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Date: : 2007/8/4 1:46:41

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"How to" fly fishing books are abundant. Too abundant. It's the other genres that deal with our sport that interest me.

Short Story -- Hemingway "Big Two Hearted River" - Wonderful short piece in which Hemingway's protagonist the indomitable Nick tosses live hoppers at Brookies in northern Michigan.

Natural History - Brook Trout by Nick Karas. This is an incredible book which gives the most complete natural history of the fish imaginable. -- Did you know that Long Island was once a Brookie mecca? So was Manhattan. Did you know that Daniel Webster caught a 14 and 1/4 pound Brookie in the early 1800s? Do you know the story of the muddler minnow? All this and more in this book!

Fiction - A River Runs Through It is, objectively an excellent book. Certainly, it has become a fly-fishing cliché, but it is none the less iconic and powerful.

Poetry - Seamus Heaney, the Irish poet writes brilliantly about spin and fly fishing for trout and salmon. He's a completely brilliant poet and fisherman who knows the natural world intimately. Here's an example:

"It seemed to be all rise

and shine, the very opposite

of uphill going – it was pure

duration, and when it ended,

the pulse of the cast line

entering water

was smaller in your hand

than the remembered heartbeat

of a bird. Then, after all of that

runaway give, you were glad

when you reeled in and found

yourself strung, heel-tip

to rod-tip, into the river's

steady purchase and thrum."

Wow!