Spring

“Even in my dreams the creeks and rivers of spring haunted me, the sound of running water, oozing rivulets from suddenly warmed banks, dogwood stems flaming in the sun, the birches of the ridges turning purple in their tops. Arbutus were always blooming on southern slopes, pussy willows swelling over the snow, yellow cowslips brightening the edges of swamps. Then the smells, the bittersweet resin of Balm of Gilead, masses of balsam in the first real warmth, the thawing earth itself, a combination of odors so powerful it was as though the air were surcharged with them. All this colored my days, for this was the awakening and the beginning of life after the long sleep of winter. At times it seemed I too must burst with the swelling buds, grow as they grew, reach for the sun, run over the hills along the streams and through the woods giving vent to the joy and excitement within me.”

-Open Horizons, 8-9

Spring Activity Ideas
-Record the sounds from several streams, creeks and rivers. Play them back to classmates and family members and see if they can guess where you were when you made the recording.

-Using your nose and a tape measure, determine how far you can move away from a flower or identified scent and still smell its essence. While the smell of trailing arbutus may only be discernible for several feet, spring lilacs can be scented from much farther.

-Using a camera with a good close-up lens, take pictures of the same buds on several different trees or bushes everyday. Arrange the pictures from first to last and note the different rates for leaf out. Which tree or bush leafs out first, last?

Add outdoor activity ideas of your own design: