Units 4-6: American Romanticism
An Era of Optimism: American Romanticism
1820-1865

* The literary period called American Romanticism was a time of both great national ____________ and great literary achievement. No other period of American literature has yet produced such a multitude of influential works. To a great extent, the Romantic attitudes toward ____________ ____________ and potential, toward the world, and toward God are those of modern man. As we examine the romantic writings, we can better understand the attitudes that influence ____________ Americans.
* The “American Renaissance” was a five-year burst of creative energy (1850-1855) which resulted in influential works by all but one of the period’s major writers. This time period is a ____________ of American Romanticism.
* Until this optimistic spirit developed with Irving, American writers and American works were considered ____________.
* ____________’s Sketch Book was the first American work popular on both sides of the Atlantic. Soon, the prevailing national spirit of optimism promoted the belief that America’s possibilities were unlimited.
* Romanticism was a ____________ against the literary values of the previous age. This revolt affected society, particularly in its estimation of man’s relationship to his fellow men and to ____________.
* Romanticism was based on experimentation, strove to mirror ____________, was mostly optimistic, and rejected the tenets of Puritanism.
* 4 cornerstones of American Romanticism
1. Individualism
   - Man as an individual was regarded as ____________ to man in the mass.
   - The ____________ man was upheld.
   - Man was ____________ regarded as a fallen creature. The Romantics believed that the way to improve man was to remove negative influences from his environment.
2. Imagination
   - Imagination was regarded as ____________ important than reason
   - ____________ was valued over the rational processes of the mind.
   - The Romantics sought to rely on their ____________.
3. Nature
   - Nature was seen as the means of knowing truth and became a ____________ subject for literature.
   - Romantics believed that God revealed Himself ____________ through Nature; therefore, Nature was considered the moral ____________ for men. If man would commune with Nature, he could understand divine truth.
   - The Romantics believed that nature was ____________ touched by the fall.
4. The Distant
   - The Romantics sought to utilize ____________ settings, both in space (locations) and times (time periods).
   - Many believed that man and society would in the future attain ____________.

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Genre Development
1. ____________ story
   - Washington Irving
   - Edgar Allan Poe
   - Nathaniel Hawthorne
2. ____________
   - James Fenimore Cooper
   - Nathaniel Hawthorne
   - Herman Melville

Literary Groups
* Knickerbockers
  - They were named after a fictional historian, Diedrich Knickerbocker, created by Irving.
  - These authors had strong ties to ____________ ______________ City.
  - Authors
    + Washington Irving
    + James Fenimore Cooper
    + William Cullen Bryant
* New England School
  - They focused on ____________ rather than short stories and novels.
  - They were also known as the schoolroom poets and the fireside poets
  - Authors
    + Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
    + Oliver Wendell Holmes
    + John Greenleaf Whittier
    + James Russell Lowell
* Transcendental optimists
  - We will discuss Transcendentalism later in depth.
  - These authors ____________________ Transcendentalism.
  - Authors- Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Walt Whitman
* Transcendental pessimists
  - This group ____________________ the key tenants of Transcendentalism.
  - Authors- Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville

Religious Background
* Rebellion Against Orthodoxy
  - Unitarianism
    + Prevalent in the New England area
    + 5 tenets
      o The fatherhood of God
      o The brotherhood of _______________
      o The leadership of Jesus
      o Salvation by character
      o Inevitable ________________ of mankind
    + Unitarians do ____________ believe in Biblical inspiration and inerrancy, they deny the facts of salvation and damnation, see ____________ as a mere matter of morality rather than as an offense against God, and stress Jesus' role as a great ________________ rather than as the divine Son of God.
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- Pantheism- God is everywhere, especially in _______________ and in man.
* Revival Within Orthodoxy (Bible believing)
  - _______________ meetings
  - The great revival of 1857 centered on New York City
  - A southern revival bringing the conversion of over 15,000, centering in the Confederate forces.
* Advent of Darwinism
  - The publication of _______________’s Origin of Species brought more attacks against the Bible than did any other source.
  - The basic faith that was placed in God moved to a faith in __________ and his accomplishments.

“Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving
1783-1859

“There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.”

“One of the greatest and simplest tools for learning more and growing is doing more.”

“Great minds have purposes; others have wishes.”

“Age is a matter of feeling, not of years.”

