

jean craighead george my side of the mountain

Jean Craighead George My Side of the Mountain: A Timeless Journey into Wilderness Survival

jean craighead george my side of the mountain is more than just a classic children's novel; it's an inspiring tale of adventure, self-reliance, and the profound connection between humans and nature. Since its publication in 1959, this beloved story has captivated readers of all ages, encouraging young minds to explore the wild and appreciate the beauty and challenges of living off the land. In this article, we'll delve deep into the world of Jean Craighead George's iconic work, exploring its themes, impact, and why it remains a pivotal piece in children's literature.

The Essence of Jean Craighead George My Side of the Mountain

At its heart, **Jean Craighead George My Side of the Mountain** tells the story of Sam Gribbley, a young boy who leaves the hustle and bustle of New York City to live alone in the Catskill Mountains. Armed with courage, curiosity, and a keen sense of adventure, Sam embarks on a journey to survive in the wilderness, relying solely on his knowledge of nature and survival skills.

What makes this novel truly stand out is George's vivid storytelling and deep respect for the natural world. She doesn't just narrate Sam's adventure; she educates readers about flora, fauna, and survival tactics, blending fiction with practical lessons in ecology and self-sufficiency.

The Plot That Captivates Generations

The story begins with Sam's decision to escape the confines of city life. He finds a hollowed-out tree to make his home, learns how to fish and hunt, and even trains a falcon named Frightful. Throughout the novel, readers witness Sam's resourcefulness as he navigates challenges such as harsh weather, loneliness, and finding food.

This narrative offers a powerful message about independence and resilience. It encourages readers to think critically about their relationship with nature and the environment, sparking a sense of adventure and respect for the wilderness.

The Impact on Children's Literature and Outdoor Education

Jean Craighead George's work has had a lasting influence on children's literature, particularly in the genre of nature writing and survival stories. **My Side of the Mountain** is often credited with inspiring a generation of young readers to explore the outdoors and develop an interest in environmental conservation.

Encouraging Environmental Awareness

One of the most remarkable aspects of **Jean Craighead George My Side of the Mountain** is its seamless integration of environmental education into storytelling. Sam's experiences highlight the importance of understanding ecosystems, respecting wildlife, and living sustainably. This approach has made the book a favorite among educators who use it to introduce children to ecology and conservation principles.

Promoting Self-Reliance and Problem-Solving Skills

Beyond environmental themes, the novel emphasizes critical life skills such as problem-solving, adaptability, and perseverance. Sam's ability to build shelter, forage for food, and even make clothing from natural materials provides readers with practical knowledge and inspires them to think creatively when faced with challenges.

Exploring the Real-Life Inspirations Behind the Story

Jean Craighead George's passion for nature and outdoor adventure was deeply rooted in her own experiences. She grew up in a family of naturalists and writers, which greatly influenced her storytelling style and choice of themes.

A Family Legacy of Nature Writing

Her father, Ernest T. George, was a well-known naturalist, and Jean herself was an avid outdoorswoman and wildlife enthusiast. This background enriched the authenticity of her writing, allowing her to craft vivid descriptions and accurate depictions of wildlife behavior and natural habitats.

Authenticity in Survival Techniques

Many survival techniques described in **My Side of the Mountain** were based on real practices and research. Readers can find detailed accounts of how to build a fire, trap animals, and identify edible plants, making the book not only entertaining but also educational.

Why Jean Craighead George My Side of the Mountain Still Resonates Today

Despite being published over six decades ago, the themes and lessons of **My Side of the Mountain** remain relevant. In today's world, where digital screens often dominate childhood experiences, this story serves as a refreshing reminder of the joys and challenges of unplugging and immersing oneself in nature.

A Call to Disconnect and Reconnect

Many readers find inspiration in Sam's choice to live simply and harmoniously with the environment. His journey encourages a mindset shift toward appreciating the outdoors, promoting mental well-being, and fostering a sense of responsibility for protecting natural spaces.

Inspiration for Modern Survival and Nature Enthusiasts

For those interested in bushcraft, survival skills, or simply spending more time outdoors, Jean Craighead George's narrative offers timeless wisdom. It sparks curiosity and confidence, showing that with knowledge and determination, one can thrive even in the wilderness.

