

Mort, John. *Read the High Country: A Guide to Western Books and Films*. (Genreflecting Advisory Series). Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 489p. \$60.00 (ISBN-13: 978-1591581345)

Read the High Country: A Guide to Western Books and Films is another useful readers advisory tool in the Genreflecting Advisory Series. Mort opens the volume with an informative and thoughtful history of the Western with its beginnings from James Fenimore Cooper through Mark Twain and Bret Harte, the evolution of dime novels to Zane Grey. The "Literary West" of Jack London and Willa Cather is discussed as well as rise of new trends in contemporary westerns.

Mort follows this introduction with a discussion of "Six Great Western Writers." They are Max Brand, Zane Grey, Ernest Haycox, Elmer Kelton, Louis L'Amour, and Larry McMurtry. As he points out, they too represent the historical development of the western novel. Each author has a brief overview followed by a bibliography organized by subjects used in the rest of the book. Subsequent chapters break down fiction by subjects like Native Americans, Mountain Men, Range and Ranch Life, Sagas, and the Contemporary West and are further organized by subjects within the sections.

Mort's annotations are concise and witty. The titles included are extensive with an emphasis on books written since 1995. Mort also includes sections on mysteries, romances, short stories and titles for young adults as well as awards. Interestingly, and unusual for the Genreflecting Advisory Series, the author includes a section on Western in film (movies and TV) with the reasoning that more than other genres western film and novels have reflected and evolved together. There is an author/title/subject index, a setting index and a film index.

Mort, a reference librarian in Texas, is a long time contributor to *Booklist*. His familiarity with the subject is apparent and *Read the High Country* makes an excellent addition to any library dealing with readers advisory.

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