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A Selected List of Resources Suggested at the Curriculum for the Bioregion  
Retreat for Teachers of Writing  
November 15-16, 2007

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Barcott, Bruce, ed. 1994. *Northwest Passages: A literary Anthology of the Pacific Northwest from Coyote Tales to Roadside Attractions*. Seattle: Sasquatch Books. 320 pp.

Chronologically arranged, this collection of pieces about the Pacific Northwest includes selections by Native Americans, explorers, pioneers, and contemporary writers-not necessarily from the Pacific Northwest. From Bunyan and Kipling to Steinbeck and Stegner, well-known writers with strong ties to other regions are excerpted here. Seattle journalist Barcott includes a number of Northwest writers (Monica Sone, Ursula Le Guin, Ken Kesey), but, unfortunately, he omits many others, such as Ingrid Wendt, Lawson Inada, and Oregon's late poet laureate, William Stafford; his emphasis seems to be more on the Northwest place than the Northwest voice. Libraries might prefer anthologies with more emphasis on regional writers, such as the four-volume Oregon Literature Series (Oregon State Univ. Pr., 1993). *Mary Margaret Benson, Linfield Coll. Lib., McMinnville, Ore.* Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dietrich, William. 1993. *The Final Forest: The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest*. Penguin. 304 pp.

The chief science correspondent for the Seattle Times here examines the many sides of the ongoing debate over the logging of America's last remaining ancient forest, on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. Using the town of Forks as a focal point, Dietrich allows the participants in this drama--loggers, truckers, foresters, timber company representatives, environmentalists and politicians--to speak for their own interests. Exploring a dense thicket of social ? with 'social,' seems unnecessary and economic issues, he discovers a human dilemma at the center? since thickets don't have cores? : the plight of the men and women whose livelihood depends on the woods, tragically caught between big industry and environmentalists. The author contends that the U.S. government's shortsighted policies have led not only to these workers' loss of dignity and self-respect but also to the unnecessary destruction of thousands of acres of old-growth trees. Engrossing and well-written, this is a model of balanced reporting and reasoned analysis.

Dietrich, William. 2003. *Natural Grace: The Charm, Wonder, and Lessons of Pacific Northwest Animals and Plants*. University of Washington Press. 248 pp.

From the interactive clockwork world of geology, tides, Northwest weather, and snow, to the hidden roles of dirt, stream life, and mosses and lichens, Pulitzer Prize winning writer William Dietrich explores the natural splendors of the Pacific Northwest. His topics include alder and cedar; jellyfish, geoducks, crabs, and killer whales; mosquitoes and spiders; gulls, crows, raccoons, possums, deer, and cougars.

This informative and engaging selection of natural history essays is adapted from articles published in the Seattle Times magazine, Pacific Northwest. A native Washingtonian, Dietrich has watched the Northwest double in population during his lifetime. Our rapidly changing view of nature is an underlying theme throughout his wide-ranging essays, as is the timely and essential question of how best to share and conserve the natural world that drew us to the region in the first place.

Neither a field guide nor an environmental policy book, *Natural Grace* is intended as a primer for people who are curious about the environment they live in and the pressures upon it. "We only

care about what we know," says the author. "I've concluded that enthusiasm and commitment begin from learning just how marvelous this region is: Passion has to precede purpose." And there is much to marvel over. Dietrich has unearthed fascinating and unexpected facts about his subjects, and he has a gift for expressing complex information in clear and vivid language. He asks intriguing questions and makes good use of interviews with Northwest scientists and experts to convey current and historic attitudes and economic realities, and to consider where we go from here.

Durkin, Diane Bennet, and Lisa Gerrard. 2007. *Seeking Common Cause*. McGraw-Hill. 716 pp. (post it note says 2008: are you waiting for the next edition for specific additions?)

