

This resource list was assembled to help you research and develop exhibitions and programming around the themes of the **Water/ Ways** exhibition. Work with your local library or bookstore to host book clubs, discussion programs or other learning opportunities in conjunction with the exhibition, or develop a display with books on the subject. This list is not meant to be exhaustive or even all-encompassing – it will simply get you started. A quick search of the library card catalogue or internet will reveal numerous titles and lists compiled by experts, backyard scientists and beachcombers alike. You will also find blogs, chat groups and author interviews, etc. All titles should be readily available unless otherwise specified.

Adult Fiction

Jonis Agee. *The River Wife: A Novel.* Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint Edition, 2008. 432 pages.

The River Wife features interwoven narratives of two women living in the same house along the river over 100 years apart. One story begins in the early 1800s with Annie Lark marrying a strong, brooding fur trader, Jacques Ducharme, and she lives out her life as his “River Wife”. In the 1930s, Hedio Rails married Clement Ducharme, a decedent of Annie’s husband and they begin their life in the very house Jacques built for Annie. Hedio discovers Annie’s haunting journals, and beings to read about Annie’s family life, which directly impacts her own.

Richard Bach (Author), Russell Munson (Photographer). *Jonathan Livingston Seagull: the Complete Edition,* Scribner; Reissue edition, 2014. 144 pages.

Set on the water and beach, this is the story for people who follow their hearts and make their own rules...people who get special pleasure out of doing something well, even if only for themselves...people who know there’s more to this living than meets the eye: they’ll be right there with Jonathan, flying higher and faster than they ever dreamed. A pioneering work that wed graphics with words, Jonathan *Livingston Seagull* now enjoys a whole new life.

Jimmy Buffett. *Tales from Margaritaville: Fictional Facts and Factual Fictions.* Mariner Books, 2007. 264 pages.

Writer, singer, songwriter, entrepreneur, Buffett is a creative and colorful storyteller. His books are hard to classify as the title here suggests – *fictional facts and factual fictions*. Fiction? Non-fiction? *Tales from Margaritaville* is a collection of short stories vividly packed with restless dreamers, wild wanderers and gypsy souls - just reading it is a wild adventure. Travel along with cowboy Tully Mars, and relive the autobiographical odyssey of a third generation sailor and musical outlaw. With unforgettable stories this book presents the true roamer’s twin loves – the sea and the road. Any of Buffett’s books including his philosophical *A Looks at Fifty* will provide ample fodder for fun adult book discussions. Buffett and daughter Savannah Jane Buffett along with illustrator Lambert Davis also write charming and colorful children’s books.

Willa Cather. *Oh, Pioneers*. Dover Publications; Dover Thrift Editions, 1993. 123 pages.

Written in 1913, this was first in Cather's "Great Plains" trilogy. Set on the Nebraska prairie where Willa Cather (1873–1947) grew up, this powerful early novel tells the story of the young Alexandra Bergson, whose dying father leaves her in charge of the family and of the lands they have struggled to farm. In Alexandra's long flight to survive and succeed, *O Pioneers!* relates an important chapter in the history of the American frontier and the harsh grandeur of the prairie. The interaction of her characters, Willa Cather compares with keen insight the experiences of Swedish, French, and Bohemian immigrants in the United States. And in her absorbing narrative, she displays the virtuoso storytelling skills that have made her one of the most admired masters of the American novel.

Agatha Christie. *And Then There Were None*. Mass Market Paperbacks, 2011. 320 pages.

Water, islands and weather play an enormous role in many mysteries. In this classic 1939 novel, ten people are lured into coming to an island under different pretexts, e.g. offers of employment or to enjoy a late summer holiday, or to meet with old friends. All have been complicit in the death(s) of other human beings but either escaped justice or committed an act that was not subject to legal sanction. The guests are charged with their respective "crimes" by a gramophone recording after dinner the first night and informed that they have been brought to the island to pay for their actions. They are the only people on the island, and cannot escape due to the distance from the mainland and the inclement weather, yet gradually all ten are killed in turn, in a manner that seems to parallel the ten deaths in the nursery rhyme.

Tom Clancy. *Hunt for Red October*. Mass Market Paperbacks, reprint. 2010. 656 pages.

Author Tom Clancy (1947 – 2013) was an American novelist best known for his technically detailed espionage and military science storylines set during and after the Cold War. Seventeen of his novels were bestsellers, and more than 100 million copies of his books are in print. Many were major motion pictures. This runaway best-seller was originally published in 1984 and is the first of the Jack Ryan series. Soviets create a new nuclear submarine that runs silent due to a revolutionary propulsion system. A Russian sub captain defects with the goal of taking it to the U.S.A. to prevent the Russians from using the sub to wreak nuclear (missile) war against the U.S.

Joseph Conrad. *Heart of Darkness*. Edited by Paul B. Armstrong. W. W. Norton & Company, 2005. 536 pages.

This timeless classic, written in 1902, is considered by many to be Conrad's most mysterious and finest work. A sailor named Marlow journeys along the Congo River to meet Kurtz, a ruthless ivory trader. Both repelled and fascinated by this man, Marlow is brought face to face with the corruption and despair that Conrad saw at the heart of human existence. Although the book has colonial and racist overtones, the powerful narrative and symbolic imagery makes *Heart of Darkness* as a modern landmark in fiction.

Pat Conroy. *Prince of Tides*. Mass Market, 1987. 688 pages.

Pat Conroy created a huge, brash thunderstorm of a novel, stinging with honesty and resounding with drama. Spanning forty years, this is the story of turbulent Tom Wingo, his gifted and troubled twin sister, Savannah, and their struggle to triumph over the dark and tragic legacy of the extraordinary family into which they were born. The power and

custom of the vanishing beauty of the South Carolina Low Country, as well as the dusty glitter of New York City, figures prominently in the story. The book was also a powerful motion picture of the same title.

