

Transcendentalism

Imagining the Great Beyond

Warm-Up - 9/30/19

Grab a new sheet!

- ▶ Me Monday!
- ▶ Find or come up with a topic for the letter “D”
 - ▶ Write an entry about that topic and what it means to you.

Understanding Perspective

- ▶ As individuals and society, we like both structure & freedom (both Puritan & Romantic)
- ▶ We'll see how these come into conflict
 - ▶ Social Good vs. Individual Good
 - ▶ Rules keep you safe vs. Rules limit your potential
 - ▶ Devil is in the forest vs. Nature as inspiration

Moving Forward

- ▶ Remember, people didn't really know yet what it meant to be "American"
- ▶ Remember, also, our backgrounds & beliefs influence how we live in the world
 - ▶ American values come from day-to-day living mixed with thinking, discussing, and relating
- ▶ European Romanticism is going to shift into American Transcendentalism

Transcendentalism

Write this down!

- ▶ People have knowledge about themselves and the world around them that “transcends” (goes beyond) what they can see, hear, taste, touch, etc.
 - ▶ Knowledge comes through intuition (gut feeling) and imagination
 - ▶ People can be their own authority on what is right (Don’t need society telling you what to do)
 - ▶ NOT a religion, a way of relating to the world

Romantic/Transcendental Tenets

1. Free-will is superior to law
2. Emotion is superior to reason
3. Society corrupts
4. Humans are intrinsically good
5. Nature is Holy (added by Transcendentalists)

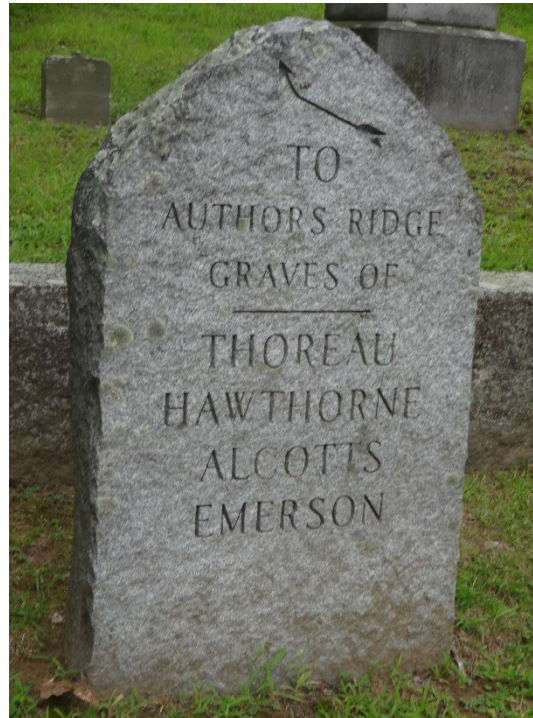
Other Beliefs & Prominent Thinkers

- ▶ Being open-minded to new ideas, looking for inspiration, and respecting individuality
- ▶ Progressive stance on human rights
 - ▶ Believed humans could transcend limits, move past social issues, and achieve amazing things

- ▶ Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ▶ Nathaniel Hawthorne
- ▶ Henry David Thoreau
- ▶ Margaret Fuller
- ▶ Amos Bronson Alcott
- ▶ Louisa May Alcott
- ▶ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- ▶ Oliver Wendell Holmes

Concord, Massachusetts

- ▶ Town where many Transcendental thinkers lived and met to discuss their ideas
- ▶ Imagine them sitting in a living room or taking walks in the garden
- ▶ Basically, being super cool idea-oriented people



The Old Manse



One with Nature

- ▶ Thoreau tried to put beliefs into practice
 - ▶ Went to Walden Pond (outside Concord), built a cabin, and tried to live self-sufficiently
 - ▶ Tried to appreciate simplicity and unity of nature
 - ▶ Argued we don't need to build wealth or follow social customs to be really happy
 - ▶ Being an individual and relying on yourself is more important



Recreated Cabin



So what did they write about?

Transcendentalism in Writing

1. Read the piece of writing to yourself
2. Look up & define any unfamiliar words
3. Underline words/phrases related to:
 - a. Life, nature, individuality, society
4. As a group, discuss:
 - a. What's the overall meaning?
 - b. What's the tone? Peaceful, thoughtful, confident?
 - c. How do you think the Transcendentalists felt about nature?
How did they feel about the individual? About society?
5. EACH group member needs to be ready to explain it

Transcendentalism in Writing

1. Form a new group with someone with a different number
2. Take turns briefly explaining what you read
 - a. What were the main ideas?
 - b. What did it show about the Transcendentalist beliefs?
3. On the back of your paper, write:
 - a. Your name (will turn in)
 - b. A question you have - What this means to our lives, what a specific line means, etc.

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Transcendentalism & Emerson

Warm-Up

10/1/19

- ▶ What are some of the influences on your life? On how you act and what you believe?
 - ▶ Is it your parents, your faith, school, a coach, music, books, a YouTuber, a news site?
 - ▶ What has inspired your ideas and how you think about the world?
 - ▶ If it's all your own mind, what inspired you to be independent?

