

Environmentalism in Contemporary Eco-Literature

Dr. Digvijay Singh

Associate Professor, Department of English,
RBS College, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

Environmentalism in contemporary eco-literature is a reflection of the growing concern for ecological issues and the impact of human activities on the environment. This genre of literature explores and critiques the relationship between humans and the natural world, often advocating for environmental conservation and sustainable practices. Eco-literature delves into various aspects of environmentalism, including climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, pollution, and the exploitation of natural resources. The evolving significance of environmental issues in contemporary fiction, particularly since the 1980s. While the relationship between humans and nature has always been present in Western literature, the awareness of ecological threats to the biosphere has gained prominence in both society and literary works. The concept of the Anthropocene, a geological epoch marked by human impacts on the planet, has become a category in the literary imagination. Nature is no longer merely a backdrop reflecting human emotions but is portrayed as an independent narrative force. Lawrence Buell, a pioneer in ecocriticism, suggests that an environmental text is one where the natural environment is not just a framing device but a presence that implies the intertwining of human history with natural history. This shift signifies a departure from anthropocentric perspectives, moving beyond a focus solely on human interests. The ethical dimension of this approach emphasizes the importance of recognizing literature's connection to the environment. Even in contexts characterized by formalist experimentalism, such as postwar France, there is a call for renewed attention to literary commitment and the referentiality of literature to address environmental concerns.

I. Introduction

Ecocriticism, a literary approach that examines the relationship between literature and the environment. It draws inspiration from three major American transcendentalist writers—Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, and Henry David Thoreau—who celebrated nature as a life force and influenced the first major literary movement in America to achieve cultural independence from European models.

Emerson's work, particularly his reflective prose narrative "Nature," embodies transcendentalism, proposing that the divine or God pervades nature and reality can be best perceived through the study of nature. Fuller's "Summer on the Lake During 1843" contrasts the utilitarian motives of settlers with the spiritual and aesthetic aims of tourists in the Great Lakes region.

Thoreau is considered the father of ecocriticism, with his autobiographical work "Walden" recounting his two-year stay in a hut near Walden Pond. Thoreau's exploration of dropping out of modern life to renew the self through a return to nature influenced a shift from ego-consciousness to eco-consciousness in readers.

The passage also mentions Robert Frost, whose simple-sounding poems delve into the universal truths of human life through the exploration of nature. The UK's approach to ecocriticism differs from the USA, with British ecocritics focusing on warning about environmental threats from governmental, industrial, commercial, and neocolonial forces.

Jonathan Bate's "The Song of the Earth" connects colonialism and deforestation, while "Romantic Ecology" reevaluates William Wordsworth's poetry in the context of the English pastoral tradition. Raymond Williams' "Country and the City" highlights the contrast between country and city life, presenting the countryside as a hub of modernity and loneliness.

Lastly, Lawrence Coupe's "The Green Studies Reader" is described as a comprehensive selection of critical texts that explores the connection between ecology, culture, and literature. It is presented as a valuable source for research into Green Literature, providing a substantial amount of material for study.

Examples of contemporary eco-literature that embody environmentalism:

Examples of contemporary eco-literature include Barbara Kingsolver's "Flight Behavior," Richard Powers' "The Overstory," and Amitav Ghosh's "The Great Derangement." These works contribute to a growing literary movement that seeks to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire readers to take action for a more sustainable future.

