



Reading Materials

Developed by Susan Swetnam, Professor of English, Idaho State University (1995)

In 1995 the Idaho Humanities Council received an Exemplary Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct a special project highlighting the literature of Idaho and the Intermountain West. "Tough Paradise" explores the relationships between place and human psychology and values. Representing various periods in regional history, various cultural groups, various values, the books in this theme highlight the variety of ways that humans may respond to the challenging landscape of Idaho and the northern Intermountain West.

This document provides information about the reading materials for this theme, including a complete list of available titles, as well as book summaries and author information for each.

Complete Book List

Included below is the complete list of books which have been vetted and recommended for this theme, and which are available in inventory from the ICfL.

- *Balsamroot: A Memoir*, by Mary Clearman Blew. Published 1994, 211 pages.
- *Bloodlines: Odyssey of a Native Daughter*, by Janet Campbell Hill. Published 1993, 187 pages.
- *Buffalo Coat*, by Carol Ryrie Brink. Published 1944, 421 pages.
- *Hole in the Sky*, by William Kittridge. Published 1992, 238 pages.
- *Home Below Hell's Canyon*, by Grace Jordan. Published 1954, 243 pages.
- *Honey in the Horn*, by H.L. Davis. Published 1935, 380 pages.
- *Housekeeping*, by Marilynne Robinson. Published 1980, 219 pages.
- *Journal of a Trapper*, by Osborne Russell. Published 1955, 191 pages.
- *Letters of a Woman Homesteader*, by Elinore Pruitt Stewart. Published 1913, 282 pages.
- *Lives of the Saints in Southeast Idaho*, by Susan H. Swetnam. Published 1991, 152 pages.
- *Lochsa Road*, by Kim Strafford. Published 1991, 84 pages.
- *Myths of the Idaho Indians*, by Deward Walker. Published 1980, 197 pages.
- *Passages West: Nineteen Stories of Youth and Identity*, edited by Hugh Nichols. Published, 405 pages.
- *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*, by Terry Tempest Williams. Published 1991, 304 pages.
- *Sheep May Safely Graze*, by Louie Attebery. Published 1992, 128 pages.
- *Stories That Make the World*, by Rodney Frey. Published 1995, 264 pages.



- *Stump Ranch Pioneer*, by Nelle Portrey Davis. Published 1942, 245 pages.
- *Sweet Promised Land*, by Robert Laxalt. Published 1957, 176 pages.
- *Thousand Pieces of Gold: A Biographical Novel*, by Ruthanne Lum McCumm. Published 1981, 308 pages.
- *Unsettled Territory*, by Leslie Leek. Publisher 2012, 164 pages.
- *We Sagebrush Folk*, by Annie Pike Greenwood. Published 1934, 483 pages.
- *Where the Morning Light's Still Blue: Personal Essays About Idaho*, edited by William Studebaker and Rick Ardinger. Published 1994, 200 pages.

Book Summaries & Author Information

Included below are the detailed summaries of each book available for this theme, as well as background information about the author.

Balsamroot: A Memoir, by Mary Clearman Blew. Published 1994, 211 pages.

In this memoir, Mary Clearman Blew traces the interlocked lives of three generations of women in the same family: Mary Blew (who now lives in Moscow, Idaho), her Aunt Imogene and mother Doris (who grew up on a failed Montana homestead), and her daughters Elizabeth and Rachel. After a life of apparent independent happiness, "Auntie" comes to live near Blew and soon begins to decline, bringing Blew to explore past lives of women in her family and to face her own longings and her own assumptions about what makes a woman's life satisfying and full.

Author Information

Mary Clearman Blew grew up on a small cattle ranch in Montana, on the site of her great-grandfather's 1882 homestead. Her memoir *All But the Waltz: Essays on a Montana Family*, won a Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, as did her short story collection, *Runaway*. A novel, *Jackalope Dreams*, appeared in 2008 and won the Western Heritage Center's prize for fiction. Other awards include the Mahan Award for contributions to Montana literature, the Idaho Humanities Council's 2001 Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities, a Handcart Award for Biography, and the Western Literature Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2004, she received the "Distinguished Achievement Award" from the Western Literature Association. She is Professor of Emerita at the University of Idaho, where she has taught since 1994.





Bloodlines: Odyssey of a Native Daughter, by Janet Campbell Hill. Published 1993, 187 pages.

Janet Campbell Hale's collection of autobiographical essays reflects on her youth as a member of a poor, troubled Indian family and on connections between her own identity and Indian culture and history. Lyrical, angry, caught up in the process of writing and self-creation, Hale explores what it means to her to be an Indian in contemporary America.

Although an occasional concern appeared regarding matters of historical accuracy, reviews of *Bloodlines* were almost unanimously enthusiastic. "A remarkable tale of fortitude," wrote Donna Seaman of what she described as "eight brooding but brave essays." Sherry L. Smith, writing in *Journal of American History*, called it "a depressing book," but also "an important book," and while she pointed out a historical error, she stressed that *Bloodlines* is not primarily history, but "a forceful, intensely personal statement of an Indian woman's attempt to reconcile a difficult past with an ambiguous future." *Bloodlines* won an American Book Award in 1994.

Author Information

Janet Campbell Hale, born in 1947, is a member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe. She dropped out of high school at fifteen, her efforts at finishing school having been disrupted by her transient family. She married at age 18, had a son, and was divorced within year. As a struggling single mother, she attended City College of San Francisco and earned her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1970 she married Stephen Dinsmore Hale and gave birth to their daughter. She received her M.A. in English from UC Davis in 1984 and the following year published her highly acclaimed novel, *The Jailing of Cecelia Capture*. She has taught at colleges and universities as a writer-in-residence and visiting professor, including appointments as the Richard Thompson Lecturer at Iowa State University in Ames in 1986, the Claremont Lecturer at College of Illinois in Springfield in 1995, and the Visiting Professor of Native America Literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1998. She has published several books of poems, short fiction, several works for children, and two novels. She currently lives in the reservation town of De Smet, Idaho.



Buffalo Coat, by Carol Ryrie Brink. Published 1944, 421 pages.

Buffalo Coat is Carol Ryrie Brink's novelized account of events in Moscow, Idaho, around the turn of the century. Brink's work details the yearning lives of women and men who feel not quite in tune with their town's spirit, as it traces the rivalries of several town doctors and their visions of life. It poses man as the instigator against women as the sustainer. While men build to deify themselves, the women work together to provide the basic necessities to all as the need arises. When year after year typhoid cuts a deadly swath through the community, a water and sewer system is proposed to the voters. The main character, a doctor, opposes it because the idea came from a rival doctor and the tax liability on his extensive real estate holdings would prove burdensome. A young woman, barely out of high school, takes up the cause and campaigns to all who will listen. The women of the community, not yet allowed to vote, succeed in influencing the male population to do the right thing and eradicate the deadly disease. Historic fiction of this kind seeks to instruct and enlighten in a subtle fashion as it entertains. The deeper issues facing society become the scenery surrounding the characters as they waltz through their lives. It has an added depth because it has roots in the lives and experiences of real people recently and intimately known to the author.

Author Information

Carol Ryrie Brink (1895-1981) was born in Moscow, Idaho, the child of one of the families whose history is adapted in Buffalo Coat. An author of many children's books, including the Newbery Medal-winning Caddie Woodlawn, she also wrote an Idaho trilogy for adults, Buffalo Coat, Strangers in the Forest, and Snow in the River. After the deaths of both her father and her mother, she was raised by a grandmother who shared her love of storytelling with her. She received her B.A. Degree in 1918 from the University of California-Berkeley, then married her longtime friend, University of Idaho math professor Raymond Brink. They lived for forty years in Minnesota and had one son and one daughter. According to her biographer, Mary Reed, Carol Brink "stroved to live in a way that would not harm others, to never waste a day, and to make the most of her life."

Hole in the Sky, by William Kittredge. Published 1992, 238 pages.

Hole in the Sky traces the life of William Kittredge. As a child, Kittredge grew up on his family's Warner Valley ranch in the southeastern Oregon desert country, and he felt deep connections to the land and to the cowboys who worked it. As he aged, life became more complicated, as the tensions and dissolutions within his family, new ideas about land use, and his own struggles to come to terms with himself.



