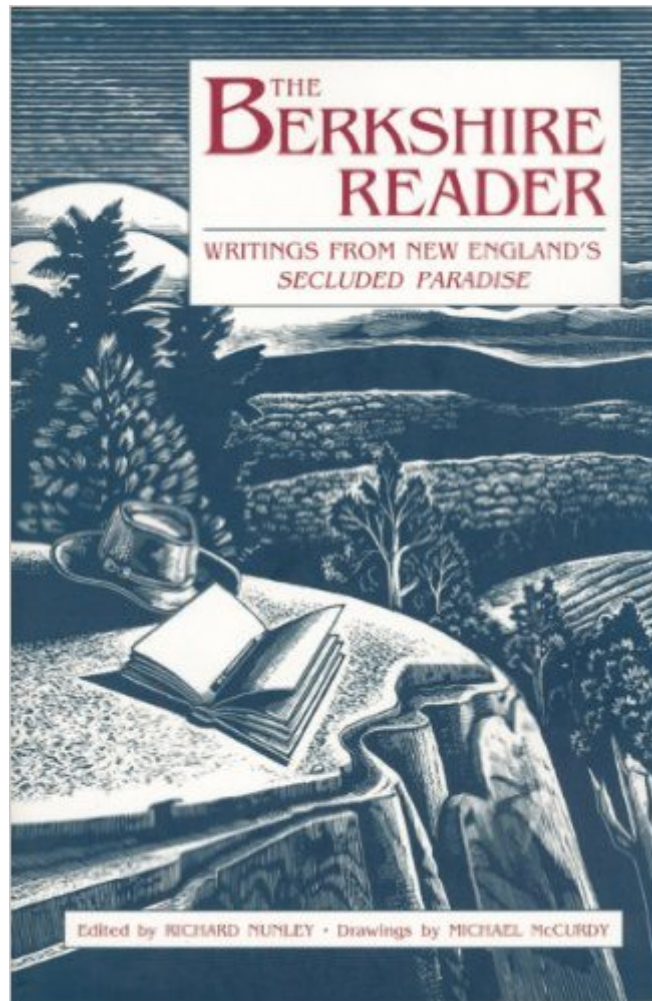


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The Berkshire Reader: Writings From New England's Secluded Paradise



Synopsis

The Berkshire Reader is an extraordinary literary record inspired by one attractive corner of New England. Because almost every important figure in America's literary history passed through the Berkshires, this anthology illustrates the connections, affections, prejudices and strong opinions which united and divided our literary lights. Richard Nunley has lived in the Berkshires since 1957. He is a poet, a columnist for The Berkshire Eagle and a professor of English at Berkshire Community College. Michael McCurdy is an artist, illustrator, and author. His wood engravings have appeared in many books for both adults and children.

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It is hard to imagine another region that can boast more consistently interesting writers per square foot than the beautiful Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts. The present volume has gathered many, from the 1600's to our own time, always with an eye for local color and the good read. Along the way we meet some interesting residents and visitors (Francis Parkman, Charles Dickens), sample some old favorites, Hawthorne, Melville, and Wharton, among others, and are pleased to become acquainted with the fine writing of Paul Metcalf and Don Gifford. Altogether a delight for anyone who cherishes good reading, and especially of course for those who love the area. (The "score" rating is an unfortunately ineradicable feature of the page. This reviewer does not "score" books.)

A wonderful compendium that shows the details of life in the Pioneer Valley, of Western Massachusetts.

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