Mr. Brodie - Practicum Student

Good questions

- ▶ “negative” = embracing complex emotions
- ▶ “star”? = light = knowledge = self-directed
- ▶ Why opposite of the Puritans?
- ▶ “love much, and be forgiven”
- ▶ “one must first be a man to find a man”
- ▶ Alone vs with others

Good questions

- ▶ How find what you're looking for?
- ▶ Why did they say people can be their own authority on what is right or what they believe, even though they knew others may or may not agree with them?
- ▶ How do you balance nature and civilization?
- ▶ How did society treat ideas that were out of the norm?

Ralph Waldo Emerson

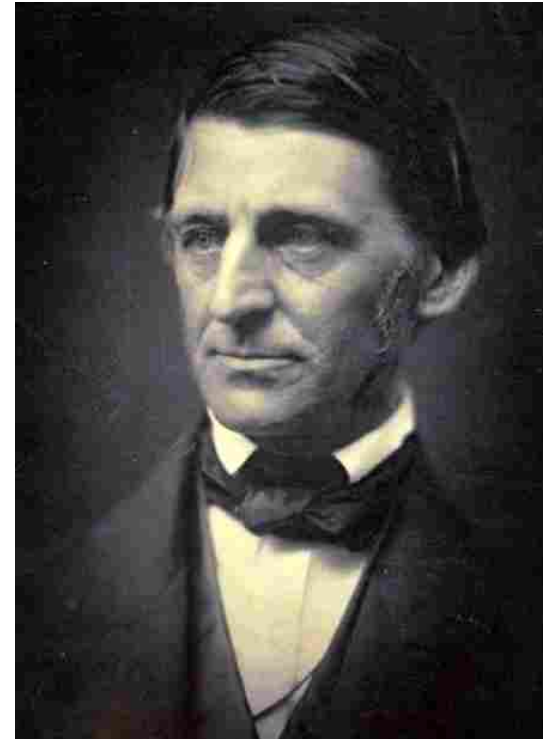
Write this down!

▶ 1803 - 1882

- ▶ Studied & taught at Harvard
- ▶ Unitarian Universalist Minister
- ▶ Settled in Concord in 1835

▶ Importance

- ▶ Set foundation for Transcendentalism with his essays “Nature,” “Self-Reliance,” & “Over-Soul”



Faith & Philosophy

- ▶ Broad spiritual philosophies
 - ▶ Over-Soul = while everyone is individual, on some level we are all connected in a kind of unity
- ▶ Unitarian Universalist Church
 - ▶ Rights of individual and search for meaning
- ▶ Eastern Philosophy
 - ▶ Yin & Yang / Non-dualism = everything has a positive and a negative side

“Self-Reliance” (1841)

- ▶ Emerson wrestles with important questions:
 - ▶ To “be true to yourself”, you first have to decide what that means. What’s important to you? How do you express it?
 - ▶ We learn from the people who came before us. But when should we stop taking their advice and just trust ourselves?
 - ▶ If we shouldn’t blindly follow the rules, how do we decide what we should do? What does it mean to forge our own way?
- ▶ You experience these things to, so give his writing a chance.
 - ▶ (Remember you’ll also write an essay with quotes from this)

How we're going to study this:

- ▶ You'll be assigned a partner and one or two paragraphs
- ▶ Together, you and your partner will work on digging into, explaining, and connecting to your paragraph(s)
- ▶ Each group will present their paragraph(s) to the class
- ▶ We'll talk about timeline and presentation expectations in the coming days

Group Work Time

1. Read your paragraph(s) all the way through
2. Look up any unfamiliar words (There may be several!)
3. Go sentence by sentence. Figure out what it means.
 - a. Use the bolded questions at the end of the paragraph to help you
4. Start re-writing the paragraph in your own words

1st

1. Lexie D & Lakin
2. Lexi S & Paige
3. Jacob B & Matt
4. Alex & Ammon
5. & 6. Evan & Triston
7. Avery & Maddie
8. & 9. J'nyjah & Mariana
10. & 11. Zach & Christian
12. Ada & Zailey
13. & 14. Audie & Jacob V
15. & 16. Nic & Kyler

3rd

1. & 2. Randall & Shawn

3. & 7. Tati & Carina

4. Tayler & McKenna

5. & 6. Hannah & Nyaleab

8. & 9. Christian & Enrique

10. & 11. Adam & David

12. Joseph & Emma

13. & 14. Josh & Jack

15. & 16. Tori & Alyssa

4th

1. Brian & Trevor
2. Sean & David
3. Troy & Desiree
4. Q & Chris
5. & 6. Sophia & Alexys
7. Delanie & Isaiah
8. & 9. Mason & Jenna
10. Abby & Shariah
11. Damien & Angel
12. Anthony & Jackson
13. & 14. Jack & Vinny
15. Ty & JJ
16. Lizzie & Emma

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“Self-Reliance”

Warm-Up

10/2/19

- ▶ **Word:** nonconformity
- ▶ **Response:**
 - ▶ What does this word mean?
 - ▶ How does Emerson use it in “Self-Reliance”?
 - ▶ What does it mean to you? How can you be a nonconformist? Have you ever been?