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Author Information

William Kittredge was born in Portland, Oregon, on August 14, 1932. His family ranched in the Warner Valley in Southeastern Oregon on the ranch his grandfather built and his father gave up law school to work on. He earned a degree in general agriculture from Oregon State University in 1954 and a M.F.A. from the University of Iowa Writers Workshop in 1969. He held a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University, has been awarded National Endowment for the Arts grants, and the Fiction International Award for two collections of short stories. He is also the recipient of the Montana Governor's Award for Literature, the Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Award for Excellence, and the Neil Simon Award for his work on the film Heartland.

Home Below Hell's Canyon, by Grace Jordan. Published 1954, 243 pages.

This is an autobiographical account by Grace Jordan, describing the Jordan family's life on a remote sheep ranch in the 1930's in the Snake River Canyon south of Lewiston. With hard work, determination to live a simple, family-centered life, common sense, and good humor, family members adapt to and come to love their new, tough environment and discover strengths in themselves they never knew existed.

Author Information

Jordan was born in Wasco, Oregon, on April 16, 1892, the daughter of a country doctor and a school teacher. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in English from the University of Oregon. Grace Jordan worked as a journalist and taught writing at the Universities of Oregon and Washington. She married Len B. Jordan in 1924; he became Governor of Idaho in 1951. Jordan was a consistent free-lance journalist, created poetry, and wrote books based in Idaho, capturing the culture and history of the Idaho landscape.

Honey in the Horn, by H.L. Davis. Published 1935, 380 pages.

This Pulitzer Prize winning novel by H. L. Davis tells of the lives of Oregon pioneers. With realistic and colorful detail and rough humor, the work describes the quirky individuality and essential isolation of various frontier types of men and women, as it describes the search for a suspected murderer and the yearning relationship between a young man and a nomadic horse seller's daughter. The book offended a lot of Oregonians; Davis left Oregon but continued to write about the land he knew.





Author Information

H. L. Davis was born in Yoncalla, Oregon, in 1896 and died in 1960. The son of a school teacher, he held many odd jobs as a youngster and later briefly attended Stanford University in 1916-17. He joined the U.S. Cavalry and served at the Mexican border before settling into writing poetry and short stories.

Housekeeping, by Marilynne Robinson. Published 1982, 219 pages.

Marilynne Robinson's best-selling novel tells the story of two girls orphaned when their mother drives a car off a hill into Lake Fingerbone. The girls move into their grandmother's house where the grandmother, and upon her death, two great aunts, try to shelter the girls and assemble an ordinary life for them out of the daily tasks of housekeeping and the taken-for-granted connections among relatives. But when the great aunts also die, the girls are left in the care of, Sylvie, their mother's transient sister. Sylvie's world means random meals, leaves blowing through the littered rooms of the once orderly house, the parlor filled with heaps of tin cans and old paper. Without a traditional family structure for stability, the girls try to keep their balance between Sylvie's world and the more conventional world of the small community of Fingerbone. Close at first, each sister must finally make her individual choice between those worlds, "outside" or "inside." Robinson makes us understand loneliness, wildness, and the impermanence of both relationships and material objects. Yet she also shows us that these qualities, usually seen as wholly negative, have their own beauty and value. Sylvie and Ruth, the central characters, take their dangerous night walk across the railroad trestle above Lake Fingerbone, an act of courage and delicate balance, into their chosen home, a world stripped down to its essentials of change and motion.

Author Information

Marilynne Robinson, who lives in Massachusetts, spent childhood summers with her grandparents in Coeur d'Alene and received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. This 1982 novel, her first, won the Ernest Hemingway Foundation award and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Journal of a Trapper, by Osborne Russell. Published 1955, 191 pages.

Journal of a Trapper recounts Osborne Russell's travels in southeastern Idaho, northern Utah, and western Wyoming between 1834 and 1843 as a trapper with Nathaniel Wyeth, Jim Bridger, and independently. With an observant, "factual" eye colored by the assumptions of his calling, Russell





records what the country was like before Eastern settlers arrived: its geography and difficulty of travel, its plants and animals, its weather, its native people.