Tips and Insights Inspired by My Side of the Mountain

If **Jean Craighead George My Side of the Mountain** has inspired you or a young reader in your life, here are some practical tips to engage further with the themes of the book:

- **Start a Nature Journal:** Like Sam, keep a record of your outdoor

observations. Note different plants, animals, and weather patterns to deepen your connection with nature.

- **Learn Basic Survival Skills:** Try simple activities such as building a small fire safely, identifying edible plants, or practicing knot-tying to build confidence and preparedness.
- **Explore Local Parks and Trails:** Spend time in natural settings close to home. Observing wildlife and ecosystems firsthand enriches understanding and appreciation.
- **Read More Nature and Survival Books:** Expand your knowledge with other classics and modern works that explore outdoor adventures and environmental themes.
- **Practice Sustainable Living:** Incorporate small eco-friendly habits into daily life, such as reducing waste and conserving water, inspired by Sam's harmonious relationship with his environment.

Jean Craighead George's masterpiece continues to inspire readers to seek adventure, respect the natural world, and develop self-reliance. Whether you're revisiting the book or discovering it for the first time, there is always something new to learn from Sam Gibley's remarkable journey in *My Side of the Mountain*. It reminds us all that sometimes, the greatest adventures are found not in faraway lands but in the simple act of stepping outside and embracing the wilderness around us.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'My Side of the Mountain'?

The author of 'My Side of the Mountain' is Jean Craighead George.

What is the main theme of 'My Side of the Mountain'?

The main theme of 'My Side of the Mountain' is self-reliance and survival in nature.

What is the plot of 'My Side of the Mountain'?

'My Side of the Mountain' follows a young boy named Sam Gibley who runs away from his New York City home to live in the Catskill Mountains, where he learns to survive on his own.

Why is 'My Side of the Mountain' considered a classic children's book?

'My Side of the Mountain' is considered a classic because of its timeless themes of adventure, independence, and a deep connection with nature.

What skills does Sam learn in 'My Side of the Mountain'?

Sam learns various skills such as building a shelter, finding food, fishing, and making fire in 'My Side of the Mountain'.

Has 'My Side of the Mountain' won any awards?

Yes, 'My Side of the Mountain' won the Newbery Honor in 1960.

Is 'My Side of the Mountain' suitable for children?

'My Side of the Mountain' is suitable for middle-grade readers, typically ages 8 to 12, and is enjoyed by children who like adventure and nature stories.

Additional Resources

****Exploring the Wilderness Through Jean Craighead George's My Side of the Mountain****

jean craighead george my side of the mountain stands as a seminal work in children's literature, offering an immersive glimpse into the relationship between humans and nature. Since its publication in 1959, this novel has captivated readers with its authentic portrayal of survival, self-reliance, and the wilderness experience. Jean Craighead George, renowned for her environmental and wildlife-themed works, crafts a narrative that is both educational and inspirational, making **My Side of the Mountain** a lasting favorite among young readers and educators alike.

An In-Depth Analysis of Jean Craighead George's My Side of the Mountain

At its core, **My Side of the Mountain** chronicles the journey of Sam Gribbley, a young boy who leaves his urban home in New York City to live independently in the Catskill Mountains. Jean Craighead George's narrative captures the essence of adventure and the challenges inherent in living off the land. The novel's appeal lies not only in its adventurous plot but also in its meticulous attention to detail regarding survival skills and natural history.

George's background as a naturalist profoundly influences her writing, and this is evident in the vivid descriptions of flora and fauna throughout the book. Readers gain insight into how Sam builds a shelter, forages for food, and even trains a falcon named Frightful, highlighting the interplay between humans and the environment. The author's ability to blend storytelling with ecological education makes this novel a valuable resource for fostering environmental awareness.

Thematic Exploration: Independence and Self-Reliance

One of the central themes in **My Side of the Mountain** is the quest for independence. Sam's decision to abandon the comforts of city life and embrace the uncertainties of wilderness living is a profound exploration of self-reliance. Jean Craighead George presents this theme through the character's practical problem-solving skills and emotional resilience.

