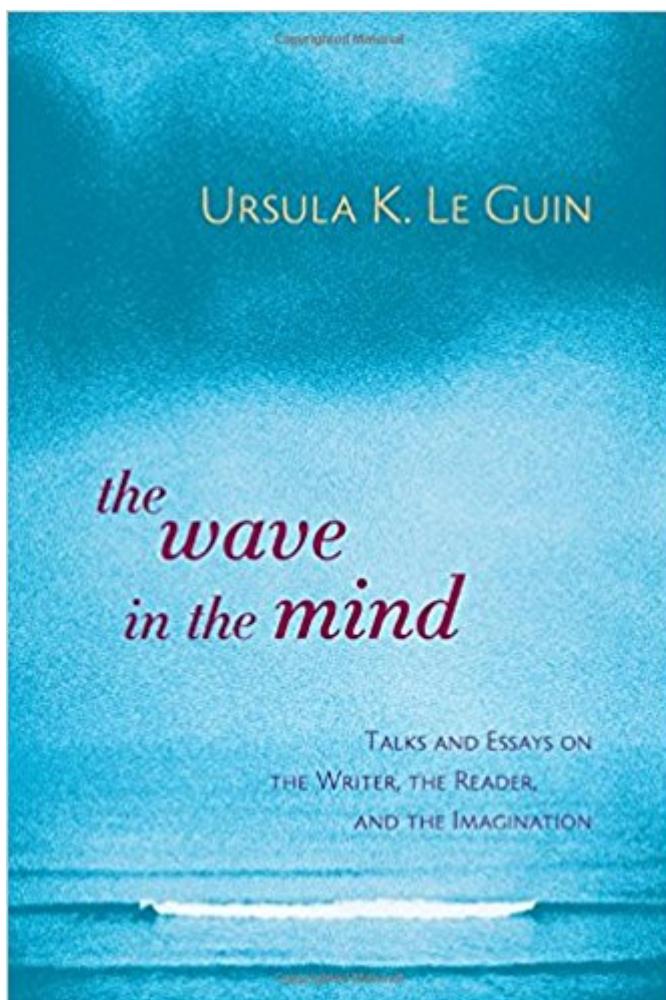


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The Wave In The Mind: Talks And Essays On The Writer, The Reader, And The Imagination



Synopsis

Join Ursula K. Le Guin as she explores a broad array of subjects, ranging from Tolstoy, Twain, and Tolkien to women's shoes, beauty, and family life. With her customary wit, intelligence, and literary craftsmanship, she offers a diverse and highly engaging set of readings. The Wave in the Mind includes some of Le Guin's finest literary criticism, rare autobiographical writings, performance art pieces, and, most centrally, her reflections on the arts of writing and reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Le Guin is stimulating company. A profoundly creative and prolific fiction writer who has won a half-dozen major awards and enticed readers to science fiction who otherwise might not have ventured into that fantastic terrain, she is also a forthright, incisive, and funny essayist. In her second nonfiction collection, a piquant, morally lucid, and enlivening volume graced with a well-chosen phrase of Virginia Woolf's, Le Guin considers the pleasures and significance of reading, the true meaning of literacy, the power of the imagination, and the writer's responsibility. On a memoiristic note, she remembers her anthropologist father and Native American family friends. On the literary plane, she praises libraries as sacred places that embody freedom, pays homage to Borges and Twain, dissects the assumptions behind the designation "creative nonfiction," and analyzes the "rhythms of prose." And Le Guin is breathtakingly hilarious on the subjects of age, beauty, and womanhood. Candid, earthy, and deeply involved in the human experience, Le Guin is artist, mentor, and friend. Donna Seaman

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"Essential reading for anyone who imagines herself literate and/or socially concerned or who wants to learn what it means to be such." Library Journal "What a pleasure it is to roam around in Le Guin's spacious, playful mind. And what a joy to read her taut, elegant prose." Erica Jong

A view, not into her process, but into her mind and her reasons for writing, The Wave in the Mind is delightful, provocative, interesting, and in the end, essential reading. In particular, I would have everyone who reads, tackle her essay, "The Question I get asked the most".

So much insight into the writing process. I was a bit bogged down by the chapters on rhythm--I have to sit with them again--but I would not miss the rest of this book for anything! There is a delightful tale about LeGuin and a friend inadvertently scuttling a boat in the San Francisco Bay. And who knew LeGuin's exalted family background in the world of anthropology. A terrific read for writers and those who love writers.

An inspiring collection of essays on reading, writing, and social justice -- Le Guin's geeky, syllable-counting fascination with the rhythm of writing, thoughtful point of view, love of storytelling, and audible passion for her craft becomes infectious. Under her tutelage, the decision to sit at the keyboard and write, even on a beckoning sunny day, seems perfectly rational, fun and undeniable. Le Guin discusses and admires the works of authors including: Virginia Woolf (To the Lighthouse), Jane Austin, Mark Twain (The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Diaries of Adam and Eve), J.L. Borges (The Book of Fantasy), Cordwainer Smith, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Salman Rushdie, Tolkien (The Lord of the Rings), Tolstoy (War and Peace, Anna Karenina) Italo Calvino (Invisible Cities), Philip K. Dick (The Man in the High Castle), and Carol Emshwiller.

Her thoughts on aging are sublime. Essays on reading, listening and writing are thought-provoking. Other essays are very academic and lost me.

Absolutely compelling! Insightful. Both challenging and compassionate. A genius has offered us a peek into her mind, processes, and beliefs, shared in her always genuinely original and stunning prose.

Sorry I could not get my head around the way it is written, but that is just the way I see it.

If I were a writer I would write a great review of this book -but luckily Ursula K. Le Guin is that wonderful great writer and this book with all those delightful essays is a veritable treasure box for the reader.

Thoughtful and beautifully written.

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