James Dickey. *Deliverance*. Delta; Reprint edition, 1994. 288 pages.

The setting is the Georgia wilderness, where the state's most remote white-water river awaits. In the thundering froth of that river four Atlanta city-slicker males on a canoe trip discover a freedom and exhilaration beyond compare. And then, in a moment of horror, the adventure turns into a struggle for survival. The encounter not only makes the four battle their way out of the valley alive and intact, but threatens the relationships of the four men. It is also a 1972 motion picture.

Edna Ferber and Foster Hirsch. *Show Boat: Vintage Movie Classics*. Vintage; Reprint edition, 2014.

Showboat, originally published in the 1920's by Ferber, focuses on three generations of women aboard a Mississippi River Show Boat. This book was later adapted as a musical version for the Broadway stage and Hollywood. The story is about America as much as it is about the post-Civil War South. "The Cotton Blossom" is a floating theater that travels the waterways, most notably the mighty Mississippi. The story concerns three generations of women with the matriarch, Patrthenia Hawks, an up-tight New Englander who disapproves of her husband's purchase of a show boat and involvement of her family with actors, particularly her daughter and grand-daughter.

C. S. Forester. *The African Queen*. Back Bay Books, Reprint Edition. 1984. 256 pages.

C. S. Forester is best remembered for his Horatio Hornblower sea adventures (See YA book list); his novel is mostly forgotten in lieu of the popular 1951 film by John Huston. First published in 1935, C.S. Forester's classic romantic adventure is a tale of opposites attracted. Allnut and Rose, a disreputable Cockney and an English unmarried missionary, wend their way down a river in Central Africa in a rickety, asthmatic steam launch, and are gradually joined together in a mission of retaliation against the Germans. Fighting time, heat, malaria and bullets, the two have a dramatic rapprochement before the explosive ending of the book. This tale of unlikely love is thrilling and funny and ultimately satisfying.

Ernest Hemingway. *The Old Man and the Sea*. Scribner, Reissue edition, 1995. 128 pages.

Old Man of the Sea is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Here Hemingway recasts, in strikingly contemporary style, the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed his power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Garrison Keillor. *Lake Wobegon Days*. Penguin Books, Reissue edition, 1990. 352 pages.

Lake Wobegon Days is a novel by Garrison Keillor, first published in hardcover by Viking in 1985 and first in a series of Lake Wobegon novellas. Based on material from his radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, the book brought Keillor's work to a much wider audience and achieved international success. The work is a humorous account of life in fictitious Lake Wobegon, Minnesota, a heartland small town. Its early chapters are written in the form and style of a history of the town and later ones chronicle the lives, concerns, and activities of its inhabitants, with intergenerational tensions and

relationships forming a major theme. Like some of Keillor's other books, it is unusual in that it could be said that the audiobook preceded the publication in written form. Book readers should not miss Keiller's audio version in his own soothing storytelling voice.

Yann Martel. *Life of Pi*. Mariner Books, 2003. 326pages.

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth." After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional--but is it more true?

James A. Michener. *Chesapeake*. Fawcett, 1986. 1024 pages.

In this classic novel, James A. Michener brings his grand epic tradition to bear on the four-hundred-year saga of America's Eastern Shore, from its Native American roots to the modern age. In the early 1600s, young Edmund Steed is desperate to escape religious persecution in England. After joining Captain John Smith on a harrowing journey across the Atlantic, Steed makes a life for himself in the New World, establishing a remarkable dynasty that parallels the emergence of America. Through the extraordinary tale of one man's dream, Michener tells intertwining stories of family and national heritage, introducing us along the way to Quakers, pirates, planters, slaves, abolitionists, and notorious politicians, all making their way through American history in the common pursuit of freedom.

James Michener. *Hawaii*. Random House; Reprint edition, 2002. 937 pages.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author James A. Michener brings Hawaii's epic history vividly to life in a classic saga that has captivated readers since its initial publication in 1959. As the volcanic Hawaiian Islands sprout from the ocean floor, the land remains untouched for centuries—until, little more than a thousand years ago, Polynesian seafarers make the perilous journey across the Pacific, flourishing in this tropical paradise according to their ancient traditions. Then, in the early nineteenth century, American missionaries arrive, bringing with them a new creed and a new way of life. Based on exhaustive research and told in Michener's immersive prose, *Hawaii* is the story of disparate peoples struggling to keep their identity, live in harmony, and, ultimately, join together.

Herman Melville. *Moby Dick*. Edition Unstated edition. Wordsworth Editions Ltd, 1999. 544 pages.

In this timeless American classic, Captain Ahab is on a quest to take revenge on the whale that damaged his leg. The quest is an obsession and the novel is a diabolical study of how a man becomes a fanatic. But it is also a hymn to democracy. Bent as the crew is on Ahab's appalling crusade, it is equally the image of a co-operative community at work: all hands dependent on all hands, each individual responsible for the security of each. Among the crew is Ishmael, the novel's narrator, ordinary sailor, and extraordinary storyteller.

Sena Jeter Naslund. *Ahab's Wife*. William Morrow Paperbacks, 2005. 668 pages.

From the opening line—"Captain Ahab was neither my first husband nor my last"—you will know that you are in the hands of a master storyteller and in the company of a fascinating woman hero. Inspired by a brief passage in *Moby-Dick*, Sena Jeter Naslund has created an enthralling and compellingly readable saga, spanning a rich, eventful, and dramatic life. At once a family drama, a romantic adventure, and a portrait of a real and loving marriage, *Ahab's Wife* gives new perspective on the American experience.