The novel does not romanticize wilderness survival; instead, it realistically portrays the hardships and loneliness that accompany such a lifestyle. This balanced depiction encourages readers to appreciate both the beauty and the challenges of nature. The protagonist's growth from a naïve boy to a competent and confident young man underscores the transformative power of facing adversity head-on.

Educational Value and Environmental Awareness

Jean Craighead George's **My Side of the Mountain** serves as an educational tool, introducing young readers to fundamental survival techniques and natural science concepts. The detailed accounts of Sam's methods for trapping fish, identifying edible plants, and weather prediction offer practical knowledge embedded within an engaging narrative.

Furthermore, the book fosters environmental stewardship by illustrating the importance of living harmoniously with nature rather than exploiting it. Sam's respect for his surroundings and his understanding of ecological balance subtly advocate for conservation ethics, aligning with the broader environmental movement that gained momentum in the latter half of the 20th century.

Comparative Context Within Children's Literature

When compared to other wilderness survival stories for children, such as Gary Paulsen's **Hatchet**, **My Side of the Mountain** distinguishes itself through its detailed naturalist perspective and the protagonist's prolonged immersion in nature. While **Hatchet** emphasizes survival after a sudden disaster, George's novel explores deliberate choice and long-term adaptation.

This difference enriches the genre by offering diverse approaches to the theme of wilderness survival. Jean Craighead George's novel leans more toward a harmonious coexistence with nature, whereas some contemporaries highlight the struggle against environmental obstacles. Both perspectives contribute valuable insights, but **My Side of the Mountain** uniquely blends adventure with ecological education.

Key Features of Jean Craighead George's Writing Style and Narrative Structure

Jean Craighead George's writing style in **My Side of the Mountain** is characterized by clarity, vivid imagery, and an accessible narrative voice. Her prose invites readers into Sam's world, making complex survival concepts understandable without oversimplifying the material. The pacing balances action with introspective moments, allowing readers to absorb the protagonist's experiences and growth.

The novel's structure follows a chronological progression, detailing Sam's preparations, challenges, and eventual mastery of his environment. This linear narrative aids young readers in following the development of skills and the passage of time in the wilderness. Additionally, the inclusion of naturalistic detail enriches the story without detracting from its momentum.

- **Authenticity:** George's firsthand knowledge of nature imbues the novel with realism.
- **Character Development:** Sam evolves from a city boy to a self-sufficient individual, demonstrating adaptability and resilience.
- **Educational Content:** Survival techniques and ecological principles are woven seamlessly into the plot.
- **Environmental Ethos:** The narrative promotes respect and care for the natural world.

Pros and Cons from a Reader's Perspective

While **My Side of the Mountain** is widely praised, it is important to consider both its strengths and limitations.

Pros:

1. **Engaging and Inspirational:** The story motivates readers to appreciate nature and develop self-confidence.

2. **Educational:** Provides practical knowledge about survival and ecology, making it suitable for educational settings.
3. **Timeless Appeal:** Themes of independence and adventure resonate across generations.

Cons:

1. **Period-Specific Language:** Some descriptions and attitudes reflect the era of publication and may feel dated.
2. **Limited Diversity:** The story centers on a solitary white male protagonist, which might not reflect the experiences of all readers.
3. **Romanticization of Isolation:** While realistic, some readers might find the portrayal of solitude idealized compared to real wilderness hardships.

Legacy and Continued Relevance of *My Side of the Mountain*

Decades after its release, *My Side of the Mountain* continues to be a staple in children's literature, frequently included in school curricula and reading programs. Jean Craighead George's contribution to environmental literature is significant, as the novel predates and arguably anticipates contemporary concerns about sustainability and ecological consciousness.

The book's impact extends beyond entertainment; it has inspired countless readers to explore the outdoors and develop an appreciation for wildlife and natural ecosystems. Adaptations into film, theater, and audiobooks further attest to its enduring popularity and cultural significance.

In examining *My Side of the Mountain*, it becomes evident that Jean Craighead George has created more than just a survival story—she has crafted a narrative that educates, inspires, and fosters a deep connection to the natural world, a message that remains profoundly relevant in today's environmentally conscious society.

[Jean Craighead George My Side Of The Mountain](#)

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: *My Side of the Mountain* Jean Craighead George, 1997-06 Includes an author biography, chapter summaries, discussion questions,

reproducibles, and cross-curricular activities for students of all learning styles for George's novel, *My Side of the Mountain*.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: My Side of the Mountain Jean Craighead George, 2001-05-21 Should appeal to all rugged individualists who dream of escape to the forest.—The New York Times Book Review Sam Gribbley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever. “An extraordinary book . . . It will be read year after year.” —The Horn Book

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: A Guide for Using My Side of the Mountain in the Classroom Debra Housel, 2001 Scholastic Book Guides...Time Saving Tools for Reading Success! Teaching with trade books is effective and manageable with Scholastic Book Guides—each guide has everything teachers need to build important skills for successful instruction in reading. Guides include: Book summary and author information to build background and prior knowledge Vocabulary-builders to help your students learn important word meanings for better comprehension Discussion questions to deepen understanding, and build and check comprehension Reproducible graphic organizers and writing activities to extend the meaning of the text Effective management ideas for whole class, small group, and independent instruction. For use with Grades 6-9.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: My Side of the Mountain - Literature Kit Gr. 5-6 Chad Ibbotson, 2017-07-20 Discover the loneliness that comes with a solitary and independent life. The quizzes and activity pages make this resource accessible for all students. Students choose their own animal to become their faithful companion, much like Frightful is to Sam. Elaborate on Sam's realization that he is low in vitamin C by researching other vitamins and explaining what they provide to the human body. Test comprehension with multiple choice questions that ask about how Sam spends Christmas on the mountain. Predict how long it will be before Sam sees his father again. Identify the different relationships Sam makes with both animals and other people during his time in the Catskill Mountains. Aligned to your State Standards, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included. About the Novel: *My Side of the Mountain* follows one boy's journey into the wilderness and the most unlikely realization he finds there. Sam Gribbley is an adolescent boy who lives in a small New York City apartment with eight brothers and sisters. He hates feeling trapped and dreams of living in the wide open space that only the wilderness can provide. He decides then to run away to his grandfather's abandoned farm in the Catskill Mountains. On the way, Sam recounts how he survives a snowstorm and befriends a falcon and weasel. He learns many skills from people he meets on his journey that will help him to survive his independent lifestyle. However, Sam finds his solitude more lonesome than he thought, and soon yearns for human interaction. This coming-of-age story follows the mental and physical growth of a young boy as he discovers who he really is.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: My Side of the Mountain Lit Link Gr. 7-8 Miriam Basten, Written in the form of a diary, this story relates the days of Sam Gribbley a young boy who runs away to the wilderness to live as one with nature in the Catskill Mountains. Novel by Jean Craighead George. Reproducible chapter questions, plus comprehension questions, a story summary, author biography, creative and cross curricular activities, complete with answer key.

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jean craighead george my side of the mountain: A Study Guide for Jean Craighead George's My Side of the Mountain Jean Craighead George, Harel, Josephine, Moore, Bill, 1993

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: Where the Wild Things Were Henry

