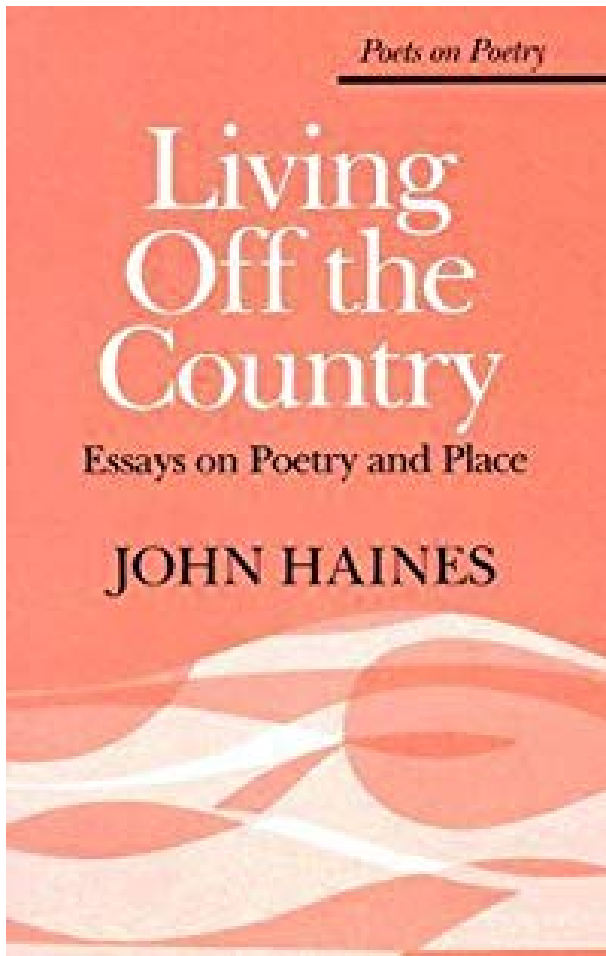


Living Off the Country: Essays on Poetry and Place



Author:	John Meade Haines
ISBN10:	0472063332
Goodreads Rating:	4.25
Published:	November 13th 1981 by University of Michigan Press
Genre:	Poetry
ISBN13:	9780472063338
Language	English
Pages:	200

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When he was a homesteader in Alaska, poet John Haines moved away from language and institutions to an older and simpler existence. In solitude, listening to his own voice, the events of his life reached into the past and the future. We live on the surface, he discovered. It is the land that makes people. If a poet will see, will feel, will interpret his place and then relate that experience to what he knows of the world at large, he will have a life in imagination, a vitality beyond appearances.

John Haines is author of *At the End of Summer: Poems 1948-1954*; *Fables and Distances: New and Selected Essays*; and *The Owl in the Mask of the Dreamer*. He received the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize in 1991.