Patrick O'Brian. *Master and Commander*. W.W. Norton, 1990. 441 pages.

The Aubrey–Maturin series is a sequence of nautical historical novels—20 completed and one unfinished—by Patrick O'Brian, set during the Napoleonic Wars and centering on the friendship between Captain Jack Aubrey of the Royal Navy and his ship's surgeon Stephen Maturin, a physician, natural philosopher, and intelligence agent. The first novel, *Master and Commander*, was published in 1969 and the last finished novel in 1999. The 21st novel of the series, left unfinished at O'Brian's death in 2000, appeared in print in late 2004. Also a major motion picture.

Ernest Thompson. *On Golden Pond*. Dramatist Play series, 1998. 73 pages.

The loons are back again on Golden Pond and so are Norman Thayer, a retired professor, and Ethel who have had a summer cottage there since early in their marriage. This summer their daughter Chelsea -- whom they haven't seen for years -- feels she must be there for Norman's birthday. She and her fiancé are on their way to Europe the next day but will be back in a couple of weeks to pick up the fiancé's son. When she returns Chelsea is married and her stepson has the relationship with her father that she always wanted. Will father and daughter be able to communicate at last? Also a motion picture by the same title.

Mark Twain. *Life on the Mississippi*. Signet Classics, Reprint edition 2009. 400 pages.

Memoir of the steamboat era on the Mississippi River before the American Civil War by Mark Twain, published in 1883. The book begins with a brief history of the river from its discovery by Hernando de Soto in 1541. Chapters 4-22 describe Twain's career as a Mississippi steamboat pilot, the fulfillment of a childhood dream. The second half of *Life on the Mississippi* tells of Twain's return, many years after, to travel the river from St. Louis to New Orleans. By then the competition from railroads had made steamboats passé, in spite of improvements in navigation and boat construction. Twain sees new, large cities on the river, and records his observations on greed, gullibility, tragedy, and bad architecture.

Andy Weir. *Martian*. Broadway Books; Reprint edition, 2014.. 387 pages.

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills—and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Much like any castaway story at sea, this is a fight for survival against the odds. Particularly timely with new discoveries and discussion of the possibility of water once on Mars. A major motion picture released in 2015 by the same title.

Richard Wright. *Uncle Tom's Children*. Harper Perennial Modern Classic; Reprint edition, 2008. 336 pages.

Set in the American Deep South, each of the powerful novellas collected here concerns an aspect of the lives of black people in the post-slavery era, exploring their resistance to white racism and oppression. One story involves a tragedy after boys go swimming, and another involves a river flooding.

Adult Nonfiction

Caroline Alexander. *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*. Knopf, 1998. 224 pages.

Drawing upon previously unavailable sources, Caroline Alexander gives us a riveting account of Shackleton's expedition--one of history's greatest epics of survival. And she presents the astonishing work of Frank Hurley, the Australian photographer whose visual record of the adventure has never before been published comprehensively. The survival of Hurley's remarkable images is scarcely less miraculous: the original glass plate negatives were stored in hermetically sealed canisters that survived months on the ice floes, a week in an open boat, and several more months buried in the snows of a rocky outcrop called Elephant Island. When Hurley was forced to abandon his professional equipment; he captured some of the most unforgettable images of the struggle with a pocket camera and three rolls of Kodak film. Together, text and image re-create the terrible beauty of Antarctica, the awful destruction of the ship, and the crew's heroic daily struggle to stay alive, a miracle achieved largely through Shackleton's inspiring leadership. Published in conjunction with the American Museum of Natural History's landmark exhibition on Shackleton's journey in 1990.

Olof Alexandersson. *Living Water: Viktor Schauberger and the Secrets of Natural Energy*. Gill & MacMillan, 2nd Limited Edition, 2002. 162 pages.

This is the story of a pioneering Austrian naturalist and iconoclast who pointed the way to a completely new understanding of the vast potential of natural energy. By studying fish in streams and by closely observing the natural water cycle, Viktor Schauberger (1885-1958) was able to solve basic problems of energy transformation. He saw that modern man, without realizing it, was destroying the earth and sabotaging his own culture by working against Nature. As an inventor Schauberger developed a number of ingenious machines which would revolutionize farming, horticulture, forestry, aircraft propulsion and he developed water purification systems, and showed how air and water could be harnessed as fuels for many machines.

Nathaniel Altman. *Sacred Water: The Spiritual Source of Life*. Hiddenspring, 2002. 304 pages.

Drawing from a variety of religious teachings, anthropological evidence, and myths and legends of the world's cultures and religions, the author shows the vital role water plays in all aspects of our spiritual lives, as an element of sustenance, cleansing, initiation, healing, gaining wisdom, and enchantment, inviting readers to reclaim their inner connection to the sacredness of water, and inspiring them to appreciate, honor, and protect the waters of the world.

Cindy S. Aron. *Work at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States*. Oxford University Press. 1999. 324 pages.

This book offers a full-length history of how Americans have vacationed – from eighteenth century planters summering in Newport to twentieth-century urban workers who headed to camps in the hills. Aron chronicles how early on vacations were taken for health reasons more than fun as the wealthy traveled to watering places, seeking cures for everything from consumption to rheumatism. She charts how the growth of the white-collar middle-class and the expansion of railroads made vacationing a mainstream activity. As resorts became centers of competitive sports, hiking and boating the notion of the dangers of idleness and leisure sparked self-improvement vacations and religious camps. The twentieth century also gave rise to vacation spots and resorts crossing boundaries of race and class. No matter where in the country you reside this book will shed light on how work and rest reflect your landscape and culture. Well-chosen quotes, anecdotes and period photographs will help you explore your local archives to tell your vacation stories.

