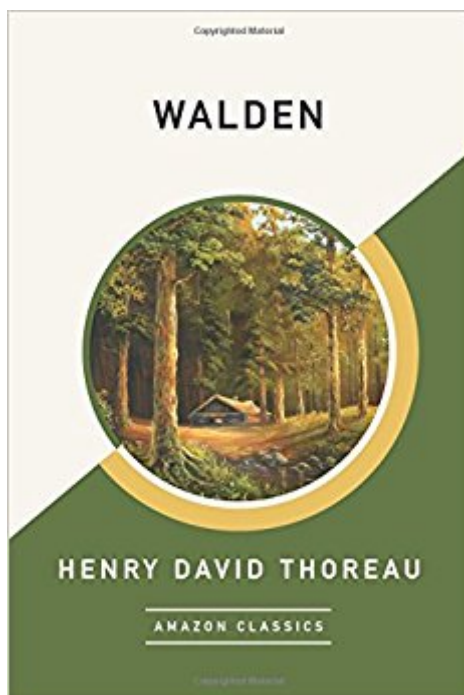


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Walden (Classics Edition)



Synopsis

At Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau reflected on simpler living in the natural world. By removing himself from the distractions of materialism, Thoreau hoped to not only improve his spiritual life but also gain a better understanding of society through solitary introspection. In Walden, Thoreau condenses his two-year, two-month, two-day stay into a single year, using the four seasons to symbolize human development – a cycle of life shared by both nature and man. A celebration of personal renewal through self-reliance, independence, and simplicity, composed for all of us living in “quiet desperation.” Walden is eternal. Revised edition: Previously published as Walden, this edition of Walden (Classics Edition) includes editorial revisions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862) was an American writer, philosopher, and naturalist who is best known for the works *Walden* and “Civil Disobedience.” Thoreau was a protégé of transcendentalist writer Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose friendship and guidance had a lasting effect on Thoreau’s work. In addition to his support of outdoor recreation and conservation, Thoreau made lasting political contributions as a lifelong abolitionist and through his philosophy of civil disobedience, which would serve as a foundation for leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Thoreau died at the age of forty-four, a result of much-weakened health after years of complications from tuberculosis. His writings, comprising more than twenty volumes, have been credited with influencing not only a multitude of writers, such as novelist Willa Cather and naturalist John Muir, but also the civil rights movement and the creation of the national

park system.

Thoreau writes of his experience living in the woods in a cabin he built on Ralph Waldo Emerson's property in Concord, MA where he dwelt for 2 years. The first half or so is very interesting as he describes building his cabin and living off the land. He argues that people spend too much time working to make money to acquire things they really don't need and never really live. They are slaves to their lifestyle and what others expect. They have little if any time to themselves, while Thoreau spends his days doing whatever he wants in large part. He enjoys nature and writes in detail about everything he observes. When he takes 10+ pages to describe his observations of the ice melting on Walden Pond, I must admit, I thought it was time for him to rejoin society. But, for all the sections where he goes off the deep end, it is an interesting read because he complains about everything we do today and this takes place in 1846-1848: useless politicians whose only interest is in being reelected and being taxed for services he does not use (real estate based school tax). Thoreau refuses to pay his tax and is jailed. He loves it but someone bails him out much to his chagrin. The reason for knocking off a star is he does go on sometimes. Warning: when this book was written some words had different meanings than they do today. This makes it sometimes challenging to follow. This is not a beach read. Read it when you have time to complicate it.

It took me a while to warm up to this book, but after I did, I considered it a pleasant read each night before going to bed. Still, as it is considered an American classic, I was hoping for more. What that "more" is, I'm not quite sure. Perhaps clearer and more profound insights. Much of the time it reads like an agreeable diary with good (sometimes laborious) observations of the world he encountered at Walden Pond. I did enjoy his accounting of how much his cabin cost to build and the money he raised from growing crops. A very different world then.

Walden by Henry David Thoreau Like how the sections are divided up into chapters. Each concentrates on its theme and he talks about the surrounding farmers and his beliefs. We have visited Walden Pond and was able to walk around visiting the garden area and where he stayed-it's just a small shed. Loved hearing of his crops and how he does accounting for everything he built or planted. I recall the railroad also as we hiked to the top of the hill. Enjoyed this book although it's not written in today's language, have to read into it.

Easy, unaffected nature writing, from a time when the genre really didn't exist. Thoreau was the first.

His style is spare and unaffected. He tried to live an essential life at Walden Pond, and his writing reflects this. Am currently reading Uncle Tom's Cabin, a novel from the same era that became a best-seller and reflects the florid style of the popular press. Thoreau is both modern and timeless. Only reason for not giving him 5 stars is that at times he doesn't quite seem to know where he is going with the book. This edition contains the essay On Civil Disobedience, as timely now as ever.

The digitizing of 'Walden' is sort of a dichotomy. Not sure that Thoreau would have approved of the process or all the gee-gaws one requires to read a digital version of his book which was probably written with a quill by moonlight. However, it's here now and I must say it is wonderful to be able to have a copy of this book in my pocket for dipping into at any time. Yes, there are a few small glitches with these digital books but the process is really not totally simple. And my gratitude in having this copy far outweighs any irritation with any paragraph shifts. I would recommend that any people who fall into the 'entitled' bracket, those who live on their devices rather than their wits perhaps could take some time to read this book and learn some tips on living simply and finding happiness. At the very worst, you will be better prepared to compete on 'Survivor' ...

This man is a genius with a pure soul. His imagery and discussion of his opinions concerning the character of human beings and how it has progressed along with the modernizations of the times is enchanting. He highlights so many valid points about extravagance v. practicality, craving for social interaction v. enjoying solitude and many more interesting topics.

Do you want to learn to live without all the stuff you have around you Thoreau is your man. Want to really learn about civil disobedience? Thoreau is the man to turn to. Henry was the best teacher for 60s in how to fight without violence. He is the man for recycling before it was an everyday word. This book seems to be a primer that needs to be read today by the younger generation. And reread by my generation from the 60s.

This book is only for the serious reader. It's like sifting through a barrel of chaff to find the grains of wheat. When you find the grains, they turn into pearls. Thoreau took himself off to an isolated country location so as to listen to the voices from without and within. He built a small one room cottage where he lived for 12 months. This book reflects his many experiences and internal musings. It is here you will find the origin of such quotes as, "most men lead lives of quiet desperation, and go to the grave with the song still in them." "Powerful in deed, I am convinced, if you

can stay with the book long enough, you will come across so many one loners that lift the spirit and inspire both heart and mind.Warning however; it can be a tedious read.

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