Paragraph Explanations

▶ **Goals for today:**

- ▶ Write out explanation - either on the sheet, or on notebook paper (to be turned in)
- ▶ Be ready to explain to your classmates. (Do more than read from the sheet. Expect to talk for at least 2 minutes.)

▶ **What we're adding:**

- ▶ Identify a Romantic Tenet in your paragraph
- ▶ Explain a connection to something we've previously read OR your own life/our society

Expectations

▶ Presenters:

- ▶ Explain each piece for your paragraph(s). What does it mean? What beliefs does it show? How does it connect?
- ▶ Stand up & be conversational

▶ Listeners:

- ▶ Underline & make notes in the margins
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ (Remember your essay...)

“Self-Reliance”

Paragraph Presentations

Warm-Up - 10/3/19

Write the definition of a Compound Sentence, and come up with an example sentence that uses a FANBOY.

▶ Compound Verb

- ▶ One subject is doing two things
- ▶ “Every decent and well-spoken individual affects and sways me more than is right.” (para 7)

▶ Compound Sentence

- ▶ **A subject-verb, and a subject-verb. Linked by a conjunction.**
- ▶ FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
- ▶ “Speak your latent conviction, and it shall be the universal sense” (para 1)

Expectations

▶ Presenters:

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▶ Listeners:

- ▶ Underline & make notes in the margins
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ (Remember your essay...)

What makes a “great man”?

- ▶ According to the ideas you’ve read from Emerson, how can we be the best possible versions of ourselves?
 - ▶ How should we act?
 - ▶ How should we use our talents or ideas?
 - ▶ What should we avoid?

Characteristics of a “great man”:

- ▶ Don't worry about what other people think of you
- ▶ Don't be afraid, have courage
- ▶ Don't be selfish, respect those around you
- ▶ Have your own opinions. Stay true to yourself even in tough situations. Don't let others tell you who to be
- ▶ Be your own person, don't take after others - Decide what to do with the advice of mentors / other people
- ▶ Nature is holy, spiritual connection in all things
- ▶ Stand up to others, to pressure, to bad influences, to evil
- ▶ Don't worry if you're misunderstood
- ▶ Find what you do best, career / skill / trade

Essay - “Self-Reliance” & Pop Culture

- ▶ USE: Quotes from “Self-Reliance” & your Summer Reading book (*Ender’s Game*, *Bean Trees*, or *Extremely Loud*)
- ▶ UNDERSTAND: Emerson’s ideas about individuals, society, and (guess what) being self-reliant
- ▶ THIS WEEKEND: Find your Summer Reading notes & bring them back tomorrow
 - ▶ If you don’t have any, use the weekend to put some together.
 - ▶ Next week you’ll have 4 days of in-class work time.

“Self-Reliance”

1. “to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, - that is genius” - Trust your thoughts & share them with others.
2. “that plot of ground which is given to him to till” and “he has put his heart into his work and done his best” - Find your thing & do your best.
3. “Trust thyself” and “advancing on Chaos and the Dark” - Face things boldly.
4. “What pretty oracles nature yields” and “independent, genuine verdict” - Adults judge children, but kids are uncorrupted and will decide the future.
5. “Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist” - Society wants us to buy-in & obey it, but we should stand out & do our own thing.
6. “if I am the Devil’s child, I will live then from the Devil” - Follow your own values, even if other people will judge you for it.
7. “how easily we capitulate to badges and names” and “Rough and graceless would be such a greeting, but truth is handsomer” - Don’t give in, tell the truth.
8. “Their works are done as an apology” but “My life is for itself and not for a spectacle” - Don’t do charity to get recognition, just do what’s right.

“Self-Reliance”

9. “For nonconformity, the world whips you with its displeasure” - It’s hard to resist society because it judges us.
10. “He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall” - Allegory of the Cave - “To be great is to be misunderstood” - Decide what is true, and stick to it. Even if the world doesn’t understand.
11. “The world has been instructed by its kings” and “pay for benefits not with money but with honor” - We should limit power & respect GOOD leaders.
12. “Meantime within man is the soul of the whole; the wise silence; the universal beauty” - People are connected by an Over-soul, which can inspire.
13. “But now we are a mob” and “We must go alone” - Mob mentality is bad (Crucible), be your own person.
14. “Insist on yourself; never imitate” - Be good with your own talents, be unique.
15. “He will then see prayer in all action” - Don’t be selfish with prayer, use it to act.
16. “Society never advances” and “For everything that is given, something is taken” - Society gets stuck in the same mistakes over & over.

- ▶ <http://www.ushistory.org/us/26f.asp>
- ▶ <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/ralph-waldo-emerson>
- ▶ <http://www.uua.org/beliefs>