Robert D. Ballard. *The Discovery of the Titanic*. Grand Central Publishing; Updated edition, 1995. 288 pages.

A firsthand account of the author's twelve-year quest to find the sunken luxury liner (1985) is illustrated with dozens of photographs and includes moment-by-moment accounts of the tragedy and the successful discovery expedition. Ballard's exciting quest weaves together scientific exploration and the historical data on the drama of the sinking.

Robert D. Ballard and Michael Sweeney. *Return to Titanic*. National Geographic, 2004. 192 pages.

Almost twenty years after making the world's most famous underwater discovery, Ballard returns to Titanic with hi-tech cameras and robots to provide the clearest, most dramatic images ever seen. This compelling fully-illustrated book is a journey back in time to the tragic sinking of the luxury liner in 1912; the present salvaging and natural deterioration of the wreck; and a blueprint for future conservation of this icon. By documenting what has become of the world's best-known ship, torn apart by salvagers over the last 2 decades, Ballard pronounces a new and vital conservation ethos - that future such wrecks must be preserved as historical monuments.

Cynthia Barnett. *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*. Beacon Press, 2012. 296 pages.

Americans see water as abundant and cheap. We use more water than any other culture in the world, much to quench what's now our largest crop – the lawn. Yet most Americans cannot name the river or aquifer that flows to our taps, irrigates our food, or produces our electricity. *Blue Revolution* exposes the truth about the water crisis. Journalist Cynthia Barnett argues that the best solution to water shortages is also the simplest and least expensive: a water ethic for America. Barnett traces American water use and how a traditional view that encourages us to tap more and more can be modified. Just as the green movement helped build awareness about energy and sustainability, the blue movement hopes to reconnect Americans to their water.

Cynthia Barrett. *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History*. Crown. 2015. 368 pages.

Journalist Cynthia Barrett continues her fascination in water (*Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of Eastern U.S.* (2008), *Blue Revolution* (2012)) with *Rain*, the first book to tell the story of the subject of countless poems and paintings; top of the weather report; and the source of the world's water. Rain begins four billion years ago with the torrents that filled the oceans, and continues to today's storms of climate change. Barrett's fascinating story weaves together science, the human story of our ambition to control rain and water; rain's inspiration to art, religion, ritual and even pop culture. Historical accounts such as "founding forecaster" Thomas Jefferson, who measured every drizzle long before modern meteorology; biblical, literary and poetic passages; and insight into world culture promise an interesting read in its own rite but will also spark countless programming ideas and lists of resources for educators.

John M. Barry. *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*. 1st Touchstone Ed edition. Simon & Schuster, 1998. 528 pages.

An American epic of science, politics, race, honor, high society, and the Mississippi River, *Rising Tide* tells the riveting and nearly forgotten story of the greatest natural disaster this country has ever known -- the Mississippi flood of 1927. The flood covered a huge amount of land and the river inundated the homes of nearly one million people, helped elect Huey Long governor and made Herbert Hoover president, drove hundreds of thousands of blacks north, and transformed American society and politics (including laying the foundation of the New Deal) forever.

Alick Bartholomew. *The Spiritual Life of Water: Its Power and Purpose*. Park Street Press; Original Edition, 2010. 368 pages.

Author Bartholomew was part of the editorial team that published Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and founded Turnstone Press, publisher of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* in 1972. Here he has pulled together a whole and holistic view of our dwindling water supply. He explores water's sacred uses, its role in our bodies and environment, and the latest scientific studies to reveal that water is a conscious organism that is self-creating and self-organizing. The book includes stunning photographs and takes into consideration the research of water visionaries such as Viktor Schauberger, Mae-Wan Ho, and Masaru Emoto.

Peter L. Bernstein. *Wedding of the Water: The Erie Canal and Making of a Great Nation*. W.W. Norton & Company; Reprint edition, 2006. 448 pages.

The building of the Erie Canal, like the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Panama Canal, is one of the greatest and most riveting stories of American ingenuity. Best-selling author Peter Bernstein presents the story of the canal's construction against the larger tableau of America in the first quarter-century of the 1800s. Featuring a rich cast of characters, including not only political visionaries like Washington, Jefferson, van Buren, and the architect's most powerful champion, Governor DeWitt Clinton, but also a huge platoon of Irish diggers as well as the canal's first travelers, *Wedding of the Waters* reveals that the twenty-first-century themes of urbanization, economic growth, and globalization can all be traced to the first great macro-engineering venture of American history. 20 illustrations.

W. Jeffery Bolster. *Blackjack: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail.* Harvard University Press, Reprint edition: 1998. 352 pages.

Few Americans, black or white, recognize the degree to which early African American history is a maritime story. Seafaring was one of the most significant occupations among both enslaved and free black men between 1740 and 1865. Tens of thousands of black seamen sailed on lofty clippers and modest coasters. They sailed in whalers, warships, and privateers. Some were slaves, forced to work at sea, but by 1800 most were free men, seeking liberty and economic opportunity aboard ship.

Douglas Brinkley. *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf.* HarperCollins, 2007. 768 pages.

While there are numerous books, accounts and memories of floods in many communities across the country, Hurricane Katrina and the devastation of the Gulf is fresh and vivid in the minds of most Americans thanks to wall-to-wall media coverage. Historian Douglas Brinkley chronicles the span of five violent hours on August 9, 2005 when Hurricane Katrina destroyed major Gulf Coast cities and flattened 150 miles of coastline. But that was only the first stage of a shocking triple tragedy. On the heels of one of the strongest hurricanes ever to make landfall in the United States came the storm-surge flooding, which submerged a half-million homes - followed by the human tragedy of government mismanagement, which proved as cruel as the natural disaster today.