Author Information

Osborne Russell was born in Maine in 1814 and came west with Nathaniel Wyeth's company in 1834. He signed on with Jim Bridger in late 1835 and kept a journal of his life as a trapper into 1843, when he left the Rockies for the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Although his formal schooling was slight, he appears to have read a good bit both in scientific subjects and literature, and he studied law once he got to Oregon, where he became a judge. He spent nine years roaming the northern Intermountain West in search of game. He left the life of a mountain man to settle in Oregon, where he briefly held public office, then went to California in 1849 in search of gold. He never married. Russell fell out with his family around 1855, partly over the publication of his journal, which did not occur in his lifetime (not until 1955, in fact). His health was impaired following an explosion that cost him sight of one eye. He died in 1892 at age 78.

Letters of a Woman Homesteader, by Elinore Pruitt Stewart. Published 1913, 282 pages.

Elinore Pruitt Stewart's letters were written over a five-year period to her former employer. She gives us, in her letters, the life of an "ordinary" woman. While her descriptions of nature and friends and work and food are sensory and ebullient, her prose might best be termed reticent when she is discussing marriage and childbirth. This reticence is common in frontier journals of women. For example, it is a full 3 ½ years after the beginning of her correspondence with Mrs. Coney when Stewart finally confides in her that she has been married for most of that time. The reader senses this reticence, a form of modesty, on Stewart's part, and it gives suspense and piquancy to the reading experience. The weaving together in Stewart's letters of ebullience and reticence, joy and sorrow, optimism and perseverance, makes modern life seem bland indeed.

Author Information

Stewart was born in 1876 in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and raised in Oklahoma. She taught herself to read and write, never being the beneficiary of formal schooling. An orphan at a young age, she raised eight younger siblings. Her marriage to a civil engineer brought her to Kansas; she was widowed four years later, when Jerrine, her daughter, was a month old. The two embarked on an impoverished and nomadic existence, which ultimately yielded this rich and poignant volume of letters. Stewart died in 1933, after a long and happy second marriage and a successful career as rancher.



Lives of the Saints in Southeast Idaho, by Susan H. Swetnam. Published 1991, 152 pages.

Lives of the Saints in Southeast Idaho: An Introduction to Mormon Pioneer Life Story Writing is a study of the ways that Mormons tell the life stories of their pioneer experiences in biographies and autobiographies—what they emphasize and omit and organize, how they interpret events, what sort of language they choose. Using many extended direct quotes from an archive of over 6000 pages of original written material by LDS writers, it argues that not only do the works present rich insights into a particular culture in a particular place, but they also deserve to be more widely known because of the enjoyable reading they provide.

Author Information

Susan H. Swetnam is a retired Professor of English from Idaho State University. She has lived in Idaho since 1979 and is a freelance essayist in addition to her publications in Intermountain West studies. Her book *Books, Bluster and Bounty* was selected as the Idaho Library Association Book of the Year for 2012.

Lochsa Road, by Kim Stafford. Published 1991, 84 pages.

Lochsa Road is a series of linked reflections/narratives, describing Kim Stafford's journey alone at a restless, dark point in his life over Lolo Pass, through Montana, and into Wyoming and Idaho. As he travels, Stafford is open to the whims of road experience, connects to the land he travels, and is spiritually reawakened along his "pilgrimage."

Author Information

Kim Stafford grew up in Oregon, Iowa, Indiana, California, and Alaska, following his parents as they taught and traveled through the West. He has taught ethnographic and environmental writing for many years and has won a Western States Book Award for his work, *Having Everything Right*. He directs the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark State College. He serves as the Literary Executor for the William Stafford Archive, helping readers and publishers to increase public access to William Stafford's writing. He has worked as an oral historian, letterpress printer, editor, photographer, teacher, and visiting writer at a host of small towns in the Pacific Northwest and at colleges in New York, California, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.





Myths of the Idaho Indians, edited by Deward Walker. Published 1980, 197 pages.

Myths of the Idaho Indians is a collection, in prose and narrative form, of stories of the Kutneai, the Kalispel, the Coeur d'Alene, the Nez Perce, the Shoshone, and the Northern Paiute. These stories were originally gathered by ethnologists, anthropologists, and historians and include myths of creation, of coyote tricksters, of birth and death, and of justice. They suggest the rich spiritual and aesthetic life of the tribes.

Author Information

Deward Walker, Jr., Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has published several books on Indian culture in the Intermountain West.

Passages West: Nineteen Stories of Youth and Identity, edited by Hugh Nichols. Published, 405 pages.

