## Leopold’s use of a passive voice

## “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away (67)

## “But there is one vocation—philosophy—which knows that all men by what they think about and wish for in effect wield all tools.” (68)

### Why does he use the word men here?

#### Leopold walks in a masculine manner with the Axe in his Hand.

#### It is masculine to “wield” an axe.

## *“It knows that men thus determine, by their manner of thinking and wishing, whether it is worth while to wield any”(68)*

### *Note that this is not a question.*

### *It is a rhetorical statement.*

#### He did think about not doing it, BEFOREHAND and he wanted his intentions to at least be acknowledged by other “conservationists” (68)π

## “November is, for many reasons, the month for the axe. It is warm enough to grind an axe without freezing, but cold enough to fell a tree in comfort” (68)

### Why would Leopold mention November, how is this relevant?

### This suggests that Leopold is grinding the axe.

## “Without this clear view of treetops, one cannot be sure which tree, if any, needs felling for the good of the land.” (68)

## “I find it disconcerting to analyze, *ex post facto, the reasons behind my own axe-in-hand decisions.” (68)*

### *ex post facto is: “*Late Latin, literally, from a thing done afterward”

## Leopold is literally swinging the axe right here: “I have read many definitions of what is a conservationist, and written not a few myself, but I suspect that the best one is written not with a pen, but with an axe.” (68)

## “It is a matter of what a man thinks about while chopping . . .” (68)

# Leopold says, ”The birch is an abundant tree in my township and becoming more so,”) (This suggests that Leopold is in fact

# “The pine will live for a century, the birch for half that; Do I fear that my signature will fade?” (

# To be honest, I’m kind of appalled by Leopold right now. How can you really respond to this? It’s like as if it’s been has been shattered by ones dubious plot. My God.

# Leopold says, “Our biases are indeed a sensitive index to our affections, our tastes, our loyalties, our generosities, and our manner of wasting weekends.” (72)

## Obviously it is Sunday: “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, but he is no longer the only one to do so.” (67)

### This insinuates that Leopold hates going to church. And that the Lord has been taketh away his Sundays. And now is getting revenge.

## Leopold says in the fifth paragraph, “I find it disconcerting to analyze, *ex post facto, the reasons behind my own axe-in-hand decisions.” (68) This suggests that he had just gotten back from cutting down a tree. Now he has a sense of urgency to redeem himself.*

## *Notice the*

## *Leopold says “Where a white pine and a red birch are crowding each other, I have an a priori bias; I always cut the birch to favor the pine. Why?” (69)*

# *If you look at a 1966 calendar (year of publication). You might notice that the first Sunday of Advent was on November 27, 1966.*

## Conclusion

### Leopold really isn’t the type of guy who swings an axe a lot.

### We see no evidence of him ever doing this beforehand. He has no dependence upon the land, and his ‘efforts’ to not be “snobbish” appear as if they are flawed.

### What kind’ve person in their right mind would write about Nature like this. My God.