Daniel James Brown. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.* Reprint edition. Penguin Books, 2014. 416 pages.

Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, this intimate account of the experience of the University of Washington crew team at the 1936 Olympics recounts how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler.

Rachel Carson and Sue Hubbell. *The Edge of the Sea.* Mariner Books; Reprint edition, 1998. 304 pages.

Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring* (1962) which exposed the detrimental effects of the indiscriminate use of pesticides on the environment, brought her environmental concerns to the American public beginning in the late 1950's. Here in *The Edge of the Sea*, originally published in 1955, Carson introduces the complex and delicate ecosystem of the shoreline of the Eastern Seaboard. Here the sea meets land and is teeming with plant and animal life. She describes how the shoreline provides rich examples of the dramatic process of evolution.

Rachel Carson, Jeffrey S. Levinton, and Ann H. Zwinger. *The Sea Around Us.* Oxford University Press; Special Edition. 1991. 288 pages.

Published in 1951, *The Sea Around Us* is one of the most remarkably successful books ever written about the natural world. Carson's rare ability to combine scientific insight and moving prose kept the book on the *New York Times* best-selling list for more than a year and a half and inspired an Academy Award-winning documentary. Rachel Carson traces the history of water from when the earth began to cool through scientific research and discoveries on water in her era. A new chapter in the Special Edition introduces a

whole new generation to this classic work and brings the scientific side completely up to date. The book is a timely reminder both the fragility and the importance of the ocean and its sea life.

James C. Cobb. *The Most Southern Place on Earth: The Mississippi Delta and the Roots of Regional Identity.* Oxford University Press; Reprint edition, 1994. 416 pages.

This crescent of bottomlands between Memphis and Vicksburg, lined by the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers, remains in some ways what it was in 1860: a land of rich soil, wealthy planters, and desperate poverty--the blackest and poorest counties in all the South. And yet it is a cultural treasure house as well--the home of Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Charley Pride, Walker Percy, Elizabeth Spencer, and Shelby Foote. Painting a fascinating portrait of the development and survival of the Mississippi Delta, a society and economy that is often seen as the most extreme in all the South, James C. Cobb offers a comprehensive history of the Delta, from its first white settlement in the 1820s to the present. A great conversation starter to begin comparisons with other regional cultures.

Jacques Cousteau. *Silent World.* National Geographic; Reprint edition, 2004. 192 pages.

Jacques Cousteau (1910-1997) introduced Americans to the wonders of the sea through his "must-see-TV" beginning in the late 1960s. Prior to that Cousteau was better known as an engineer and inventor of scuba. Here Cousteau chronicles his early days of underwater adventure in *Silent World*—a memoir that was an instant, international bestseller upon its publication in 1954. This 2004 50th anniversary edition allows readers to once again travel under the sea with Cousteau during the turbulent years of World War II. Cousteau's under sea adventures are available on DVD.

Jacques Cousteau and Susan Schiefelbein. *The Human, the Orchid, and the Octopus: Exploring and Conserving Our Natural World.* Bloomsbury USA, 2007. 320 pages.

Cousteau discovered firsthand the complexity and beauty of life on earth and undersea--and watched the toll taken by human activity in the twentieth century. Cousteau describes his deeply informed philosophy about protecting our world for future generations. Weaving gripping stories of his adventures throughout, he and co-author Susan Schiefelbein address the risks we take with human health, the overfishing and sacking of the world's oceans, the hazards of nuclear proliferation, and the environmental responsibility of scientists, politicians, and people of faith. Collaborator Schiefelbein provides an update on environmental developments in the decade since Cousteau's death.

Richard Henry Dana. *Two Years before the Mast.* CreateSpace, 2008. 190 pages.

Two Years before the Mast is a book by the American author Richard Henry Dana, Jr., written after a two-year sea voyage starting in 1834 and published in 1840. While at Harvard College, Dana had an attack of the measles which affected his vision. Thinking it might help his sight, Dana, rather than going on a Grand Tour as most of his fellow classmates traditionally did (and unable to afford it anyway) and being something of a non-conformist, left Harvard to enlist as a common sailor on a voyage around Cape Horn on the brig Pilgrim. He returned to Massachusetts two years later aboard the Alert (which left California sooner than the Pilgrim). He kept a diary throughout the voyage, and, after returning, he wrote a recognized American classic, *Two Years Before the Mast*, published in 1840, the same year of his admission to the bar.

Olaudah Equiano. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano.* Bedford/St. Martins, 1789. 256 pages

Olaudah Equiano's autobiography reveals aspects of the Western world during the 1700s. Widely admired for its accounts of the slave trade, Equiano's work is the first slave narrative to gain a significant readership. Although it is largely a description of his time spent in enslavement, the autobiography is also considered a travel narrative, as well as a spiritual narrative.

Robert Glennon. *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to do About It.* Island Press, 2010. 432 pages.

Among a number of current books on our impending water crisis, Glennon captures the irony and tragedy of America's water crisis. He explores the extravagances and everyday inefficiencies that affect water supplies and argues that the full ramifications of an impending water crisis is hidden as water supplies are moved and redirected from one area to another. The author warns that shortages will threaten not only the environment, but every aspect of American life: shuttered power plants and jobless workers, decimated fisheries and contaminated drinking water. He proposes market-based solutions that value water as both a commodity and a fundamental human right. Glennon is also author of *Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters* (Island Press, 2004. 328 pages) which uses a series of case studies to reveal the complex nature of water use in modern America and it covers the legal, environmental, and other conflicts that result from the increased use of groundwater.

Stephen Grace. *Dam Nation: How Water Shaped The West And Will Determine Its Future.* Globe Pequot Press; First Edition, 2013. 360 pages.

Dam Nation looks first to the past, to the stories of the California gold rush and the earliest attempts by men to shape the landscape and tame it, takes us to the "Great American Desert" and the settlement of the west under the theory that "rain follows the plow," and then takes on the ongoing legal and moral battles in the West today. Western cities are growing, water supply is dwindling and scientists agree the West is heating up and drying-out and future water shortages are building.

Lisa Greenlaw. *The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey.* Hyperion Books, 2000. 265 pages.

Millions of readers and movie goers know Lisa Greenlaw as the captain of the Hannah Boden, sister ship of the fated Andrea Gail in the book and film *The Perfect Storm*. She came to be known as one of the best sea captains on the East Coast. Like *The Perfect Storm*, Greenlaw's accounts of adventure, and strength chronicles not only her success but courage in a male dominated dangerous professions.

Lisa Greenlaw. *The Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island.* Hyperion Books, 2003. 239 pages.

After 17 years at sea as a swordboat captain, Lisa Greenlaw decided it was time to take a break and move back home to a tiny island seven miles off the Maine coast. Here, she would pursue a simpler life as a lobsterman, find a husband, and settle down. Greenlaw proves again that fisherman are the best storytellers. This book is filled with nautical detail and the dramas of small-town life.

Thor Heyerdahl. *Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific in a Raft*. Simon & Schuster, 1990. 256 pages
Heyerdahl's (1914 – 2002) astonishing three-month, 4,300 nautical miles voyage across the Pacific is chronicled in *Kon-Tiki*. Intrigued by Polynesian folklore, biologist Heyerdahl suspected that the South Sea Islands had been settled by an ancient culture from thousands of miles to the east. On April 28, 1947, Heyerdahl and five other adventurers sailed from Peru on a balsa log raft. After three months on the open sea, encountering raging storms, whales, and sharks, they sighted land—the Polynesian island of Puka Puka. Translated in sixty-five languages, *Kon-Tiki* is a classic inspiring tale of courage—a magnificent saga of men against the sea. The story is also a major motion picture by the same title (2012).

Laura Hillenbrand. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. Random House Trade Paperbacks. Reprint edition, 2014. 528 pages.

A *New York Times* bestseller and a major motion picture author Laura Hillenbrand (Seabiscuit) brings readers another powerful story of achievement against the odds. In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering an exceptional talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. A major motion picture soon to be on DVD.

Christine Jerome. *An Adirondack Passage: The Cruise of the Canoe Sairy Gamp*.

Breakway Books, 3rd Edition, 2013. 256 pages.

One of many beloved stories with young and old of the Adirondack Mountains, Christine Jerome decides to repeat the 266-mile Adirondack canoe journey of George Washington Sears (pen name "Nessmuk"), a famous adventure and nature writer for the popular magazine *Forest and Stream* in the late nineteenth century (also of note, Sears' *Canoeing the Adirondacks with Nessmuk: The Adirondack Letter of George Washington Sears*, Adirondack Museum/Syracuse University Press, 1993, originally published 1962). Part of what made his 1883 journey remarkable was the length of his canoe—a mere nine feet. The "Sairy Gamp" was the lightest of cockleshells, but could navigate rough lakes and stony rapids. Sears could heave it over his head and portage it between lakes for miles. So Jerome has a similar canoe built for herself, and sets off to see what has changed and what has remained on the water trail through the mountains. The result is a classic of canoe literature: a beautiful paean to journeying silently in light craft. She conjures up Teddy Roosevelt, the Whitneys and Vanderbilts, as well as old hermits and eccentrics. An unforgettable account of traveling by canoe, and traveling back in time.

Sebastian Junger. *The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2009. 248 pages.

In 1991 a Halloween gale hit North America's eastern seaboard. It was the storm of the century, boasting waves over one hundred feet high, a tempest created by so rare a combination of factors that meteorologists deemed it the "perfect storm". Junger explores the history of the fishing industry, the science of storms, and the candid

accounts of the people whose lives the storm touched. This illustrated real-thriller makes the reader feel like they themselves were caught, helpless, in the grip of nature beyond understanding or control. See film list for film by the same title.

Mark Kurlansky. *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World.* Penguin Books, 2010. 294 pages.

Reviewers called it “a charming fish tale.” This is a biography of a single species of fish and also a world history, told through the story of cod. From the Vikings on it focuses on the different cultures that have consumed cod over the centuries, and how it sustained people and communities. A 1999 James Beard Award winner, this is a great conversation starter for history enthusiasts and foodies alike.

Mark Kurlansky. *The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell.* Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2007. 336 pages.

Similar in many ways to his book *Cod*, reviewers called this book by Kurlansky “a pearl of a book.” Here he tells the remarkable story of New York by following the trajectory of one of its most fascinating inhabitants—the oyster. For centuries New York was famous for this particular shellfish, which until the early 1900s played such a dominant a role in the city’s life that the abundant bivalves were Gotham’s most celebrated export, a staple food for all classes, and a natural filtration system for the city’s congested waterways. This too is a culinary delight with its historic recipes.

Alfred Lansing. *Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage.* Basic Books, 2015. 357 pages.

In 1914, days before the outbreak of WWI, the renowned explorer Ernest Shackleton (1874 – 1920) and a crew of twenty-seven set sail for the South Atlantic in pursuit of the last unclaimed prize in the history of exploration: the first crossing on foot of the Antarctic continent. The astonishing saga of the polar explorer’s survival for over a year on the ice-bound Antarctic seas, as *Time* magazine put it, “defined heroism”. First published in 1959, Lansing’s carefully researched and brilliantly narrated book has long been acknowledge, along with Sir Shackleton’s own account, *South: the Endurance* (first published in 1919), the Endurance’s fateful trip. To write the authoritative story, Lansing consulted with ten of the surviving members and gained access to diaries and personal accounts by eight others. The resulting book has all the immediacy of a first-hand account, expanded with maps and illustrations for this edition.