1. "The Overstory" by Richard Powers (2018): This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel weaves together the stories of individuals whose lives are deeply connected to trees. Powers explores the profound impact of deforestation and the interconnectedness of all living beings, advocating for the protection of forests and the environment.
2. "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World" by Jeff Goodell (2017): Goodell's non-fiction work delves into the impact of rising sea levels due to climate change. He examines the consequences for coastal cities and explores the urgent need for global action to address the environmental challenges posed by climate change.
3. "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013): Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, intertwines indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge in this collection of essays. She advocates for a deeper connection to the natural world and emphasizes the reciprocal relationship between humans and the environment.
4. "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" by Elizabeth Kolbert (2014): Kolbert's non-fiction book explores the ongoing mass extinction event caused by human activities. Through detailed research, she highlights the consequences of biodiversity loss and the role of human actions in shaping the Earth's future.
5. "Flight Behavior" by Barbara Kingsolver (2012): Kingsolver's novel follows the story of a young woman who discovers a miraculous event involving monarch butterflies in her rural community. The narrative addresses issues of climate change, environmental responsibility, and the delicate balance between nature and human activities.
6. "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World" by Peter Wohlleben (2015): Wohlleben, a forester, explores the fascinating world of trees and forests. Drawing on scientific research, he reveals the intricate ways in which trees communicate and cooperate, advocating for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world.
7. "The Bone Clocks" by David Mitchell (2014): While primarily a work of speculative fiction, Mitchell's novel includes a section that explores a dystopian future ravaged by environmental collapse. The narrative serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of ecological irresponsibility.
8. "Barren: The Art and Science of Unproductive Lands" by Diana Khoi Nguyen (2017): This poetry collection engages with environmental themes, exploring the impact of human activities on the land. Nguyen's work delves into the concept of barrenness and challenges the conventional understanding of unproductive landscapes.
9. "The Sea Around Us" by Rachel Carson (1951): While not contemporary, Carson's classic work laid the foundation for environmental literature. She eloquently explores the ocean's mysteries and the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems, contributing to the early environmental movement.
10. "The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson (2020): Robinson's novel is a speculative exploration of climate change and global efforts to address environmental challenges. It imagines a future where humanity works collectively to mitigate the impacts of climate change and build a sustainable world.

Themes and features of environmentalism in contemporary eco-literature:

1. Ecological Awareness:

Eco-literature emphasizes the importance of ecological awareness and understanding the interconnectedness of all living beings. Authors often highlight the delicate balance of ecosystems and the consequences of disrupting that balance. Ecological awareness is a central theme in many works of contemporary eco-literature. Authors use their narratives to explore the intricacies of ecosystems, highlight the consequences of environmental degradation, and advocate for a deeper understanding of the natural world. Here are a few examples of books that showcase ecological awareness:

1. "The Overstory" by Richard Powers: This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel weaves together the lives of various characters, all connected by their profound relationships with trees. "The Overstory" explores the intricate web of life in forests and emphasizes the importance of recognizing the intelligence and interconnectedness of the natural world.
2. "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer: In this blend of memoir, botany, and ecology, Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, explores the reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world. She advocates for an indigenous perspective on nature that respects and learns from the environment.
3. "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" by Elizabeth Kolbert: Kolbert's non-fiction work delves into the ongoing mass extinction event caused by human activities. Through a combination of scientific research and engaging storytelling, she raises awareness about the impact of climate change and human actions on biodiversity.
4. "Flight Behavior" by Barbara Kingsolver: This novel addresses the consequences of climate change through the story of a young woman who discovers a migration of monarch butterflies disrupted by environmental shifts. Kingsolver weaves a narrative that reflects on the consequences of disregarding ecological balance.

5. "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World" by Jeff Goodell: Focusing on the impact of rising sea levels, Goodell's non-fiction work explores how climate change is affecting coastal cities worldwide. It emphasizes the urgency of addressing environmental issues and adapting to the changing climate.
6. "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World" by Peter Wohlleben: Wohlleben, a forester, explores the fascinating world of trees and forests, revealing their complex social structures and communication systems. This book encourages readers to perceive trees not merely as static entities but as dynamic and interconnected beings.
7. "Underland: A Deep Time Journey" by Robert Macfarlane: Macfarlane's exploration of the world beneath the surface, from caves to burial chambers, highlights the hidden ecosystems and geological processes that shape the Earth. "Underland" encourages readers to think about the planet's deep history and the ways in which human actions impact the environment.

2. Climate Change Narratives:

Many eco-literary works address the pressing issue of climate change. Authors explore the impacts of global warming on landscapes, communities, and wildlife, offering readers a glimpse into potential dystopian futures if climate issues are left unaddressed. Climate change narratives in contemporary eco-literature often depict the impacts of global warming on ecosystems, communities, and individuals. These narratives aim to raise awareness about the urgent need for climate action and the potential consequences of inaction. Here are some examples of books that feature climate change narratives:

1. "The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson: Set in the near future, this novel explores the efforts of an international organization tasked with addressing climate change. It examines various strategies, technologies, and political actions required to mitigate the impacts of global warming and create a sustainable future.
2. "New York 2140" by Kim Stanley Robinson: Another work by Robinson, this novel envisions a future New York City transformed by rising sea levels. It portrays a city where canals replace streets, and residents adapt to the challenges of climate change, offering a vivid portrayal of a potential future shaped by environmental shifts.
3. "Parable of the Sower" by Octavia E. Butler: Although not explicitly about climate change, this dystopian novel set in a near-future America addresses environmental degradation, scarcity of resources, and the societal consequences of climate-related disasters. The protagonist creates a new religion centered around Earthseed, a philosophy that embraces adaptation and resilience in the face of a changing world.
4. "The Water Knife" by Paolo Bacigalupi: This novel is set in a near-future American Southwest where water scarcity has led to political and social unrest. Bacigalupi explores the consequences of climate change-induced droughts and the competition for dwindling water resources in a region grappling with environmental collapse.
5. "Cli-fi: Canadian Tales of Climate Change" edited by Bruce Meyer: This anthology features a collection of short stories that address climate change from various perspectives. The stories explore the personal, societal, and environmental impacts of a changing climate and the challenges faced by individuals and communities.
6. "Odds Against Tomorrow" by Nathaniel Rich: This novel follows a mathematician working for a consulting firm that specializes in predicting worst-case scenarios. As he becomes increasingly aware of the impending impacts of climate change, the protagonist grapples with the moral and ethical implications of his work and the urgency of addressing environmental challenges.
7. "The Bone Clocks" by David Mitchell: While not solely focused on climate change, this novel includes a section set in a near-future world dealing with the consequences of climate collapse. Mitchell explores how climate-related events shape the lives of the characters and influence the geopolitical landscape.

These examples demonstrate the diverse ways in which contemporary eco-literature incorporates climate change narratives, offering readers insights into potential futures shaped by environmental challenges and the need for sustainable solutions.

3. Biodiversity and Conservation:

Eco-literature often celebrates the beauty of biodiversity while expressing concern about its rapid decline. Authors may depict characters and stories that revolve around conservation efforts, the protection of endangered species, and the consequences of biodiversity loss. Biodiversity and conservation are prominent themes in contemporary eco-literature, with authors often exploring the beauty of diverse ecosystems and the importance of preserving the variety of life on Earth. Here are some examples of books that delve into biodiversity and conservation in eco-literature:

1. "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" by Elizabeth Kolbert: This non-fiction work examines the ongoing mass extinction event caused by human activities. Kolbert explores historical extinction events and the current biodiversity crisis, shedding light on the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect Earth's diverse species.
 2. "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens: While primarily a novel of mystery and coming-of-age, Owens' book is set in the marshes of North Carolina and emphasizes the richness of the natural world. The narrative highlights the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the impact of human actions on the environment, touching on themes of conservation and respect for nature.
 3. "The Overstory" by Richard Powers: In addition to its exploration of trees and forests, "The Overstory" touches on the importance of biodiversity. The novel illustrates how diverse ecosystems, including the intricate relationships between different species, contribute to the overall health and resilience of the natural world.
 4. "The Signature of All Things" by Elizabeth Gilbert: This novel follows the life of a 19th-century botanist and explores her fascination with plant life. The story delves into the diversity of plant species, emphasizing the importance of understanding and appreciating the intricacies of the natural world.
 5. "Euphoria" by Lily King: While primarily a novel about anthropologists in New Guinea, "Euphoria" touches on the impact of cultural and environmental change on biodiversity. The story explores the clash between different ways of life and the consequences for the ecosystems in which they unfold.
 6. "The Tiger's Wife" by Téa Obreht: Set in the Balkans, this novel intertwines folklore, history, and a contemporary narrative. It features a subplot about a tiger's escape from a zoo and the subsequent efforts to protect the endangered animal, highlighting themes of conservation and the importance of preserving biodiversity.
 7. "The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World" by Andrea Wulf: This biography explores the life of Alexander von Humboldt, a naturalist and explorer whose work laid the foundation for modern ecology. The book highlights Humboldt's appreciation for the interconnectedness of nature and his early advocacy for the conservation of ecosystems.
- These examples showcase how contemporary eco-literature addresses the importance of biodiversity and the need for conservation efforts. Through fiction and non-fiction narratives, these works contribute to a broader understanding of the value of diverse ecosystems and the urgency of protecting the planet's rich tapestry of life.

