CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Story of My Boyhood and Youth

John Muir · *1913 · Muir's English*

When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures. Fortunately around my native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness. John Muir, 1913, Project Gutenberg #18359. For grades 5–12. Quote him, not a later park legend only. This is the boyhood, not My First Summer in the Sierra or Travels in Alaska.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Muir's Story of My Boyhood and Youth as he opens it—a Scottish boy fond of everything that was wild, at Dunbar by the stormy North Sea—rather than as a later park legend only, or as one of the later Sierra and Alaska books already in this library?

"When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've"

Chapter I, opening

He opens as a boy in Scotland, fond of everything that was wild, and growing fonder all his life of wild places and wild creatures. Around his native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness. Teach that beginning, for grades 5–12. The 1913 book is boyhood and youth, in Scotland and then in a new country; it is not My First Summer in the Sierra (1911) or Travels in Alaska (1915). Quote Muir, not a later park legend only.

KEY CHARACTERS

John Muir
Who remembers a Scottish boyhood, fond of everything that was wild, at Dunbar by the North Sea

Dunbar, and the North Sea
The native town and the stormy coast that first taught him wildness

The wild creatures of his boyhood
Named with the places, not as a backdrop only

HOW TO BEGIN THIS BOYHOOD

"When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've"

Chapter I

"Fortunately around my native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness, though"

Chapter I

Grades 5–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Boy in Scotland

CHAPTER I, OPENING

When he was a boy in Scotland he was fond of everything that was wild. The book begins with a fondness, and a country, not with a later famous name.

- Keep "a boy in Scotland" and "everything that was wild."
- 5–12.
- Quote Muir, not a later digest.
- This is the boyhood book.

> *"When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've"*
> Chapter I, opening

02

Fonder and Fonder

CHAPTER I, OPENING

And all his life he has been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures. The opening already looks forward across a life.

- Keep "wild places and wild creatures."
- The fondness is for creatures as well as places.
- 5–12.
- Not a later slogan only.

> *"and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures."*
> Chapter I, opening

03

Dunbar, by the Stormy North Sea

CHAPTER I, OPENING

Fortunately around his native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness. The first school is a coast, and a town.

- Keep Dunbar, and "stormy North Sea."
- 5–12.
- Scotland first, then the later crossing.
- Quote this English.

> *"Fortunately around my native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness, though"*
> Chapter I, opening

04

No Lack of Wildness

CHAPTER I, OPENING

There was no lack of wildness, though most of the land around him was already under some human claim. Teach the wildness he actually had, not an invented wilderness.

- Keep "no lack of wildness."
- Do not invent a more spectacular opening.
- 5–12.
- The later Wisconsin and California years are not this first page.

> *"Fortunately around my native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness, though"*
> Chapter I, opening

05

The 1913 Boyhood, Not the Later Books

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #18359 is The Story of My Boyhood and Youth, 1913. Quote this book. My First Summer in the Sierra and Travels in Alaska are other hosted works; do not treat this map as those. For grades 5–12. Quote Muir, not a later park legend only.

- Name 1913, and Dunbar.
- A boyhood, not a complete life.
- The later books have their own maps.
- Wonder, and a particular town by a particular sea.

> *"When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've"*
> Chapter I, opening

A boy fond of wildness | Dunbar by the North Sea | Wild places and wild creatures | A fondness that grew | A boyhood, not a later legend only

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 5–12

1. He opens as a boy in Scotland, fond of everything that was wild, growing fonder all his life of wild places and wild creatures.
2. Dunbar, by the stormy North Sea: keep the town and the sea.
3. This is the 1913 boyhood, PG #18359, for grades 5–12—not My First Summer in the Sierra or Travels in Alaska.
4. Quote Muir, not a later park legend only.

Quotations are verbatim from the Muir's English, Project Gutenberg #18359, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-story-of-my-boyhood-and-youth/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.