

Standards/Objectives

RL.11-12.9 Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.

Objectives: - Define transcendentalism as an aspect of American romanticism and explain how the two differ.

****This assignment is Evidence #2 for the Unit 3 Essays Quiz.****

“Great Books: Walden” Video Response

1. Why do you think Henry David Thoreau went to live in the woods?
2. In what ways did the **Industrial Revolution** sometimes make life worse instead of better?
3. Why do you think so many writers and creative thinkers were drawn to the anti-slavery movement?
4. What aspects of Thoreau’s philosophy can be seen in the **voluntary simplicity** movement?
5. Do you think in our modern-day lives we are disconnected from the world around us? Explain your reasoning.
6. What are some of the criticisms about Thoreau expressed by his **contemporaries** [people who lived at the same time he did] and later critics?
7. What was the nature of Thoreau’s relationship with Ralph Waldo Emerson, author of “Self-Reliance”?
8. Do you think Thoreau found what he was looking for at Walden Pond? Explain your reasoning.
9. What is **civil disobedience**?
10. Why do critics celebrate Thoreau’s night in jail, even though we now know that a relative paid his taxes and he was in jail only because the jailer had gone home for the day?
11. How did the coming of the railroad affect pristine locations like Walden Pond?
12. Why is it ironic that Thoreau is now used for commercial purposes all over Concord, MA?