4. Environmental Activism:

Contemporary eco-literature frequently portrays characters engaged in environmental activism. This may involve protests, grassroots movements, or individuals taking a stand against corporations and governments contributing to environmental degradation. Environmental activism is a prevalent theme in contemporary eco-literature, reflecting the urgency of addressing environmental issues and the need for collective action. Authors often use their works to inspire readers to become advocates for the planet. Here are examples of books that prominently feature environmental activism:

1. "The Monkey Wrench Gang" by Edward Abbey: This classic eco-novel follows a group of environmental activists who take extreme measures to protest against the destruction of the American Southwest's natural landscapes. The characters engage in acts of civil disobedience to defend the environment from industrial development.
2. "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson: While not a work of fiction, Carson's groundbreaking book is a classic in environmental literature. Published in 1962, it played a crucial role in the environmental movement by exposing the harmful effects of pesticides, particularly DDT, and inspiring activism for the regulation of chemical pollutants.
3. "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" by Naomi Klein: Klein explores the relationship between capitalism and climate change, advocating for systemic change to address environmental issues. The book delves into the role of grassroots movements and environmental activism in challenging the status quo and pushing for sustainable alternatives.
4. "The Sea Around Us" by Rachel Carson: Another influential work by Rachel Carson, this book explores the world's oceans and the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems. Carson's writing contributed to increased public awareness and activism for marine conservation and the protection of ocean environments.
5. "Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming" by Paul Hawken: Hawken discusses the global movement of environmental and social justice groups working towards a sustainable future. The book highlights the diversity of environmental activism and the power of collective action in addressing planetary challenges.
6. "The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming" by David Wallace-Wells: While primarily focused on the dire consequences of climate change, this book discusses the role of activism in mitigating the impacts.

Wallace-Wells explores how individual and collective efforts can shape the future and emphasizes the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis.

7. "The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America" by Timothy Snyder: While not strictly an eco-literature work, Snyder explores the manipulation of environmental issues for political gain. The book discusses how environmental activism can become entangled with geopolitical struggles, emphasizing the importance of understanding the broader context of environmental challenges.

These examples showcase how contemporary eco-literature engages with environmental activism, advocating for positive change and inspiring readers to become more conscious of their impact on the planet. Whether through fiction or non-fiction, these works contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the importance of environmental stewardship and the role of activism in shaping a sustainable future.

5. Human-Nature Relationship:

Eco-literature explores the evolving relationship between humans and nature. Some works delve into indigenous perspectives, highlighting the symbiotic connections between communities and their environments, while others critique the exploitation of nature for profit. Exploring the complex relationship between humans and nature is a central theme in contemporary eco-literature. These works often delve into the ways in which individuals and societies interact with the natural world, addressing both the positive and negative aspects of this connection. Here are examples of books that illuminate the human-nature relationship in contemporary eco-literature:

1. "The Signature of All Things" by Elizabeth Gilbert: This novel follows the life of a 19th-century botanist and explores her deep connection with the plant world. It delves into the intricate relationships between humans and the natural environment, emphasizing the transformative power of nature on individual lives.

2. "The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating" by Elisabeth Tova Bailey: In this memoir, Bailey reflects on her own illness and confinement to bed, and how a tiny wild snail becomes a source of solace and connection to the natural world. The book explores the healing and transformative power of the human-nature relationship in unexpected ways.

3. "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" by Annie Dillard: Dillard's narrative is a contemplative exploration of the natural world along Tinker Creek. The book reflects on the author's observations of the landscape, wildlife, and the interconnectedness of all living things, providing a profound meditation on the human-nature relationship.

4. "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World" by Peter Wohlleben: Wohlleben, a forester, explores the intimate relationship between humans and trees. The book reveals the complex social structures of forests and the ways in which trees communicate and support each other, inviting readers to consider the sentient nature of the natural world.

5. "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer: Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, weaves together indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge to explore the reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world. The book advocates for a more sustainable and respectful connection to the land.

6. "The Bear" by Andrew Krivak: In this novel, a father and daughter live in a remote wilderness after an unspecified apocalyptic event. The story explores their profound connection to nature, the importance of living in harmony with the environment, and the lessons passed down through generations about respecting the earth.