Jenkins, 2025-02-25 Explores iconic works from *The Cat in the Hat* to *The Twilight Zone* to explain cultural trends in parenting and how we conceptualize childhood. The 60s produced a Baby Boom generation that catalyzed the dawn of a new era—the space age, the age of television, the global age, and the beginnings of civil rights. At the same time, a new paradigm for parenting was unfolding that put emphasis on permissiveness, defined by what it permitted – the free and unfettered impulses of children. Others worried that the wildness of children, personified by the characters in Maurice Sendak’s 1963 classic children’s book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, was destructive, disruptive and disrespectful. *Where the Wild Things Were* centers on the exploding, contentious national conversation about the nature of childhood and parenting in the postwar US emblemized by Dr. Spock’s *Baby and Child Care*. Renowned scholar Henry Jenkins demonstrates that the language that shaped a growing field of advice literature for parents also informed the period’s fictions—in film, television, comics, children’s books, and elsewhere—produced for and consumed by children. In particular, Jenkins demonstrates, the era’s emblematic child was the boy in the striped shirt: white, male, suburban, middle class, Christian, and above all, American. Weaving together intellectual histories and popular texts, Jenkins shows how boy protagonists became embodiments of permissive child rearing, as well as the social ideals and contradictions that permissiveness entailed. From *Peanuts* comic strips and TV specials to *The Cat in the Hat*, *Dennis the Menace*, and *Jonny Quest*, the book reveals how childhood and the stories about it became central to Cold War concerns with democracy, citizenship, globalization, the space race, science, race relations, gender, and sexuality. Written by a former boy in a striped shirt, *Where the Wild Things Were* explores iconic works, from *Mary Poppins* to *Lost in Space*, contextualizing them through a critical but respectful engagement with the core animating ideas of the permissive imagination.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: 101 Books to Read Before You Grow Up (Revised Edition) Bianca Schulze, 2025-09-09 Discover new books, document your favorites, learn fun facts about books and authors, and develop a lifelong reading habit. *101 Books to Read Before You Grow Up (Revised Edition)* is the ultimate reading guide for kids ages 4 to 12+, packed with 101 kid-friendly book recommendations and interactive features to inspire young readers. This revised edition includes diverse voices and graphic novels and reflects current educational trends, making it a modern and inclusive reading guide for young readers today. From classics like *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Beezus and Ramona*, and *The Phantom Tollbooth* to newer favorites such as *Big, New Kid*, and *Brown Girl Dreaming*, this inspiring guide covers every stage of a young reader’s journey. Designed as an engaging journal, this book allows you to document your reading journey by noting which books you’ve read, why you love them, and how you rate each one. Each book entry includes: Brief description and quote: Provides insight into the book’s story, theme, and style. Engaging illustrations: Feature characters or key elements from each book. “Did you know?” facts: Fun tidbits about the book or author to spark curiosity. “What to read next?”: Recommendations to help you find more books you’ll love. Interactive rating and note space: A place for you to rate and write about your experience with each book. Organized by book format (picture books, early readers, chapter books, and more) and cross-indexed by subjects like fairy tales, fantasy, sports, and nonfiction, *101 Books to Read Before You Grow Up* promotes family reading time and encourages lifelong reading habits.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: *Robinson Crusoe after 300 Years* Andreas K. E. Mueller, Glynnis Ridley, 2021-04-16 There is no shortage of explanations for the longevity of Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*, which has been interpreted as both religious allegory and frontier myth, with Crusoe seen as an example of the self-sufficient adventurer and the archetypal colonizer and capitalist. Defoe’s original has been reimaged multiple times in legions of Robinsonade or castaway stories, but the Crusoe myth is far from spent. This wideranging collection brings together eleven scholars who suggest new and unfamiliar ways of thinking about this most familiar of works, and who ask us to consider the enduring appeal of “Crusoe,” more recognizable today than ever before.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: The Wonders of Creation Kristen Page, 2022-11-29 In this insightful exploration of Narnia and Middle-earth, Biologist Kristen Page discovers what these beloved fictional landscapes might teach us about our real-life landscapes and how to become better stewards of God's good creation.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: What the River Carries Lisa Knopp, 2012-05-18 In this informed and lyrical collection of interwoven essays, Lisa Knopp explores the physical and cultural geography of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte rivers she has come to understand and cherish. At the same time, she contemplates how people experience landscape, identifying three primary roles of environmental perception: the insider, the outsider, and the outsider seeking to become an insider. Viewing the waterways through these approaches, she searches for knowledge and meaning. Because Knopp was born and raised just a few blocks away, she considers the Mississippi from the perspective of a native resident, a "dweller in the land." She revisits places she has long known: Nauvoo, Illinois, the site of two nineteenth-century utopias, one Mormon, one Icarian; Muscatine, Iowa, once the world's largest manufacturer of pearl (mussel shell) buttons; and the mysterious prehistoric bird- and bear-shaped effigy mounds of northeastern Iowa. On a downriver trip between the Twin Cities and St. Louis, she meditates on what can be found in Mississippi river water—state lines, dissolved oxygen, smallmouth bass, corpses, family history, wrecked steamboats, mayfly nymphs, toxic perfluorinated chemicals, philosophies. Knopp first encountered the Missouri as a tourist and became acquainted with it through literary and historical documents, as well as stories told by longtime residents. Her journey includes stops at Fort Bellefontaine, where Lewis and Clark first slept on their sojourn to the Pacific; Little Dixie, Missouri's slaveholding, hemp-growing region, as revealed through the life of Jesse James's mother; Fort Randall Dam and Lake Francis Case, the construction of which destroyed White Swan on the Yankton Sioux Reservation; and places that produced unique musical responses to the river, including Native American courting flutes, indie rock, Missouri River valley fiddling, Prohibition-era jazz jam sessions, and German folk music. Knopp's relationship with the Platte is marked by intentionality: she settled nearby and chose to develop deep and lasting connections over twenty years' residence. On this adventure, she ponders the half-million sandhill cranes that pass through Nebraska each spring, the ancient varieties of Pawnee corn growing at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, a never-broken tract of tallgrass prairie, the sugar beet industry, and the changes in the river brought about by the demands of irrigation. In the final essay, Knopp undertakes the science of river meanders, consecutive loops of water moving in opposite directions, which form around obstacles but also develop in the absence of them. What initiates the turning that results in a meander remains a mystery. Such is the subtle and interior process of knowing and loving a place. What the River Carries asks readers to consider their own relationships with landscape and how one can most meaningfully and responsibly dwell on the earth's surface.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: Born Again and Again Jon M. Sweeney, 2005 With a remarkable range of experiences, Sweeney writes with warmth and affection for the faith he has left behind. And he offers wise reflections on those aspects of fundamentalism that all Christians might learn from.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: Academic Assassins Clay McLeod Chapman, 2014-12-30 Once the Tribe laid siege to Camp New Leaf, Spencer was left with no choice but to call in the reinforcements: their parents. But when he sees that his own mom and dad have left him high and dry, Spencer runs into the woods and never looks back. After months of hiding away, he is found and sentenced to spend time at the Kesey Reclamation Center, where kids are placed under strict surveillance. He knows he has to escape, but where can he go? If Spencer isn't careful he might be punished and sent to the Black Hole, and it only takes one visit to change you for better, or worse.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: The Whale and the Supercomputer Charles Wohlforth, 2005-05-04 In *The Whale and the Supercomputer*, scientists and natives wrestle with our changing climate in the land where it has hit first--and hardest. A traditional Eskimo whale-hunting