About short stories
* America’s unique contribution to world literature, the _______________ _______________ developed with incredible speed and force.
* Edgar Allan Poe was the one who _______________ set down the criteria for the modern short story. He believed that a story should be _______________ enough to be read at one sitting—one half to two hours-, for he felt that any break would interfere with the dramatic effect. The production of a _______________ effect should be the writer’s main goal. After the writer decides on the effect to be produced, he invents incidents, characters, and situations to aid him in establishing the effect. The story should be _______________; no word should be used which does not further the preestablished design.
* Washington Irving could be considered the _______________ American short story writer and the _______________ of the short story; additionally, Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne further popularized the genre. Moreover, O. Henry was the author who introduced the _______________ ending to the short story.
About the author
* Washington Irving was the ______________ American writer to become famous throughout the world, and he has been called the "First Man of American Letters," "Dean of American Literature," and "______________ of the Short Story."
* Washington Irving was the ______________ American author to achieve fame and at least a moderate fortune for his writings. In his best works he combined a whimsical mixture of fact and fancy to create enduring national folk legends. Irving is particularly significant because he initiated an era that led to the establishment of a flourishing and ______________ American literary tradition.
* Although __________ trained specifically to be a writer, Irving did become popular as a writer. His popularity was, to a great extent, caused by the American thirst for cultural ______________ from Europe.
* He wrote "The Legend of ______________ Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle," which are based on old Dutch legends that he heard in his wandering through New York. These works exhibit his best traits as a writer.
* He served as a diplomat in ______________ for seventeen years.

Terms
* A ______________ story is an imaginative prose narrative written to give the reader entertainment and insight. Also a good short story deals in some way with the ______________ of human experience.
* Plot- ______________ happens
* Characters- ______________ makes it happen
* Theme- what it ______________, the main idea
* Setting- time, ______________, and general background
* Tone or mood- the attitude or ______________ of the author or narrator toward his subject or audience
* Unity- when all of the above aspects work ______________
* Point of view- the method of presenting the reader with the materials of the story, the ______________ from which it is told

Summary
Rip Van Winkle is a meek, hen-pecked husband who is content to scrape by meagerly rather than to strive dutifully and live well-off. As years go by, his wife nags more and more about his laziness until at last Rip's only escape is to meet with the other men of the town in front of the inn and discuss public events. Eventually, his wife breaks up these meetings, calling all the men lazy.

One day, to escape her tirades, Rip takes his gun and goes into the mountains with his faithful dog, Wolf. Lying on a grassy knoll to rest, he watches the sun sink on the horizon, and realizes that it will soon be dark. As he gets up, he hears a voice calling his name. He looks around and sees a small figure toiling up a dry river gully with a weight on his back. Rip assists him, and the two heft what appears to be a keg of liquor up the mountainside. On arriving at a natural amphitheater, Rip observes other odd-looking men playing a game of nine-pins. Seeing Rip, the men quit their game and join in a drink. The liquor, however, numbs Rip's senses, and he quickly falls asleep.

When Rip awakens, still on the green knoll, he thinks of his wife's reaction and shudders. Looking around for his well-oiled gun, he instead finds an old rusted firelock with a worm-eaten wooden handle. Wolf is gone, too. Rip looks for the dry gully and instead finds a rushing river. No traces of the amphitheater can be found.

Rip then returns to the village, but upon his arrival sees many people he does not recognize, and the children make fun of him. The village is changed—there are more rows of houses, and many names are
strange. He eventually finds his house, worn down and the roof fallen in, and an old half-starved dog, resembling Wolf, lying in the shade. Rip hurries to the inn, which is now the Union Hotel. The picture of King George has been replaced by a picture of General Washington, and none of the men Rip used to sit with are there. As he asks about the people he knew, he draws a crowd around him. Someone points out his son, an exact replica of himself, but years younger. He then sees a young woman who reminds him of his wife; she turns out to be his daughter, Judith. As he reveals himself as her father, he learns that twenty years have passed while he was on the mountain.

After moving in with his daughter and her hard-working husband, Rip returns to his old habits and lives happily, telling and retelling about his strange experience in the Kaatskill Mountains.