7. "H is for Hawk" by Helen Macdonald: This memoir intertwines the author's grief over her father's death with her experience of training a goshawk. Macdonald reflects on the ancient bond between humans and birds of prey, exploring themes of wildness, captivity, and the solace found in the natural world.

These examples showcase the diverse ways in which contemporary eco-literature explores the intricate and sometimes transformative relationship between humans and nature. Whether through fiction, memoirs, or scientific narratives, these works contribute to a deeper understanding of our connection to the natural world.

6. Urban Ecology:

As urbanization accelerates, eco-literature often examines the impact of urban development on the environment. Authors may address issues such as pollution, loss of green spaces, and the challenges of creating sustainable cities. Urban ecology, exploring the interplay between human communities and the natural environment in urban settings, is a growing theme in contemporary eco-literature. These works often address the challenges of sustainability, biodiversity, and the impact of urbanization on ecosystems. Here are examples of books that delve into urban ecology in contemporary eco-literature:

1. "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman: Although not centered on urban ecology, this book explores what would happen to the natural world if humans suddenly disappeared. It touches on the idea of reclaiming urban spaces by nature when human influence is removed, offering insights into the relationship between cities and the environment.

2. "Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation" edited by John Freeman: This anthology includes stories, essays, and poems that address social and environmental issues in American cities. The collection highlights the connections between urban ecology, social justice, and economic disparities.
 3. "The Concrete Jungle: Conservation, Cities, and the Animals That Call Them Home" by Joni Adamson and Lisa Couturier (Editors): This anthology explores the ways in which wildlife adapts and thrives in urban environments. It addresses the coexistence of humans and wildlife in cities, challenging the notion that nature exists only in pristine, untouched landscapes.
 4. "Nature All Around: Trees" by Pamela Hickman: Part of a series that explores nature in urban environments, this book focuses on trees in the city. It educates readers about the importance of trees in urban ecology, their role in mitigating pollution, and the various species that thrive in city landscapes.
 5. "The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative" by Florence Williams: While not solely focused on urban ecology, this book explores the impact of nature on human well-being. It discusses the importance of incorporating natural elements into urban design to improve mental and physical health.
 6. "Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast: A Field Guide" by Peter Del Tredici: This field guide explores the diversity of wild plants that thrive in urban environments. Del Tredici discusses the resilience of these plants and their ability to adapt to city life, highlighting the dynamic relationship between urbanization and the plant kingdom.
 7. "The Nature of Cities: Ecocriticism and Urban Environments" edited by Michael Bennett and David W. Teague: This collection of essays examines the intersections between literature, ecology, and urban environments. It explores how literature can help us understand and address the ecological challenges posed by urbanization.
 8. "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World" by Jeff Goodell: This non-fiction work explores the impact of rising sea levels on coastal cities around the world. It delves into the environmental, social, and economic consequences of sea-level rise, emphasizing the need for urban planning that considers ecological sustainability.
- These examples demonstrate the diverse ways in which contemporary eco-literature engages with the theme of urban ecology, addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the coexistence of human populations and the natural world in urban settings.

7. Sustainable Futures:

Some eco-literature envisions sustainable futures, portraying societies that have successfully embraced eco-friendly practices. These works may inspire readers to think about alternative ways of living that prioritize environmental sustainability. Contemporary eco-literature often explores the concept of sustainable futures, imagining worlds where humanity has successfully adopted environmentally conscious practices and lifestyles. These works envision a harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural world. Here are examples of books that depict sustainable futures in contemporary eco-literature:

1. "The Fifth Sacred Thing" by Starhawk: Set in a post-apocalyptic future, this novel depicts a sustainable and ecologically conscious community in San Francisco that contrasts with a dystopian, authoritarian regime. The narrative explores themes of social justice, environmentalism, and the possibility of creating a sustainable society.
2. "Parable of the Sower" by Octavia E. Butler: Although dystopian, this novel envisions a protagonist creating a new religion centered around Earthseed, a philosophy that emphasizes adaptability and resilience in the face of environmental challenges. The story explores the potential for sustainable communities in a harsh future.
3. "Ecotopia" by Ernest Callenbach: In this classic work, the author envisions a future Pacific Northwest that has seceded from the United States to form an ecologically sustainable society. The novel explores various aspects of a green and decentralized utopia, including sustainable living practices and alternative energy sources.
4. "The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World" by Jeff Goodell: While primarily focused on the challenges of sea-level rise, the book also discusses potential strategies and adaptations that cities can undertake to create more sustainable and resilient urban environments.
5. "The Windup Girl" by Paolo Bacigalupi: Set in a future where biotechnology dominates, this science fiction novel explores the consequences of genetic engineering. It raises questions about sustainable agricultural practices, corporate control, and the impact of technology on the environment.
6. "The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson: This novel explores a near-future world grappling with the consequences of climate change. It focuses on the efforts of an international organization working toward a sustainable future, addressing issues of climate adaptation, renewable energy, and ecological responsibility.

7. "Green Earth" by Kim Stanley Robinson: This novel is a revised edition of Robinson's earlier trilogy (Forty Signs of Rain, Fifty Degrees Below, and Sixty Days and Counting). It envisions a future where governments and societies take substantial action to combat climate change and transition to a more sustainable, ecologically responsible way of life.

8. "The Power of the Daleks" by Terrance Dicks: A Doctor Who novel that explores the idea of sustainable living on a distant planet. The story involves the Doctor and his companions discovering a society that has embraced sustainable technologies and lifestyles to ensure the survival of their civilization.

These examples showcase the imaginative and hopeful side of contemporary eco-literature, envisioning futures where humanity has successfully embraced sustainability and environmental stewardship. Through these narratives, authors encourage readers to consider the possibilities of creating a more sustainable and ecologically balanced world.

8. Environmental Justice:

Eco-literature may tackle issues of environmental justice, shedding light on how marginalized communities often bear the brunt of environmental degradation. This includes the disproportionate impact of pollution and climate change on low-income communities. Environmental justice, which addresses the fair treatment and involvement of all people, regardless of race, class, or income, in environmental issues, is an important theme in contemporary eco-literature. These works often highlight the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities and advocate for social and environmental equity. Here are examples of books that address environmental justice in contemporary eco-literature:

1. "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer: Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, intertwines indigenous wisdom with scientific knowledge to explore the ethical relationship between humans and the environment. The book advocates for environmental justice by emphasizing the importance of respecting and learning from indigenous perspectives.

2. "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" by Naomi Klein: In this book, Klein examines the intersections of climate change, capitalism, and environmental justice. She argues that addressing climate change requires challenging economic systems that contribute to social and environmental inequalities.

3. "Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality" by Robert D. Bullard: Considered a foundational work in the field of environmental justice, Bullard's book focuses on the disproportionate impact of environmental pollution on African American communities in the United States. It examines how race and class intersect with environmental issues.

4. "The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature" by J. Drew Lanham: Lanham's memoir reflects on his experiences as an African American ornithologist and his connection to the land. He addresses issues of race and environmental justice, highlighting the need for inclusivity and diversity in the environmental movement.

5. "Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility" by Dorceta E. Taylor: Taylor explores the relationship between race, class, and environmental hazards, examining how minority and low-income communities are disproportionately affected by industrial pollution. The book delves into the systemic issues that contribute to environmental injustice.

6. "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" by Jane Jacobs: While primarily focused on urban planning, Jacobs' classic work touches on the social and environmental justice aspects of city life. She discusses the importance of inclusivity in city planning and the negative impact of policies that disproportionately affect marginalized communities.

7. "The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea" by Jack E. Davis: This Pulitzer Prize-winning book examines the history and environmental impact of the Gulf of Mexico. It discusses the challenges faced by communities along the Gulf Coast, particularly in the context of environmental disasters, and addresses issues of environmental justice.

8. "Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds" by adrienne maree brown: While not solely focused on environmental justice, brown's book explores principles of adaptability, resilience, and collaboration. It discusses the interconnectedness of social and environmental issues and the importance of justice in creating sustainable and equitable futures.

These examples illustrate how contemporary eco-literature engages with the concept of environmental justice, shedding light on the need for inclusive, equitable approaches to environmental protection and sustainability.

II. Conclusion

Environmentalism in contemporary eco-literature explores the intricate relationships between humans and the natural world, addressing ecological concerns, sustainability, and the impact of human activities on the environment. Authors in this genre often use their works to raise awareness about environmental issues, advocate for conservation, and depict the consequences of environmental degradation. The works contribute to the growing body of contemporary eco-literature, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental issues and inspiring readers to engage in environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

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