

Transcendental Background

Optimism and Individualism (p. 180)

1. Describe Ralph Waldo Emerson's outlook on life.
2. What American belief became commonplace in the 1820's?
3. What was the name of the informal discussion group of which Emerson was a leader?
4. _____ believed that _____ is a more valuable _____ than _____
5. In your own words, explain the sentence in #4.
6. According to Emerson, why did the universe exist?
7. How did Emerson feel about human beings in general?
8. What did Emerson call the "spirit that pervades the universe"?
9. For what is Emerson best known?
10. What was unusual about Emerson's style of writing?

Kinship with Nature (p. 182)

11. Explain Thoreau's belief about nature.
12. What lesson can we learn from nature?
13. Thoreau is mostly known for _____.
14. Explain how the viewpoints of Emerson and Thoreau are similar to those of the Native Americans.
15. Later in his life, how did Thoreau feel about government?
16. What is Thoreau's main argument in Civil Disobedience?

Meet Ralph Waldo Emerson (p. 188)

17. What 3 ideas set Emerson apart from others?
18. What major life event caused Emerson to give up his faith?
19. Name one of Emerson's famous lectures.
20. For what was he not allowed to speak again at Harvard?
21. What role did he play in the transcendentalist movement?
22. What are the four fundamental ideas of transcendental thought?
23. What is the definition of idealism?
24. Name 3 of the famous writers influenced by Emerson.

Meet Henry David Thoreau (p. 212)

25. For what is Thoreau best known?
26. What is the name of the Transcendentalist magazine for which he wrote?
27. For how long did he live in his cabin at Walden Pond?
28. What is the title of Thoreau's first book?
29. What is the title of his most famous book?
30. In what year was it first published?
31. What type of writing did Thoreau help to inspire?