*Seeking Common Cause* is a reader that defines argument as creating credibility. The authors encourage careful examination of writers' multiple perspectives and various strategies for drawing readers in. These strategies are what help readers see what the writer sees, and share views that they did not expect to share. The book emphasizes a form of argument in which writers synthesize points of view rather than polarize them. The authors aim to teach critical reading through empathy and belief rather than through disbelief and quick dismissal. For that reason, they rely less on legal logic--analysis through claim, evidence, and warrant--than on writing strategies for bringing about mutual consent.

Elbow, Peter. 1987. *Embracing Contraries: Explorations in Learning and Teaching*. Oxford University Press. 329 pp.

Peter Elbow's widely acclaimed and original theories on the writing process, set forth in *Writing Without Teachers* and *Writing With Power*, have earned him a reputation as a leading educational innovator. Now Elbow has drawn together twelve of his essays on the nature of learning and teaching to suggest a comprehensive philosophy of education. At once theoretical and down-to-earth, this collection will appeal not only to teachers, administrators and students, but to anyone with a love of learning. Elbow explores the "contraries" in the educational process, in particular his theory that clear thinking can be enhanced by inviting indecision, incoherence, and paradoxical thinking. The essays, written over a period of twenty-five years, are engaged in a single enterprise: to arrive at insights or conclusions about learning and teaching while still doing justice to the "rich messiness" of intellectual inquiry. Drawing his conclusions from his own perplexities as a student and as a teacher, Elbow discusses the value of interdisciplinary teaching, his theory of "cooking" (an interaction of conflicting ideas), the authority relationship in teaching and the value of specifying learning objectives. A full section is devoted to evaluation and feedback, both of students and faculty. Finally, Elbow focuses on the need to move beyond the skepticism of critical thinking to what he calls "methodological belief"--an ability to embrace more than one point of view.

Kingsolver, Barbara, Camille Kingsolver, and Steven L. Hopp. 2007. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. Harper Collins. 384 pp.

Reviewed by *Nina Planck* Michael Pollan is the crack investigator and graceful narrator of the ecology of local food and the toxic logic of industrial agriculture. Now he has a peer. Novelist Kingsolver recounts a year spent eating home-grown food and, if not that, local. Accomplished gardeners, the Kingsolver clan grow a large garden in southern Appalachia and spend summers "putting food by," as the classic kitchen title goes. They make pickles, chutney and mozzarella; they jar tomatoes, braid garlic and stuff turkey sausage. Nine-year-old Lily runs a heritage poultry

business, selling eggs and meat. What they don't raise (lamb, beef, apples) comes from local farms. Come winter, they feast on root crops and canned goods, menus slouching toward asparagus. Along the way, the Kingsolver family, having given up industrial meat years before, abandons its vegetarian ways and discovers the pleasures of conscientious carnivory. This field—local food and sustainable agriculture—is crowded with books in increasingly predictable flavors: the earnest manual, diary of an epicure, the environmental battle cry, the accidental gardener. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* is all of these, and much smarter. Kingsolver takes the genre to a new literary level; a well-paced narrative and the apparent ease of the beautiful prose makes the pages fly. Her tale is both classy and disarming, substantive and entertaining, earnest and funny. Kingsolver is a moralist ("the conspicuous consumption of limited resources has yet to be accepted widely as a spiritual error, or even bad manners"), but more often wry than pious. Another hazard of the genre is snobbery. You won't find it here. Seldom do paeans to heirloom tomatoes (which I grew up selling at farmers' markets) include equal respect for outstanding modern hybrids like Early Girl. Kingsolver has the ear of a journalist and the accuracy of a naturalist. She makes short, neat work of complex topics: what's risky about the vegan diet, why animals belong on ecologically sound farms, why bitterness in lettuce is good. Kingsolver's clue to help greenhorns remember what's in season is the best I've seen. You trace the harvest by botanical development, from buds to fruits to roots. Kingsolver is not the first to note our national "eating disorder" and the injuries industrial agriculture wreaks, yet this practical vision of how we might eat instead is as fresh as just-picked sweet corn. The narrative is peppered with useful sidebars on industrial agriculture and ecology (by husband Steven Hopp) and recipes (by daughter Camille), as if to show that local food—in the growing, buying, cooking, eating and the telling—demands teamwork. (May) Nina Planck is the author of *Real Food: What to Eat and Why (Bloomsbury USA, 2006)*. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Klein, Naomi. 2002. *No Logo: No Space, No Choice, No Jobs*. Picador. 528 pp.

In the global economy, all the world's a marketing opportunity. From this elemental premise, freelance journalist and Toronto Star columnist Klein methodically builds an angry and funny case against branding in general and several large North American companies in particular, notably Gap, Microsoft and Starbucks. Looking around her, Klein finds that the breathless promise of the information age—that it would be a time of consumer choice and interactive communication—has not materialized. Instead, huge corporations that present themselves as lifestyle purveyors rather than mere product manufacturers dominate the airwaves, physical space and cyberspace. Worse, Klein argues, these companies have harmed not just the culture but also workers—and not just in the Third World but also in the U.S., where companies rely on temps because they'd rather invest in marketing than in labor. In the latter sections, Klein describes a growing backlash embodied by the guerrilla group Reclaim the Streets, which turns busy intersections into spaces for picnics and political protest. Her tour of the branded world is rife with many perverse examples of how corporate names penetrate all aspects of life (who knew there was a K-Mart Chair of Marketing at Wayne State University?). Mixing an activist's passion with sophisticated cultural commentary, Klein delivers some elegant formulations: "Free speech is meaningless if the commercial cacophony has risen to the point where no one can hear you. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

London, Mark and Brian Kelly. 2007. *The Last Forest: The Amazon in the Age of Globalization*. Random House. 336 pp.

The conventional wisdom is that the Amazon River basin and the unique flora and fauna of its fecund rainforests—half of the remaining forest on earth—are on the brink of ecological disaster. Not necessarily so, say the authors of this combination of wonkish policy paper, astute reporting and firsthand adventure narrative, who revisited Brazil's forested middle provinces 25 years after

writing their first book, *Amazon*. Vast swaths of rainforest have indeed fallen to road development, cattle ranching, soy farming and clear-cut logging (including the decimation of mahogany trees). An estimated 3% of the forest was gone in 1980, when London and Kelly made two 100-day journeys through the Amazon. Now, 20% is gone. But there's still hope for "good things to happen," they say, as Brazil's 20-year-old democracy tries to balance economic growth with international environmental concerns. Leading sustainable rainforest development is Brazilian environment minister Marina Silva, who rose from unschooled peasant daughter of an impoverished rubber-plant tapper to win a Senate seat, then became "the most important person in the Amazon" after the 2002 election of Brazil's current president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The portrait of her humble beginnings and thoughtful activism humanizes this fact-filled, sometimes dry book. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

A chapter on Sr. Dorothy Stang and her death in the Amazon.

Lynch, Jim. 2006. *The Highest Tide*. Bloomsbury. 272 pp.

The fertile strangeness of marine tidal life becomes a subtly executed metaphor for the bewilderments of adolescence in this tender and authentic coming-of-age novel, Lynch's first. As a precocious, undersized 13-year-old living on the shore of Puget Sound, in Washington State, Miles O'Malley has developed a consuming passion for the abundant life of the tidal flats. His simple pleasure in observing is tested and complicated over the course of a remarkable summer, when he finds a giant squid, a discovery that brings him the unwelcome attention of scientists, TV reporters and a local cult. Meanwhile, Miles's remote parents are considering a divorce; his best friend, Florence, an elderly retired psychic, is dying of a degenerative disease; his sex-obsessed buddy, Phelps, mocks his science-geek knowledge; and his desperate crush on Angie Stegner, the troubled girl next door, both inspires and humiliates him. Events build toward the date of a record high tide, and Miles slowly sorts out his place in the adult world. While occasionally Lynch packs too much into a small story, this moving, unusual take on the summers of childhood conveys a contagious sense of wonder at the variety and mystery of the natural world. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

McCarthy, Cormac. 2007. *The Road*. Picador. 256 pp.

Best known for his, hailed in the San Francisco Chronicle as "an American classic to stand with the finest literary achievements of the century," Cormac McCarthy has written ten rich and often brutal novels, including the bestselling *No Country for Old Men*, and *The Road*. Profoundly dark, told in spare, searing prose, *The Road* is a post-apocalyptic masterpiece, one of the best books we've read this year, but in case you need a second (and expert) opinion, we asked [Dennis Lehane](#), author of equally rich, occasionally bleak and brutal novels, to read it and give us his take. Read his glowing review below. --*Daphne Durham*

Nolt, John. 2005. *A land imperiled : the declining health of the southern Appalachian bioregion*. University of Tennessee Press. 375 pp.

Cherokees called the magnificent mountain range in eastern Tennessee "land of the blue mist," which European settlers later changed to "Smoky Mountains." Today, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of Southern Appalachia's leading tourist attractions. But that fabled blue mist isn't so blue--or healthy--any longer. Particularly in the summer months, the "smoke" of the Smokies is a haze of sulfate particles and other pollutants released by coal-burning power plants, a mixture more likely to create dangerous ozone levels for visiting tourists than the invigorating "mountain air" so many come to seek.

It is a story common throughout Southern Appalachia, one of America's most beautiful, biologically diverse, and fragile bioregions. *A Land Imperiled* is a symptom-by-symptom look at the myriad of ecological issues threatening the health of the southern high country. Sections on air, water, plants and animals, food, energy, waste, transportation, and population and urbanization make this the most comprehensive environmental study of Southern Appalachia to date--a much-needed wake-up call for anyone concerned about the region's natural legacy.

But it is not just the future we have to worry about, the author asserts; pollution, development, and other forms of degradation are already affecting our quality of life. The excessively high ozone levels plaguing the Smokies have been connected to a host of respiratory problems, including chronic bronchitis and asthma. Once-crystal streams are green and sluggish with runoff from agricultural wastes. Over half of the South's natural forests are gone, and a mere 2 percent of the remaining forests have protected status.

The environment of Southern Appalachia is a collection of complex, interrelated systems that needs care and protection to function in full health. *A Land Imperiled* not only illustrates the many ways in which the health of this bioregion is being affected, but also provides examples of how the damage can be reversed to sustain ourselves and this natural treasure.

John Nolt, a professor of philosophy at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is the author of several books, including *Down to Earth: Toward a Philosophy of Nonviolent Living*.

Polletta, Francesca. 2004. *Freedom is an Endless Meeting: Democracy in American Social Movements*. University of Chicago Press. 294 pp.

Polletta (sociology, Columbia) considers whether, as a process in decision-making, participatory democracy can be successful in effecting social change or is doomed to fail because it lacks organizational focus and an awareness that strategizing is essential. She closely analyzes the dynamics of participatory democracy in several movements in recent American history--organized labor, pacifist groups, the Civil Rights Movement, the New Left, and groups protesting against globalization. She postulates that the primary challenges of participatory democracy have been how to "coordinate actions and programs across de-centralized units" and how to choose a group interest from among competing individual interests. Drawing on extensive interviews with activists, Polletta focuses on distinct strengths that participatory democracy can provide to social and political action groups--the gathering and evaluation of information, the development of skills in "negotiating common agendas," and the ability to look beyond immediate conflict and focus on "future battles waged in electoral institutions." Although somewhat repetitive and densely written, this generally supportive critique of participatory democracy as a decision-making process challenges both proponents and opponents to re-think their deeply held beliefs. For academic and large public libraries. *Jack Forman, San Diego Mesa Coll. Lib., CA* Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

Ryan, John C., and Alan Thein Durning. 1997. *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things*. Northwest Environment. 88 pp.

"Documenting a day in the life of the average North American consumer, *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things* deconstructs the American Dream by unraveling the hidden costs behind the objects around us. From our morning cup of Columbian coffee to our South Korean-made sneakers, the book traces the environmental impact of the consumer decisions most of us make without thinking. Authors John C. Ryan and Alan Thein Durning of Seattle's Northwest Environment Watch tell us greenhouse gases produced in making one burger are equivalent to

those emitted in a six-mile drive to the burger joint. Only occasionally verging on preachiness, this readable 88-page book is definitely worth the paper it's printed on."  
Curriculum Guide: <http://www.sightline.org/publications/books/stuff>

Stafford, Kim. 1997. *Having Everything Right: Essays of Place*. Sasquatch Books. 191 pp.

A collection of essays first published to critical acclaim in 1986, *Having Everything Right* revolves around the history, folklore, and physical beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Kim Stafford writes poetic and evocative prose as he reflects on such subjects as Indian place names, bears, and local eccentrics. An essay titled "Pine, Fir, Cedar, Yew," begins with Stafford describing his workbench, which he fashioned from scavenged boards, and slowly turns into a beautifully rendered meditation on wood. "Any table of virgin fir, any maple chair, any oak floor is a bundle of stories," Stafford writes, artfully pointing out what most of us would never take time to notice.

Wilkinson, Charles F. 2000. *Messages from Frank's Landing: A Story of Salmon, Treaties, and the Indian Way*. University of Washington Press. 118 pp.

More than a quarter of a century ago, a federal judge, George H. Boldt, affirmed the tribal fishing rights of Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, granting them 50 percent of the harvestable salmon and steelhead catch. One of the key players in the controversy surrounding that decision was Billy Frank, a Nisqually tribal leader and outspoken champion of Indian rights. Frank's Landing, where Billy Frank and his 95-year-old father lived, became the center of a battle (the famous "Fish Wars") that captivated the entire country. This account of the events leading up to Judge Boldt's decision is remarkably broad in scope, given its length (the 128 pages include 52 photographs and three maps). The authors have written a history not only of a single event but also of the fight for Native American rights in America. The combination of legal analysis and oral history (some fascinating people tell their stories) produces a balanced, thoughtful look at a subject that is as timely and important now as it was 25 years ago. *David Pitt*  
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Wolf, Naomi. 2007. *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot*. Clelsea Green Publishing. 192 pp.

This latest offering from best-selling author Wolf, *The Beauty Myth*, is a harbinger of an age that may finally see the patriarchal realm of political discourse usurped. Here is Wolf's compellingly and cogently argued political argument for civil rights, not women's rights. She contributes this call to action to a canon that from Plato and Aristotle to Hobbes and Locke and forward, with a few exceptions (e.g., Hannah Arendt), has been largely populated by men. Wolf's work is actually closer to the agitated, passionate polemics of Emma Goldman than the ponderous, philosophical musings of Arendt. Readers will appreciate her energy and urgency as she warns we are living through a dangerous "fascist shift" brought about by the Bush administration. Her chapters outline the "Ten Steps to Fascism" citing historical corollaries (as well as the pigs in Orwell's *Animal Farm*), with headings like "Invoke an External and Internal Threat," "Establish Secret Prisons," and "Target Key Individuals." In other words, fascism can exist without dictatorship. Her book's publication through a small press in Vermont that is committed to "the politics and practice of sustainable living" rather than through a large trade house is itself a political act. Highly recommended for all collections. —Theresa Kintz, Wilkes Univ., Wilkes-Barre, PA

Wolf, Edward C., Andrew P. Mitchell, and Peter K. Schoonmaker. 1995. *The Rain Forests of Home: An Atlas of People and Place*. Ecotrust, Pacific GIS, and Conservation International. Available from: <http://www.inforain.org/rainforestatlas/>

Excerpt from Forward:

People and place - indigenous cultures and an extraordinarily rich forest and marine bioregion - developed together in the coastal temperate rain forests of North America in the millennia following the most recent Ice Age. The unusual diversity and abundance of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and forest resources that characterize this bioregion supported one of the densest populations of non-agricultural peoples known anywhere on earth. Native languages proliferated and distinct cultures arose up and down the coast partly in response to the local variations in resource abundance.