Passages West, edited by Hugh Nichols, is an anthology of nineteen short stories about coming of age in the West. Selections by writers including Ivan Doig, Norman Maclean, Wallace Stegner, Mary Clearman Blew, and Vardis Fisher chronicle the anxieties and joys of young people searching for identity in a distinctive landscape.

Author Information

Hugh Nichols, from 1971 to 1999, was Professor of English and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston. He has written about H. L. David, Norman Maclean, Dorothy Johnson, and other Western writers.

Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place, by Terry Tempest Williams. Published 1991, 304 pages.

This is an autobiographical account which chronicles a disruptive period in the life of author Terry Tempest Williams. In 1983, several sources of stability and inspiration for Williams were shaken when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and her beloved Bear River Bird Refuge was threatened by the rising waters of the Great Salt Lake. Critical of less-than-sensitive responses to the land, Williams finds her own peace as she comes to embrace continuity in change, both in the land of her LDS ancestors and in rhythms of her family and her own life. She closes the book from a position of strength, confronting a tradition of acceptance which she now recognizes has various qualities.





Author Information

Terry Tempest Williams was born in 1955 and grew up within sight of the Great Salt Lake. Her writing reflects her intimate relationship with the natural world. She is author of several books, has served as Naturalist-in-Residence at the Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City, and as Shirley Sutton Thomas Visiting Professor of English at the University of Utah. Her books include *Pieces of a White Shell*, which won the Southwest Book Award; *Coyote's Canyon*, a collection of personal narratives of Utah's desert canyons; *An Unspoken Hunger*; and *Desert Quartet*. Ms. Williams has received a Lannan Literary Fellowship in creative nonfiction along with a Guggenheim Fellowship for 1997.

Sheep May Safely Graze, by Louie Attebery. Published 1992, 128 pages.

Sheep May Safely Graze is a nonfiction account of the work of one third-generation Idaho sheep ranching family. In chronicling the family's traditions and describing the contemporary context in which the family operates, folklorist Louie Attebery addresses larger questions about the continuity and survival of family traditions and provides a vivid account of a vanishing way of life.

Author Information

Louie Attebery is Professor Emeritus at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. An Idaho native, he was an associate editor of *Northwest Folklore* and has many publications on Idaho folklore and literature. He has won the Idaho Library Association medal for the best book on an Idaho subject and the Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities Award from the Idaho Humanities Council.

Stories That Make the World, by Rodney Frey. Published 1995, 264 pages.

Stories That Make the World: An Introduction to the Oral Literature and Storytelling of the Indian Peoples of the Inland Northwest blends commentary about the traditions and contexts of oral storytelling with poetic transcriptions of tales told by Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, Crow, Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille elders. Arguing that oral literature must be understood in terms of its cultural functions and its communal performance, Rodney Frey's book explores and richly illustrates the "aesthetic and spiritual" truth of the stories it contains, while providing some poetic and linguistic guidelines for interpreting such texts.

Author Information





Rodney Frey is an anthropologist who teaches for Lewis-Clark State College and directs the college's Panhandle Area Programs in Coeur d'Alene. He has done research and published articles and books on the Indian peoples of Montana and Idaho and has worked with public schools since 1974.

Stump Ranch Pioneer, by Nelle Portrey Davis. Published 1942, 245 pages.

Stump Ranch Pioneer is an autobiographical account by Nelle Portrey Davis that chronicles how Davis and her family acquired land in the Idaho panhandle in 1936 after their ranch in eastern Colorado failed in the dustbowl. The book is full of optimism about the value of hard work and simple, homey life, and about Americans' ability to be self-sufficient and neighborly in the face of Depression-era hardship.

Author Information

Nelle Portrey Davis was born in Sidney, Nebraska, in 1901. She became an active freelance writer for home and women's magazines and a wife and mother. *Stump Ranch Pioneer* was written at the request of the New York publisher Dodd, Mead, and Company after a sketch about the ranch appeared in the New York Times Magazine. Davis lived in northern Idaho and eastern Washington until her death in 1986.

Sweet Promised Land, by Robert Laxalt. Published 1957, 176 pages.

