



The List: The Uses and Pleasures of Cataloguing

Dr. Robert E. Belknap

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“I am no more lonely than the Mill Brook, or a weathercock, or the north star, or the south wind, or an April shower, or a January thaw, or the first spider in a new house,” wrote Henry David Thoreau in *Walden*. In creating this list, and many others that appear in his writings, Thoreau was working within a little-recognized yet ancient literary tradition: the practice of listing or cataloguing. This beautifully written book is the first to examine literary lists and the remarkably wide range of ways writers use them.

Robert Belknap first examines lists through the centuries—from Sumerian account tablets and Homer’s catalogue of ships to Tom Sawyer’s earnings from his fence-painting scheme—then focuses on lists in the works of four American Renaissance authors: Emerson, Whitman, Melville, and Thoreau. Lists serve a variety of functions in Emerson’s essays, Whitman’s poems, Melville’s novels, and Thoreau’s memoirs, and Belknap discusses their surprising variety of pattern, intention, scope, art, and even philosophy. In addition to guiding the reader through the list’s many uses, this book explores the pleasures that lists offer.

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Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled The List: The Uses and Pleasures of Cataloguing can be very good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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