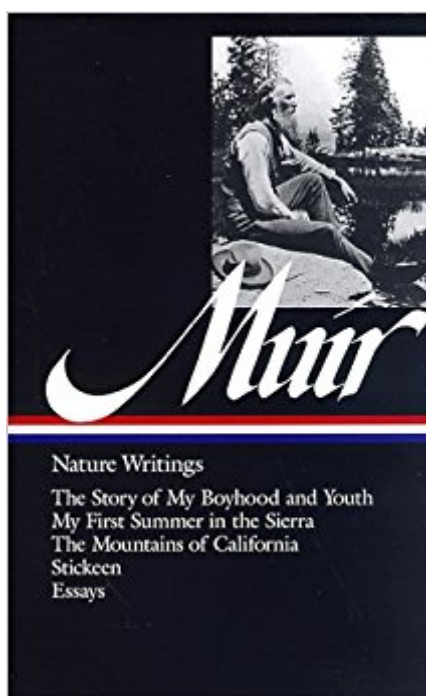


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# John Muir : Nature Writings: The Story Of My Boyhood And Youth; My First Summer In The Sierra; The Mountains Of California; Stickeen; Essays (Library Of America)



## Synopsis

In a lifetime of exploration, writing, and passionate political activism, John Muir became America's most eloquent spokesman for the mystery and majesty of the wilderness. A crucial figure in the creation of our national parks system and a far-seeing prophet of environmental awareness who founded the Sierra Club in 1892, he was also a master of natural description who evoked with unique power and intimacy the untrammelled landscapes of the American West. The Library of America's Nature Writings collects his most significant and best-loved works in a single volume, including: *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* (1913), *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1911), *The Mountains of California* (1894) and *Stickeen* (1909). Rounding out the volume is a rich selection of essays—including "Yosemite Glaciers," "God's First Temples," "Snow-Storm on Mount Shasta," "The American Forests," and the late appeal "Save the Redwoods"—highlighting various aspects of his career: his exploration of the Grand Canyon and of what became Yosemite and Yellowstone national parks, his successful crusades to preserve the wilderness, his early walking tour to Florida, and the Alaska journey of 1879.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This volume is virtually an entire library of Muir. It combines *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*, *My First Summer in the Sierra*, *The Mountains of California*, *Stickeen*, and a number of his essays along with illustrations, a chronology of his life, and scholarly notes. At \$35, this is a remarkable

bargain for public and academic libraries alike. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The richness of his writing roots deeper into the terrain than any other wilderness writer known to me. -- David Craig, Los Angeles Times Book Review

The writings in this book provide a foundation of appreciation for all encompassing "nature". This book can be judged by title... John Muir is genius, and a poet! His depth of knowledge (engineering, botany) is evident throughout, and his passion to study everything natural is unsurpassed. He was beyond today's definition of "motivated." His book inspired me to backpack the JMT. Between this book, and hiking "his" trail, I owe my broader spiritual sense to him.

John Muir had a love of nature that was spiritual and at times ecstatic. A great read, and a great reminder of why wild lands are so essential. I was filled with admiration for this expert mountaineer, moved by his writing, and impressed by his ability to survive on bread and tea! And I am very grateful for his work in laying the groundwork for our national parks. Thank you, John Muir!

I've only read "My First Summer in the Sierra," and attest to Muir's enchanting style and lucidity. He writes as an enthusiast, but gives his stories a plain-spoken clarity that can be enjoyed by all. Muir must have been quite an individual - after working as a shepherd for a few months, he talks of getting time off from his employer, "tying some bread to his belt, and walking to Mammoth" from the Merced area of the western foothills of the Sierras. Yep, a nice casual stroll. Or climbing and looking down into the ice cone on Yosemite Falls. Why not? It's there every winter...I hope Library of America will put out another volume so they can make "The Yosemite" available to all. In it, Muir describes the three native Californian "Yosemite" (Tuolumne, Sequoia, and Kings) almost as a tour guide. This book is a glaring omission from the LoA volume, and gives great insight into the mind of the premier conservationist of the early 1900s. As always, LoA delivers a quality volume at a good price.

Inspirational life of Muir. A great read to learn about the man responsible for establishing the National Park system. If you love the outdoors and connecting with nature, this book is a must.

I hesitated buying this complete works book by Muir as I wondered if it would be more than I wanted. Did I really care about his youth or was I just looking for some of his more famous writings?

To my delight, I have enjoyed this book from the start. I found his essays about his childhood in Scotland and about his family's move to America to be a nice foundation for understanding how he became the man he was and the impact he had on nature writing and on conservation. I came to live in the Maine woods not because of the job opportunities (ha) or for the Starbucks on the corner (not) but to be in a quiet place surrounded by streams, woods, mountains, lakes and all of the recreational and contemplative opportunities these afford us. I am no stranger to nature writing, but honestly, I came to John Muir a bit late. In a way, I am glad as I think his words have spoken to me now in a way that I can really appreciate. I recommend this body of essays to anyone who lives in nature or doesn't but wish they did. His writing provides a nice escape.

This is a well-bound and printed book of much higher quality than I expected. It is actually an anthology of many writings of Muir, and it is amazing how clear his writing is even today. He has a very fluid and poetic style that helps the reader "see" what he sees, and it is very enjoyable. It is a book I can pick up and put down over and over, and it always seems to give me what I need.

I absolutely loved reading this, particularly his childhood. Puts in perspective our lives with how enthusiastic he was despite what we today would call extreme or even abusive upbringing. They just got to work and enjoyed what they had. Muir's love of nature really comes through in all the details he noticed and wrote about. Highly recommended.

I bought a couple of these books to share with friends I backpack in the Sierras with. This is an excellent collection of the writings of John Muir. If you price the individual pieces, you will see the value of this one volume. If you are a hiker or a naturalist of any degree, you will have an appreciation for the experience of John Muir in his wanderings through unspoiled territory. This book does not come in a dust jacket as one of the images shows, but it does come with a sturdy binding that could stand up to a day in the hills or at the shore spent in thoughtful reading.

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