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## Eco-criticism in James Ragan's Perspective: A humanistic exploration of nature and poetry

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### Abstract

As a knowledgeable and artistic proposition, Eco-criticism examines the relationship between literature and the natural terrain, emphasizing the interconnectedness of mortal and non-human worlds. James Ragan, an acclaimed minstrel and playwright, offers a unique perspective on eco-criticism through his workshop, blends mortal emotion, environmental knowledge, and a deep reverence for nature. This paper explores Ragan's lyrical vision through the lens of eco-criticism, saying how his workshop reflects ecological enterprises, celebrates the beauty of the natural world, and notices humanity's exploitative relationship with the terrain. By examining select runes and themes, this exploration argues that Ragan's perspective isn't only an erudite donation but also a call for ecological awareness and harmony.

**Keywords:** Eco-criticism, ecological, mortal emotion, natural terrain

### Introduction

Eco-criticism has surfaced as a vital frame for understanding the part of literature in addressing environmental issues. It seeks to uncover how textbooks represent nature, interrogate mortal stations toward the terrain, and advocate for sustainable concurrence. James Ragan, a minstrel known for his suggestive imagery and universal themes, provides a rich ground for eco-critical analysis. His workshop frequently transcends the boundaries of mortal experience to embrace the natural world, offering a perspective that's both deeply particular and ecologically reverberate. This paper delves into Ragan's poetry to uncover his eco-critical vision, pressing how his humanistic approach to nature aligns with and enriches contemporary ecological converse.

James Ragan's poetry is characterized by its lyrical beauty, emotional depth, and philosophical inquiry. His workshop frequently explores the interplay between mortal actuality and the natural world, reflecting a profound respect for the terrain. Unlike some eco-critical textbooks that concentrate solely on environmental declination, Ragan's poetry celebrates the beauty of nature while subtly critiquing humanity's detachment from it. His perspective is embedded in a humanistic tradition that values empathy, connection, and the natural worth of all life forms.

In runes similar to "The World Shouldering I" and "The Hunger Wall," Ragan juxtaposes mortal struggles with the adaptability of nature, suggesting that the natural world serves as both a glass and a tutor for humanity. His eco-critical perspective isn't moralistic but rather suggestive, inviting compendiums to reflect on their relationship with the terrain through the lens of participated experience and emotion.

When we talk about the Themes of Interconnectedness and Adaptability, one of the central tenets of eco-criticism is the idea of interconnectedness — the recognition that all life forms are part of a complex, interdependent web. Ragan's poetry embodies this principle, frequently portraying nature as an active part of the mortal experience rather than a resistant background. For case, in "The World Shouldering I," Ragan writes

When I was tumbling young and hurried  
And had no words to climb,  
But knew the trees on the wide lawn  
To shimmy and skin to scrape....

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(The World Shouldering I. Shouldering of the World; p.17) The poem reflects a deep, intuitive connection to nature, portraying the speaker's childhood as a time of unmediated engagement with the natural world. The imagery of "trees on the wide lawn" and the physical actions of "shimmy and skin to scrape" evoke a sense of freedom, exploration, and growth, suggesting that nature serves as both a playground and a teacher. This aligns with ecocriticism's emphasis on nature as a source of knowledge and wisdom, highlighting the idea that humans are not separate from the environment but are intrinsically part of it.

The poem also reflects on the transition from childhood to adulthood, marked by the speaker's struggle to articulate their experiences ("had no words to climb"). This transition can be read as a metaphor for humanity's broader disconnection from nature as societies modernize and prioritize language, technology, and abstraction over direct, sensory engagement with the environment. The speaker's nostalgia for a time when they were deeply connected to nature underscores a longing for a more harmonious relationship with the natural world, a theme central to ecocriticism. This nostalgia resonates with concerns about environmental degradation and the loss of natural spaces, implicitly critiquing modern society's alienation from nature.

The poem's emphasis on physicality and embodiment—shimmying, scraping, and tumbling—celebrates the sensory, tactile experience of nature. This contrasts with the abstract, intellectualized ways humans often interact with the environment in contemporary life, aligning with ecocriticism's critique of the Cartesian separation of mind and body. The poem suggests that true understanding and appreciation of the natural world come through direct, embodied engagement, rather than through detached observation or linguistic abstraction.

Finally, the "wide lawn" and "trees" symbolize openness, possibility, and growth, reflecting the speaker's youthful exploration of these spaces as a time of freedom and uninhibited development. This aligns with ecocriticism's interest in how natural spaces function as sites of liberation, creativity, and personal growth. The poem underscores the importance of rekindling humanity's connection to nature, suggesting that true understanding and fulfillment come from a grounded, ecologically integrated way of being. Through its vivid imagery and reflective tone, the poem serves as both a celebration of nature's role in shaping human experience and a call to reclaim the simplicity and purity of our relationship with the environment.

### Conclusion

Ragan's poetry offers a compelling perspective on ecocriticism, one that's embedded in mortal emotion, ecological mindfulness, and a profound respect for the natural world. Through his suggestive imagery and universal themes, Ragan not only celebrates the beauty of nature but also reviews humanity's exploitative tendencies, championing a more harmonious relationship with the terrain. His work exemplifies the eventuality of literature to inspire ecological awareness and underscores the significance of empathy in addressing environmental challenges. As eco-criticism continues to evolve, Ragan's humanistic approach reminds us that the path to sustainability begins with a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness with the world around us.

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