Marc Levinson. *The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger.* Princeton University Press, 2008. 400 pages.

Published on the fiftieth anniversary of the first container voyage, *The Box* tells the story of the container’s creation, how it was adopted, and the economic consequences of the fall in transportation costs that containerization brought about. Levinson’s work highlights how the container and the shipping industry developed from an oil tanker voyaging across bodies of water and became the source of the boom in global trade.

Aldo Leopold. *A Sand County Almanac.* Ballantine Books, Reprint edition, 1986. 320 pages.

Originally published in 1949, Aldo Leopold wrote about the land around his home in Sauk County, Wisconsin, advocating for what he considered a “land ethic,” or a responsible relationship between people and the land they inhabit and bodies of water included therein. The book discusses the monthly changes of the Wisconsin countryside and the philosophical issues involved in wildlife conservation. It also included pieces written by the author over a forty-year period while traveling through the woodlands of Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, Sonora, Oregon, Manitoba, and more.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh. *Gift from the Sea*. Pantheon. 1991. 144 pages.

The sea and beach are elements that are woven into a number of reflective and inspirational writings. First published in 1955, this graceful, lucid, lyrical book remains a timeless classic. Here Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1909 -2001) shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea. Drawing inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to both men and women at any stage of life. A mother of five, an acclaimed writer, a pioneering aviator, and wife of the famed pilot Charles Lindbergh, she casts an unsentimental eye with great wisdom on the shifting shapes of relationships and marriage. This groundbreaking, best-selling work continues to be discovered by new generations of readers. Also find her other sea inspired writings.

Bernard Mergen. *Weather Matters: An American Cultural History since 1990*. University Press of Kansas; 1st Edition, 2008. 408 pages.

Weather. We all share it and talk about it. Bernard Mergen's captivating and kaleidoscopic book illuminates our inevitable obsession with weather—as both physical reality and evocative metaphor—in all of its myriad forms, focusing on the ways in which it is perceived, feared, embraced, managed, and even marketed. From the roaring winds atop Mount Washington to the reflective calm of the poet's lair, he takes a long-overdue look at public response to weather in art, literature, and the media. In the process, he reveals the cross-pollination of ideas and perceptions about weather across many fields, including science, government, education, and consumer culture. Everybody talks about it—and why not? From tornadoes in the Heartland to hurricanes in the Gulf, blizzards in the Midwest to droughts across the South, weather matters to Americans and makes a difference in their daily lives.

David McCullough. *The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge*. Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition, 1983. 562 pages.

The theme of bridges and boundaries figures prominently in the exhibition's narrative. Nothing is more dramatic and enthralling than the story of the building of the iconic Brooklyn Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge at the time, a tale of greed, corruption, and obstruction but also of optimism, heroism, and determination. Told by master historian David McCullough, this monumental book is the enthralling story of one of the greatest events in our nation's history, during the Age of Optimism—a period when Americans were convinced that all things were possible. In the years around 1870, when the project was first undertaken, the concept of building an unprecedented bridge to span the East River between the great cities of Manhattan and Brooklyn required a vision and determination comparable to that which went into the building of the great cathedrals. Throughout the fourteen years of its construction bodies were crushed and broken, lives lost, political empires fell, and surges of public emotion constantly threatened the project. This is not merely the saga of an engineering miracle; it is a sweeping narrative of the social climate of the time and of the heroes and rascals who had a hand in either constructing or exploiting the enterprise.

David McCullough. *The Johnstown Flood: The Incredible Story Behind One of the Most Devastating Disasters America Has Ever Seen*. Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition, 1987. 304 pages.

The stunning story of one of America's great disasters, a preventable tragedy of Gilded Age America, brilliantly told by master historian David McCullough. At the end of the

nineteenth century, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was a booming coal-and-steel town filled with hardworking families striving for a piece of the nation's burgeoning industrial prosperity. In the mountains above Johnstown, an old earth dam had been hastily rebuilt to create a lake for an exclusive summer resort patronized by the tycoons of that same industrial prosperity, among them Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and Andrew Mellon. Despite repeated warnings of possible danger, nothing was done about the dam. Then came May 31, 1889, when the dam burst, sending a wall of water thundering down the mountain, smashing through Johnstown, and killing more than 2,000 people. It was a tragedy that became a national scandal. The Johnstown Flood is an absorbing, classic portrait of life in nineteenth-century America, of overweening confidence, of energy, and of tragedy.

Thomas McGuane. *The Longest Silence: A Life in Fishing*. Vintage, 2001. 304 pages.

Anyone with a passion; a sport, a hobby, will have a favorite book or film that mirrors and gives insight onto their enthusiasm. This book contains thirty-three essays from the author on fishing in different countries and eras. *The Longest Silence*, takes us from the tarpon of Florida to the salmon of Iceland, from the bonefish of Mexico to the trout of Montana. It brings the history, the philosophy and character of the angler. The book set the heart pounding glimpse of moving water and demonstrates what dedication the sport reveals about life.

Elizabeth R. McKinsey. *Niagara Falls: Icon of the American Sublime*. Cambridge University Press; First Edition edition. 1985. 367 pages.

In this fascinating study, Beth McKinsey has chronicled the changing image of Niagara Falls, analyzing the shifts in sensibility that produced different responses to the great cataract from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. She examines the evolving role of the Falls as the very meaning of the sublime moved away from its roots in eighteenth-century English aesthetics: from a natural, to a moral, to a technological basis. At the same time, the author describes the growing commercial trade.