party races to shore near Barrow, Alaska--their comrades trapped on a floe drifting out to sea--as ice that should be solid this time of year gives way. Elsewhere, a team of scientists transverses the tundra, sleeping in tents, surviving on frozen chocolate, and measuring the snow every ten kilometers in a quest to understand the effects of albedo, the snow's reflective ability to cool the earth beneath it. Climate change isn't an abstraction in the far North. It is a reality that has already dramatically altered daily life, especially that of the native peoples who still live largely off the land and sea. Because nature shows her footprints so plainly here, the region is also a lure for scientists intent on comprehending the complexities of climate change. In this gripping account, Charles Wohlforth follows the two groups as they navigate a radically shifting landscape. The scientists attempt to decipher its smallest elements and to derive from them a set of abstract laws and models. The natives draw on uncannily accurate traditional knowledge, borne of long experience living close to the land. Even as they see the same things--a Native elder watches weather coming through too fast to predict; a climatologist notes an increased frequency of cyclonic systems--the two cultures struggle to reconcile their vastly different ways of comprehending the environment. With grace, clarity, and a sense of adventure, Wohlforth--a lifelong Alaskan--illuminates both ways of seeing a world in flux, and in the process, helps us to navigate a way forward as climate change reaches us all.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: *Written for Children* John Rowe Townsend, 1996-05-01 This revised and updated edition provides children's and young adult librarians, teachers, literature classes, and library school classes with an authoritative history and analysis of the best British and American children's literature through 1994, with a new 2003 postscript including such recent phenomenons as J.K.Rowling and Philip Pullman. *Written for Children* traces the development of children's literature from its origins through the beginnings of the multimedia revolution. In effortless and entertaining style, Townsend, a world-renowned authority in the field, examines the changing attitudes toward children and their literature and analyzes the various strands that make up this important field. While examining many well-known American classics, Townsend also looks at British works that American audiences may have overlooked. With illustrations and bibliography.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: Connecting Children with Classics Meagan Lacy, Pauline Dewan, 2018-03-14 This guide identifies hundreds of books that can help children develop into engaged readers. Children's librarians, collection development specialists in public libraries, as well as K-8 school librarians and teachers will choose from the best in children's titles. This unique readers' advisory and collection development guide for librarians and others who work with children focuses on readers and their needs, rather than simply categorizing books by their characteristics and features as traditional literature guides do. Taking this unusual perspective brings forth powerful new tools and curricular ideas on how to promote the classics, and how to best engage with young readers and meet their personal and emotional needs to boost interest and engagement. The guide identifies seven reader-driven appeals, or themes, that are essential to successful readers' advisory: awakening new perspectives; providing models for identity; offering reassurance, comfort, strength, and confirmation of self-worth; connecting with others; giving courage to make a change; facilitating acceptance; and building a disinterested understanding of the world. By becoming aware of and tapping into these seven themes, librarians and other educators can help children more deeply connect with books, thereby increasing the odds of becoming lifelong readers. The detailed descriptions of each book provide plot summaries as well as notes on themes, subjects, reading interest levels, adaptations and alternative formats, translations, and read-alikes. This informative guide will also aid librarians in collection development and bibliotherapy services.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: Reservoir Year Nina Shengold, 2020-07-01 On the eve of her sixtieth birthday, Nina Shengold embarks on a challenge: to walk the path surrounding the Catskills' glorious Ashokan Reservoir every day for a year, at all times of day and in all kinds of weather, trying to find something new every time. Armed with lively curiosity, infectious enthusiasm, and renewed stubbornness, she hits the path every day with all five senses