Sweet Promised Land is a memoir describing Basque immigrant Dominique Laxalt's journey, accompanied by his son, back to his homeland after almost fifty years. As the elder Laxalt revisits the scenes of his youth and speaks with relatives about his hard life in America as a sheepherder, he comes to recognize that the northern Nevada high desert has become his true home.

Author Information

Robert Laxalt, born in 1923 to a sheepherder father and a teacher mother in Alturas, California, is a long-time scholar of Basque history and culture. He has published novels, articles, and nonfiction books about Basques and about Nevada.





Thousand Pieces of Gold: A Biographical Novel, by Ruthanne Lum McCumm. Published 1981, 308 pages.

Thousand Pieces of Gold is a fictionalized account of the life of Polly Bemis, an enslaved Chinese girl brought to the Warren mining district of Idaho in the late 19th century. Describing anti-Chinese prejudice in Idaho, the novel also brings to life Polly's courage, hard work, and indomitable spirit as she adapts to life and to love in her new homeland. Polly was born in northern China, but famine forced her father to sell her into slavery. She was first sold to a brothel and then to a slave merchant bound for America, and later auctioned to a saloonkeeper. She eventually married a saloonkeeper and miner and struggled for respect and dignity in the early American West.

Author Information

RuthAnne Lum McCunn was born in 1946, a Eurasian of Chinese and Scottish descent, in San Francisco's Chinatown. She grew up in Hong Kong, where she was educated first in Chinese and then British schools. In 1962 she returned to the U.S. to attend college. Her award-winning books have been translated into eight languages. A former teacher, she currently resides in San Francisco and lectures extensively at universities and community organizations.

Unsettled Territory, by Leslie Leek. Publisher 2012, 164 pages.

Unsettled Territory is a collection of twelve stories by Leslie Leek, set in the central and eastern Idaho landscape and its rural towns. The stories, most of them told from a female protagonist, introduce readers to a cast of eccentric, rugged Idahoans--the father helping his daughter find a lost horse, a troubled fly fisherman, two women caught in a bar fight, the intricacies of Merle Haggard's lyrics. Leek's stories offer up the often lonely and complicated hearts of those living in desolate spaces, places offering great beauty and vast distances to the next town. These stories explore a uniquely central and eastern Idaho perspective of what it means to be human, to belong, to be loved, all deeply rooted in the landscape of the Idaho outback.

Author Information

Leslie Leek was born in Idaho and raised in Dubois and McCammon. She is the author of two short story anthologies: *Western Woman* and *Unsettled Territories*. She is the chief creative talent acquisitions director of the Rocky Mountain Writers Festival, which has been going strong for over 25 years. Her stories center largely on landscape and women and take place in Idaho's rural and wild backcountry.





We Sagebrush Folk, by Annie Pike Greenwood. Published 1934, 483 pages.

Annie Pike Greenwood, an educated, cultivated woman, fell in love with the mountains and the light when her family moved to a Carey Act farm on the Twin Falls North Side Project. She was less charmed, though, by the adverse effects of the frontier, especially on women, and *We Sagebrush Folks* frankly tells, sometimes wryly, sometimes with anger, of the costs that hard work, poverty, and distance could exact on human beings.

Author Information

Annie Pike Greenwood, who grew up as a “gentile” doctor’s daughter in Utah, taught in a one-room school and helped her husband farm until the family lost its land in 1924. She then taught at Idaho Technical Institute in Pocatello and contributed articles to periodicals including the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Colliers*. She died in 1958.

Where the Morning Light’s Still Blue: Personal Essays About Idaho, edited by William Studebaker and Rick Ardinger. Published 1994, 200 pages.

Where the Morning Light’s Still Blue: Personal Essays About Idaho is a collection of thirty-five contemporary essays, edited by William Studebaker and Rick Ardinger, which catch a variety of responses and attitudes to the Idaho landscape. Writers from around the state describe their relationships to very particular places and chronicle their inspiration, frustration, love, and sometimes wry reactions. Quite varied in tone and style, the essays chronicle the diversity of writers’ voices working in Idaho today.

Author Information

William Studebaker, born in Salmon, Idaho, teaches at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls and is a noted poet, as well as the author of short stories, articles, and books.

Rick Ardinger, Assistant Director of the Idaho Humanities Council, is the editor of several anthologies and publisher of Limberlost Press.