Dale L. Morgan. *The Great Salt Lake*. University of Utah Press, 2002. 442 pages.

After the passage of nearly a half-century, this book remains both one of the most informative and readable general histories of Utah yet written and a tribute to the brilliance of its author, the late Dale Morgan (1914-71). Approached as history, geography, geology, or high adventure, *The Great Salt Lake* is fascinating reading. From the first Americans, through mountain men, religious empires, railroads, and resorts, the remnant of ancient Lake Bonneville has been a nexus for human history, uniting a haunting beauty with raw desolation.

Nathaniel Philbrick. *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*. Penguin Books, Reissue Edition. 2001. 302 pages.

The ordeal of the whaleship Essex was an event as mythic in the nineteenth century as the sinking of the Titanic was in the twentieth. In 1918 the Essex left Nantucket for the South Pacific with twenty crew members aboard. In the middle of the South Pacific the ship was rammed and sunk by an angry sperm whale. The crew drifted for more than ninety days in three tiny whale boats, succumbing to weather, hunger, disease and turning to drastic measures in the fight for survival. Philbrick uses little-known documents including a long-lost account written by the ship's cabin-boy. The book includes revealing details about whaling and the Nantucket community to reveal the chilling events surrounding the epic maritime disaster. This is a 2015 major motion picture.

Marcus Rediker. *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom.* Penguin Books; Reprint edition, 2013. 320 pages.

In this powerful and highly original account, Marcus Rediker reclaims the Amistad rebellion for its true proponents: the enslaved Africans, Mende tribesmen, who risked death to stake a claim for freedom. Using newly discovered evidence and featuring vividly drawn portraits of the rebels, their captors, and their abolitionist allies, Rediker reframes the story to show how a small group of courageous men fought and won an epic battle against Spanish and American slaveholders and their governments. The successful Amistad rebellion changed the very nature of the struggle against slavery. As a handful of self-emancipated Africans steered their own course for freedom, they opened a way for millions to follow. . This edition includes a new epilogue about the author's trip to Sierra Leona to search for Lomboko, the slave-trading factory where the Amistad Africans were incarcerated, and other relics and connections to the Amistad rebellion, especially living local memory of the uprising and the people who made it. Amistad is a 1997 major motion picture directed by Steven Spielberg, based on the 1839 mutiny aboard the slave ship La Amistad.

Marcus Rediker. *The Slave Ship: A Human Story.* Penguin Books; Reprint Edition, 2008. 448 pages.

In this widely praised history of an infamous institution, award-winning scholar Marcus Rediker shines a light into the darkest corners of the British and American slave ships of the eighteenth century. Drawing on thirty years of research in maritime archives, court records, diaries, and firsthand accounts, *The Slave Ship* is riveting and sobering in its revelations, reconstructing in chilling detail a world nearly lost to history: the floating dungeons at the forefront of the birth of African American culture.

Marc Reisner. *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water.* Penguin, 1993. 608 pages.

The struggle to discover and control water in the American West has a long history with an all too contemporary refrain. It is a tale of rivers diverted and damned, political corruption and intrigue, billion-dollar battles over water rights, and economic and ecological disaster.

Henry David Thoreau. *Walden.* CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013. 206 pages.

Walden is just one of many of Thoreau (1817 – 1862) and other Transcendentalist writings inspired by nature. The book details Thoreau's experiences over the course of two years (July 1845- September 1847) in a cabin he built near Walden Pond, in woodland owned by his friend and mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson, near Concord, Massachusetts. Walden is in part a personal declaration of independence, social experiment, spiritual discovery, satire and manual for self-reliance. In this experiment he hoped to isolate himself from society to gain a more objective understanding of it. He did not intend to live as a hermit but to live simply and more self-sufficient, a central theme of the American Romantic Period and Transcendentalist Movement. The book sold well and was a moderate success when published in 1854 and it continues to delight and inspire generations. The site is open to the public for summer bathing, hiking, with a visitor center and bookstore and replica of his cabin. Visit www.massparks.org. Other nature and water inspired Thoreau writings include *Cape Cod* (1865), his classic account of meditative beach-combing reflecting on the elements of the sea.

Robert M. Thorson. *Beyond Walden: The Hidden History of American Kettle Lakes and Ponds*. Walker Books, 2009. 320 pages.

This book will be delightful reading (preferably by a favorite lake) for anyone who heads 'to the lake' every summer and will provide knowledge and nostalgia for great discussion for lake and kettle pond-side communities. Kettle lakes are depressions formed by meltdown of glacial ice and filled with freshwater tapping the groundwater table and are unlike other kinds of lakes that have significant inlet or outlet streams. Geologist Robert Thorson's enthusiasm shines through as he takes the reader through a ten thousand year stroll using personal experience, literary references and the history of American popular culture - "going up to the lake" - to explore the geology, ecology, and cultural history of kettle lakes from Maine to Montana. The book is a rich, exhaustive account of one of America's threatened ecological jewels.

Biloine Whiting Young. *River Of Conflict, River Of Dreams: Three Hundred Years On The Upper Mississippi*. Pogo Press, 2004. 320 pages.

This book is a history of the early Upper Mississippi as the major highway into America's Midwest frontier for Native Americans and for pioneers. Birchbark canoes, romantic passenger steamboats, log rafts, and grain barges all traveled the river. The commercial life of the Mississippi ended with the coming of the railroad. Dams and locks then constricted the river, bringing floods and dumping refuse and sewage into the water. Ignored and abused, the river was disregarded by communities for over a century. Today the Mississippi River is in the midst of a renaissance. Now, with the water clean enough to swim in, environmentalists and developers use the river thoughtfully. No longer shunning this water lifeline, communities are returning to its banks for housing, recreation and pleasure.