wide open, searching for details that glint. As Shengold explores the secrets of this spectacular place, she rediscovers the glories of solitude and an expanded community, both human and animal. Step by step, her reservoir walks rekindle connections with family, strangers, and friends, with a landscape she grows to revere, and with a new sense of self. Like the writings of John Burroughs, Annie Dillard, and Barry Lopez, Shengold's reflections on her personal journey will resonate with outdoor enthusiasts and armchair hikers alike. Quietly transformative, *Reservoir Year* encourages readers to find their own ways to unplug and slow down, reconnecting with nature, reviving old passions and sparking some new ones along the path.

jean craighead george my side of the mountain: Making Mountains David Stradling, 2009-11-23 For over two hundred years, the Catskill Mountains have been repeatedly and dramatically transformed by New York City. In *Making Mountains*, David Stradling shows the transformation of the Catskills landscape as a collaborative process, one in which local and urban hands, capital, and ideas have come together to reshape the mountains and the communities therein. This collaboration has had environmental, economic, and cultural consequences. Early on, the Catskills were an important source of natural resources. Later, when New York City needed to expand its water supply, engineers helped direct the city toward the Catskills, claiming that the mountains offered the purest and most cost-effective waters. By the 1960s, New York had created the great reservoir and aqueduct system in the mountains that now supplies the city with 90 percent of its water. The Catskills also served as a critical space in which the nation's ideas about nature evolved. Stradling describes the great influence writers and artists had upon urban residents - especially the painters of the Hudson River School, whose ideal landscapes created expectations about how rural America should appear. By the mid-1800s, urban residents had turned the Catskills into an important vacation ground, and by the late 1800s, the Catskills had become one of the premiere resort regions in the nation. In the mid-twentieth century, the older Catskill resort region was in steep decline, but the Jewish Borscht Belt in the southern Catskills was thriving. The automobile revitalized mountain tourism and residence, and increased the threat of suburbanization of the historic landscape. Throughout each of these significant incarnations, urban and rural residents worked in a rough collaboration, though not without conflict, to reshape the mountains and American ideas about rural landscapes and nature.

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