



## Henry David Thoreau : Collected Essays and Poems (Library of America)

*By Henry David Thoreau*

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By Henry David Thoreau

America's greatest nature writer and a political thinker of worldwide impact, Henry David Thoreau's remarkable essays reflect his speculative and probing cast of mind. In his poems, he gave voice to his private sentiments and spiritual aspirations in the plain style of New England speech. Now, The Library of America brings together these indispensable works in one authoritative volume. Spanning his entire career, the 27 essays gathered here vary in style from the ambling rhythm of *Natural History of Massachusetts* and *A Winter Walk* to the concentrated moral outrage of *Slavery in Massachusetts* and *A Plea for Captain John Brown*. Included are *Civil Disobedience*, Thoreau's great exploration of the conflict between individual conscience and state power that continues to influence political thinkers and activists; *Walking*, a meditation on wildness and civilization; and *Life Without Principle*, a passionate critique of American materialism and conformity. Also here are literary essays, including pieces on Homer, Chaucer, and Carlyle; the travel essay *A Yankee in Canada*; the three speeches in defense of John Brown; and essays such as *Autumnal Tints*, *Wild Fruits*, and *Huckleberries* that explore natural phenomena around Concord. Seven poems are published here for the first time, and others are presented in new, previously unpublished versions based on Thoreau's manuscripts.



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## **Editorial Review**

Review

Ah, 'tis In Vain The Peaceful Din

All Things Are Current Found

All Things Decay

Among The Worst Of Men That Ever Lived

And Once Again

Any Fool Can Make A Rule

The Assabet

At Midnight's Hour I Raised My Head

The Atlantides

Away! Away! Away! Away!

Behold These Flowers

Better Wait

Between The Traveller And The Setting Sun

The Bluebirds

The 'book Of Gems'

The Breeze's Invitation

Brother Where Dost Thou Dwell?

But Now 'no War Nor Battle's Sound'

The Chicadee

Cliffs

Cock-crowing

Conscience

The Coward Ever Sings No Song

Death Cannot Come Too Soon

The Deeds Of King And Meanest Hedger

Delay

Delay In Friendship

The Departure

Die And Be Buried Who Will

Each More Melodious Note I Hear

Each Summer Sound

The Earth

The Echo Of The Sabbath Bell - Heard In The Woods

Ep On A Good Man

Ep On The World

Epitaph

Epitaph On Pursy

Epitath On An Engraver

The Evening Wind

Except, Returning, By The Marlboro

Fair Haven (1)

Fair Haven (2)

The Fall Of The Leaf

Far Oer The Bow  
Farewell  
The Fisher's Son  
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For Though The Eaves Were Rabbited  
Forever In My Dream And In My Morning Thought  
Free Love  
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The Friend  
Friends  
Friendship  
Friendship (1)  
Friendship (2)  
The Funeral Bell  
Godfrey Of Boulogne  
The Good How Can We Trust?  
Great Friend  
Greater Is The Depth Of Sadness  
Greece  
Guido's Aurora  
Have Ye No Work For A Man To Do  
Haze  
He Knows No Change Who Knows The True  
The Hero  
How Little Curious Is Man  
I Am Bound, I Am Bound, For A Distant Shore  
I Am Contented You Should Stay  
I Am The Autumnal Sun  
I Am The Little Irish Boy  
I Arose Before Light  
I Do Not Fear My Thoughts Will Die  
I Have Rolled Near Some Other Spirits Path  
I Have Some Frozenfaced Connecticut  
I Knew A Man By Sight  
I Love A Careless Streamlet  
I Mark The Summer's Swift Decline  
I Sailed Up A River With A Pleasant Wind  
I Saw A Delicate Flower Had Grown Up 2 Feet High  
I Seek The Present Time  
I Was Born Upon Thy Bank River;  
I Was Made Erect And Lone  
I Will Obey The Strictest Law Of Love  
I'm Guided In The Darkest Night  
I'm Not Alone  
I'm Thankful That My Life Doth Not Deceive  
I've Heard My Neighbor's Pump At Night  
I've Searched My Faculties Around  
I've Seen Ye, Sisters, On The Mountain-side  
If Faults Arise, My Friend Will Send For Me

If From Your Price Ye Will Not Swerve  
In Adams Fall  
In Days Of Yore, Tis Said, The Swimming Alder  
In The Busy Streets, Domains Of Trade  
In The East Fames Are Won  
Independence  
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Inspiration (4)  
The Inward Morning  
It Is A Real Place  
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Knowledge  
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Man Man Is The Devil  
Manhood  
May Morning  
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The Moon Moves Up Her Smooth And Sheeny Path  
The Moon Now Rises To Her Absolute Rule  
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Music  
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My Friends, My Noble Friends, Know Ye  
My Friends, Why Should We Live?  
My Ground Is High  
My Life  
My Prayer  
Nature  
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Noon  
Not Unconcerned Wachusett Rears His Head  
The Offer  
The Old Marlborough Road  
Old Meeting-house Bell  
On Fields Oer Which The Reaper's Hand Has Passed  
On Ponkawtasset, Since, We Took Our Way  
On Shoulders Whirled In Some Eccentric Orbit  
On The Sun Coming Out In The Afternoon  
Only The Slave Knows Of The Slave  
Our Country  
The Peal Of The Bells  
Pens To Mend, And Hands To Guide  
The Poet's Delay

Poverty  
Pray To What Earth Does This Sweet Cold Thing Belong  
The Rabbit Leaps  
The Respectable Folks  
The Rosa Sanguinea  
Rumors From An Aeolian Harp  
Salmon Brook  
The Shrike  
Sic Vita  
Smoke  
Smoke In Winter  
Sometimes I Hear The Veery's Clarion  
The Soul's Season  
Stanzas  
Strange That So Many Fickle Gods, As Fickle As The Weather  
Such Near Aspects Had We  
Such Water Do The Gods Distill  
The Summer Rain  
Sympathy  
Tall Ambrosia  
Tell Me Ye Wise Ones If Ye Can  
That Phaeton Of Our Day  
The Thaw  
Then Spend An Age In Whetting Thy Desire  
They Who Prepare My Evening Meal Below  
Thou Dusky Spirit Of The Wood  
'tis Very Fit The Ambrosia Of The Gods  
To A Marsh Hawk In Spring  
To A Stray Fowl  
To Day I Climbed A Handsome Rounded Hill  
To Edith  
To The Comet  
To The Maiden In The East  
To The Mountains  
Travelling  
True Kindness Is A Pure Divine Affinity  
Truth -- Goodness -- Beauty -- Those Celestial Thrins  
'twas 30 Years Ago  
'twill Soon Appear If We But Look  
Until At Length The North Winds Blow  
The Vireo  
Voyagers Song  
Wait Not Till I Invite Thee, But Observe  
Wait Not Till Slaves Pronounce The Word  
Walden  
We See The Planet Fall  
We Should Not Mind If On Our Ear There Fell  
What's The Railroad To Me?  
When Breathless Noon Hath Paused On Hill And Vale

When In Some Cove I Lie  
When The Toads Begin To Ring  
When With Pale Cheek And Sunken Eye I Sang  
Where I Have Been  
Where'er Thou Sail'st Who Sailed With Me  
Who Equallest The Coward's Haste  
Who Hears The Parson  
Who Sleeps By Day And Walks By Night  
Why Toll The Bell Today  
Winter Memories  
Ye Who Do Command Me To All Virtue Ever  
Yet Let Us Thank The Purbblind Race  
You Boston Folks & Roxbury People  
You Must Not Only Aim Aright  
-- *Table of Poems from Poem Finder®*

#### From the Publisher

Henry David Thoreau crafted essays that reflect his speculative and probing cast of mind. In his poems, he gave voice to his private sentiments and spiritual aspirations in the plain style of New England speech. Now, The Library of America brings together these indispensable works in one authoritative volume. The 27 essays gathered here range over all of Thoreau's concerns, from natural and literary history to the struggle against slavery, and include such masterpieces as "Civil Disobedience," his great exploration of the conflict between individual conscience and state power; "Walking," a meditation on wilderness and civilization; and "Life Without Principle," a passionate critique of American materialism and conformity. The poems collected here, some for the first time, are presented in versions often taken from Thoreau's journal and manuscripts. They reveal him as a poet whose mercurial visions are often expressed with rare precision and immediacy.

#### About the Author

**Henry David Thoreau** was born in Concord, Massachusetts in 1817. He graduated from Harvard in 1837, the same year he began his lifelong Journal. Inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thoreau became a key member of the Transcendentalist movement that included Margaret Fuller and Bronson Alcott. The Transcendentalists' faith in nature was tested by Thoreau between 1845 and 1847 when he lived for twenty-six months in a homemade hut at Walden Pond. While living at Walden, Thoreau worked on the two books published during his lifetime: **Walden** (1854) and **A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers** (1849). Several of his other works, including **The Maine Woods**, **Cape Cod**, and **Excursions**, were published posthumously. Thoreau died in Concord, at the age of forty-four, in 1862.

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##### Alan Williams:

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