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Literary Nonfiction: Learning by Example examines the principles and techniques of the genre by taking a close, analytical look at outstanding contemporary essays by fifteen highly accomplished writers. Featuring examples of memoir, profile, literary journalism, medical reporting, and travel writing, it includes selections by Madeleine Blais, Tim Cahill, James Conaway, Joan Didion, David Finkel, Jon Franklin, Tom Hallman, Jr., Walt Harrington, Tracy Kidder, Jane Kramer, John McPhee, Michael Paterniti, Mike Sager, Susan Sheehan, and Tom Wolfe. Each selection is carefully annotated to show students what makes it a good piece of writing and what technical and stylistic devices the author uses for effect. In addition to extensive analyses by editor Patsy Sims, the writers comment on their own work, emphasizing how important the skill of careful, critical reading is to learning how to write well. Each essay is preceded by an introduction that presents a specific aspect of the literary nonfiction writing craft, the writer's biographical information, and an explanation of how the selection was put together. Ideal for courses in creative writing and literary journalism, Literary Nonfiction: Learning by Example is also a helpful guide for all aspiring creative nonfiction writers.



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