A Sand County Almanac, By: Aldo Leopold

Published in 1949, A Sand County Almanac (290) is a unique interpretation of the wilderness by the father of conservation, Aldo Leopold. Whether he elaborates on the different types of trees and animals at his farm or the species of grass on the side of a highway, Aldo sees all things in nature equally beautiful and important. In one essay entitled “Good Oak”, Leopold describes in extreme detail the sawing of a large oak in the woods. Through beautiful interpretations of the wilderness and philosophies on the importance of land, Aldo Leopold mesmerizes all readers using his words to illustrate the beauty of nature and helps them to further understand the true meaning of conservation.

In this book, Leopold shows off his love for hunting and for conservation equally. He shows his passion for the environment by hunting, bird watching, or fishing and enjoying the peace of the wilderness as well as supporting game and fish conservation laws. Every essay portrays a different experience that he had in the wilderness, which creates a spectacular image in your head about the beauty of nature. The most enlightening essay in this book was the previously mentioned “Good Oak”. In this essay, he metaphorically describes each pull of the saw, as they cut down an old, large oak tree, as cutting through a decade that this tree has lived through and tells of the acts of conservation during that period. The ring of the 1970’s tells of “two brothers [who] bagged 210 blue-winged teal in one day [and] a market gunner [that] boasted of killing 6000 ducks in one season” (Leopold 16). Aldo Leopold was really the first conservationist there ever was and set the standard for the modern goals of making the world a greener place and tells everyone the why conserving the wilderness is so important through this book.

Overall, this book is one of my favorites because it showed me how important and beautiful the environment is. Aldo Leopold does not exaggerate in his descriptions of the trees and animals. He is simply such a good writer that he makes the world that humans live in seem like a utopia. This does not mean that he does not talk about the bad things in nature like overhunting and deforestation, but he does everything he possibly can to stop all crimes against nature. This is not a modern book that has dialogue and a plot and characters, but the hand-written words of a man who dedicated his life to saving the most beautiful thing he had ever seen.