The south-to-north sweep of the western industrial economy that followed settlement has diminished both indigenous cultural and ecological integrity. Languages, art, and an irreplaceable legacy of cultural knowledge of the environment have been lost as fast or faster than plant and animal species. Today both Native and non-Native coastal communities, and the ecosystems that sustain them, face new challenges. The relationship between people and place, once synergistic, is now at risk.

### **Short Prose:**

Robinson, Roxana. 2004. "A hare out of season." *The Boston Globe*. February 16, 2004.

Reflective short story on changing weather patterns, adaptation, and ecological implications..

### **Poetry:**

Mary Oliver

Biography and Book List Available at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Oliver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Oliver)

Selected Published Works:

*Blue Iris: Poems and Essays*, 2006, 75 pp.

*Long Life: Essays and Other Writings*, 2005, 101 pp.

*New and Selected Poems*, 2005, 178 pp.

*West Wind: Poems and Prose Poems*, 1998, 80 pp.

Stanly Kunitz

Biography and Book List Available at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley\\_Kunitz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Kunitz)

Selected Published Works:

*Passing Through: The Later Poems, New and Selected*, 1995

*The Wild Braid: A Poet Reflects on a Century in the Garden*, 2007

*The Poems of Stanley Kunitz, 1928-1978*, 1979

*Interviews and Encounters with Stanley Kunitz*, 1993

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Biography and Book List Available at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard\\_Manley\\_Hopkins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_Manley_Hopkins)

Selected Published Works:

*Gerard Manley Hopkins: The Major Works, 2002*

**Film:**

*The Next Industrial Revolution: William McDonough, Michael Braungart and the Birth of the Sustainable Economy.* Chris Bedford and Shelley Morhaim, directors. Bullfrog Films. 2001.

While some environmental observers predict doomsday scenarios in which a rapidly increasing human population is forced to compete for ever scarcer natural resources, Bill McDonough sees a more exciting and hopeful future. In his vision humanity takes nature itself as our guide reinventing technical enterprises to be as safe and ever-renewing as natural processes. Can't happen? It's already happening...at Nike, at Ford Motor Company, at Oberlin College, at Herman Miller Furniture, and at DesignTex...and it's part of what architect McDonough and his partner, chemist Michael Braungart, call 'The Next Industrial Revolution.' Shot in Europe and the United States, the film explores how businesses are transforming themselves to work with nature and enhance profitability.

*American Blackout.* Ian Inaba, director. Guerilla News Network. 2006.

Whatever you think you know about our election systems or Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, this film will make you question further why the news media fails to accurately inform the public. Directed by GNN's Ian Inaba, creator of Eminem's "Mosh" music video, *American Blackout* critically examines the contemporary tactics used to control our democratic process and silence voices of political dissent.

Many have heard of the alleged voting irregularities that occurred during the presidential elections of 2000 and 2004. Until now, these incidents have gone under-reported and are commonly written-off as insignificant rumors or unintentional mishaps resulting from an overburdened election system.

*American Blackout* chronicles the recurring patterns of voter disenfranchisement from Florida 2000 to Ohio 2004 while following the story of Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. McKinney not only took an active role investigating these election debacles, but has found herself in the middle of her own after publicly questioning the Bush Administration about the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Featuring: Congressional members John Conyers, John Lewis, Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, Bernie Sanders and journalists Greg Palast and Bob Fittrakis.