



**Essential Books**  
for  
**Summers at the Cottage**



*Find your place*

List compiled by  
Horizon Books - Traverse City, MI

***Admissions, by Jennifer Sowle***

Stripped, showered and drugged, Luanne Kilpi's life as wife and mother is turned upside-down as she enters the world of the insane. After her attempted suicide following the death of her three-year-old son, Luanne is admitted to the Traverse State Hospital where she now lives with locked doors, long hallways, gowns, moans and shouts, restraints, pills, little fluted cups and a sparse tiny bedroom. She is an admission. On Hall 5, the reader is introduced to the group of young women who become Luanne's friends and support. We see the realities of their conditions and watch them struggle through muddled emotions to make sense of their world. Author Jennifer Sowle's lyrical prose illuminates Luanne's raw emotions of overwhelming grief as she struggles on her journey from despair to hope. Set on the expansive grounds of the State Hospital, vivid imagery brings to life a cast of characters from the duty nurses to the groundskeeper to the chronically ill patients. This is a book that makes you stand up and cheer for the resiliency of the human spirit.

ISBN#9781933926247

\$21.00

***As Easy As Falling Off the Face of the Earth, by Lynne Rae Perkins***

Once again, author Lynne Rae Perkins has written a quirky and fun book that may be aimed at young adults, but everyone will enjoy reading it. Fifteen-year-old Ry finds himself stranded in the middle of Montana when the train carrying him to summer camp suddenly, and somewhat unexpectedly, takes off without him. With the help of strangers, Ry makes his way back home to Wisconsin . . . and then on to the Caribbean to rendezvous with his vacationing parents. Perkins explores both the invisible forces – fate, chance, and serendipity – and the visible ones – family ties and friendship – that bind us together. Perkins is a Newbery Medal winning author who lives in northern Michigan.

ISBN# 9780061870903

\$18.00

***Charm of a Small Town, by Dave Looman***

Inspired by an actual small Northern Michigan town and its people, this novel is both exciting and moving as a boy and a dog struggle to gain acceptance.

ISBN#9780741460585

\$16.00

***Dean Robb: An Unlikely Radical, by Matthew Z. Robb***

Dean Robb's life seemed always to collide with the currents of history. The story of a young farmboy from southern Illinois whose life led him to become a radical lawyer in Detroit takes us from common yet solid beginnings and leads us to the crucible that changed American life—the confrontations and controversies that surrounded civil rights and the Vietnam War in the 1950s and '60s.

Dean's remarkable life can teach all of us about saying yes to the opportunities that are presented to us. With his openness, determination, and willingness to challenge comfort zones, Dean built a life that speaks to us about a great generation, and will inspire our own visions for generations to come.

ISBN#9780615401621

\$27.00

***The Farmer's Daughter, by Jim Harrison***

In three novellas as dark as they are exuberant, Harrison delivers protagonists who are smart, lusty in that classic Harrison fashion, and linked by "The Last Word in Lonesome Is Me", a Patsy Cline song that appears throughout and could easily serve as the characters' theme song. The first novella recounts the story of Sarah, who is dragged to rural Montana by her neglectful parents and, at age 15, is the victim of a sexual assault that provides her with an undying thirst for revenge. The collection's second and strongest novella features a recurring Harrison character, Brown Dog, a half-Indian free spirit who cares for his ailing stepdaughter who is afflicted with fetal alcohol syndrome. (He also has sex a lot.) The final piece presents Samuel, who as a child traveling in Mexico contracted viruses that now cause werewolflike spells that render him a permanent stranger.

ISBN#9780802119346

\$26.00

***Freshwater Boys*, by Adam Schuitema**

This is a collection of stories that take place near and on Lake Michigan, with each protagonist a male who has some sort of connection to the fresh water surrounding him. The boys and men wander forests--sometimes finding tranquility, sometimes finding tragedy. They climb and descend dunes. The idea of a Third Coast figures prominently in the book, the lake and its horizon serving as a kind of world's end, where things pass away or come to life. Adam Schuitema is an assistant professor of English at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

**ISBN# 9781883285401**

**\$15.00**

***Picturing Hemingway's Michigan*, by Michael R. Federspiel**

Ernest Hemingway is an iconic American novelist. What is not so well known is that he was also a gifted short story writer who occasionally sought contemplative refuge and inspiration from the northern reaches of Michigan's Little Traverse Bay area in the early 1900s when the region was evolving from a rural lumbering country into a popular vacationing tourist destination. "Picturing Hemingway's Michigan" is a 200-page compendium of archival period photographs, captions and commentary compiled, organized, written and presented by Michael R. Federspiel (Professor of History, Central Michigan University). An expert in the life and work of Ernest Hemingway, Professor Federspiel approaches this project with impressive credentials as the president of the Michigan Hemingway Society and the general editor of the Hemingway Letters Project. Combining vintage Hemingway family photos with excerpts from Hemingway's writings, "Picturing Hemingway's Michigan" is an exemplary and unique approach to regional American history and a highly recommended addition to academic and community library collections, as well as inherently fascinating, informed and informative reading for students and fans of Ernest Hemingway's work.

**ISBN#9780814334478**

**\$42.00**

***Northern Michigan Asylum*, by William Decker, M.D.**

A comprehensive history of the third Asylum built in the State of Michigan in 1885, the Traverse City State Hospital. Author William Decker, M.D. researched the location of historic buildings, hospital personnel and administrators, patient treatment modalities, the spacious grounds and extensive tree plantings, livestock barns used at the hospital farm and interesting trivia and incidents. This most ambitious and complete book contains more than 100 historic photos and illustrations, footnotes and an index.

**ISBN#9781933926254**

**\$53.00**

***The Tale of Halcyon Crane*, by Wendy Webb**

When a mysterious letter lands in Hallie James's mailbox, her life is upended. Hallie was raised by her father, having been told her mother died in a fire decades earlier. But it turns out that her mother, Madlyn, was alive until very recently. In search of answers, Hallie travels to the place where her mother lived, a remote island in the middle of the Great Lakes. This is a chilling and imaginative ghost story with a likable heroine who is forced to confront the disturbing secrets of her past and the powerful truths of her present. Webb keeps the reader spellbound as the intertwined tales of several generations of a most unusual family unspool in magical and eerie ways.

**ISBN# 9780805091403**

**\$16.00**

***Thrift Store Saints*, by Jane Knuth**

Thrift Store Saints is a collection of true stories based on Jane Knuth's experiences serving the poor at a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in the inner city of Kalamazoo, Michigan. At the outset of the book, Knuth is a reluctant new volunteer at the store, sharing that her middle-class, suburban, church-going background has not prepared her well for this kind of work. By the end of the book, Knuth has undergone a transformation of sorts, and neither she nor we can ever view the poor in the same way again.

Knuth's transformation is rooted in the prevailing message of *Thrift Store Saints*: When we serve the poor, they end up helping us as much as we help them. Throughout the book we are introduced to new saints, as Knuth thoughtfully, at times humorously, describes how her encounters with the poorest people led her to the greatest riches of God's grace.

**ISBN#9780829433012**

**\$15.00**