About the Story

* The goal of the story is ________ moral or religious instruction but entertainment.
* This story predominantly uses the third person omniscient point of view, the most ______________ point of view in which an all-knowing author is the narrator who comments freely on the actions and characters as he is able to delve into the minds of __________ characters and tell what they think and feel.
* However, the pronoun I is used in paragraph 3 and indicates a _______________. The narrator is a witty, folksy observer who claims to know the history of the region. He is subjective in his reaction the major characters, and his sympathies obviously lie with __________. His humorous maxims also create sympathy for Rip.
* The tone of the story is _______________ and humorous. The descriptions of Rip and his wife mention their weaknesses in a light manner, and the idea of Rip’s returning to his village after a twenty-year sleep is a humorous proposition.
* The historical _______________ is that of the American revolution. The story takes place in a little _______________ village at the foot of the Kaatskill Mountains and in the mountains themselves.
* Rip is not the exalted national hero admired in the classics; he follows his feelings and instincts rather than his reason. This an element common in Romanticism.
* The character of __________ creates a lasting appeal. Perhaps he represents the often hidden but _______________ human desire, when life becomes too difficult, to _______________ to the simplicity and adventure of nature, to sleep away one’s troubles, and to awaken to a new world. At any rate, the picture of Rip with his flowing _______________ and rusty gun is firmly implanted in the American imagination.
* Underlying the witty and satric tale is the _______________ of mutability, or change, present in most of Irving’s best works. It is true that something of Rip will be perpetuated in the son so much like the father; the type will endure. But Rip himself has grown old; friends have died; customs have _______________; even kings have come and gone. Life is transient.
* Among the _______________ elements in this story are the following: a central character who is an individualized _______________ man, not a generalized type character; a descriptive focus on external nature (i.e. the love of the picturesque); and a setting that uses the _______________ both in place and time.

Your Turn

* How would you outline the plot of this story using Freytag’s Pyramid?
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* How would you describe Rip? What is his biggest weakness? Would he be considered round or flat? dynamic or static? sympathetic or unsympathetic?

* How would you describe Rip’s wife?

* How did the world change while Rip was asleep?

* What changes would you see in this world if you fell asleep for twenty years?

* Plan a short skit with the “Rip Van Winkle” plot line. You may modernize it if you wish.

The Deerslayer
by James Fenimore Cooper

"Should we distrust [a] man because his manners are not our manners?" --The Last of the Mohicans

"I know but little of the customs of war, and wish to know less."

About the author
* James Fenimore Cooper was America’s first _________________. He is famous for his Leatherstocking Tales: The Deerslayer, The Last of the Mohicans, The Pathfinder, The Pioneers, and The Prairie. These books follow the adventures of _______________ Bumppo from his youth to old age.
* He was ________________ from Yale for misbehavior so his father sent him to sea. He was a common sailor and a navy midshipman and later wrote travel books. He was twice a member of ________________, a judge, and a wrestler. "He died from a blow to the head, received in a dispute over ________________" (Brooks 280).
* He has been labeled the "_______________ of American Literature," and he wrote novels about the American frontier, the sea, and even an international novel of manners (like Austen's), *The Spy*.
* He is the first professional American author to receive international ________________, the first to regard literature as a commentary on life and a corrective for ________________, the first to amass a great body of work, and the first to create the American ________________, Natty Bumppo. Natty is fearless, miraculously resourceful, undefeated by nature and wicked men, aided by superior skill and help from heaven, and moral with a "good heart."
* Cooper wanted to be ________________, not just entertaining.

**About Cooper's writing**
* *The Deerslayer* was Cooper's personal favorite, but *The Last of the Mohicans* is his most _________________.
* Cooper includes many Romantic elements including: the Noble Savage (in the primitivism of the Indians), glorification of nature (in that man lives in harmony with nature), problem of evil and fallibility of man, elevation of intuition over ________________, poverty preferred to materialism (primitivism), emphasis on honesty, loyalty, and duty, and the common ________________. A common uneducated, but innately dignified and noble, man is his central character.

**About Cooper's characters**
* _____________ Bumppo is a young hunter who has been reared by the Delaware Indians. The young Delaware chief, Chingachgook, is Natty's closest friend. His beloved has been kidnapped by the Hurons. As the novel opens, Natty Bumppo is on the brink of manhood. One of the dominant themes of the novel is that of ________________ (i.e., the introduction of an untried youth to the harsh realities of life). Notice that Chapter 7 portrays Natty's crucial moment of testing in combat. His successful response here assures his heroic stature later in the work. Natty's ________________ is portrayed as both physical and moral. Natty, although an excellent hunter and marksman, is not a wanton killer of animals or men.
* His white companions Hurry Harry and Tom Hutter serve as ________________ to Natty because they will not hesitate to ________________ an Indian by unfair means or even to take his scalp.
* Two forces act powerfully on Natty and determine his ________________. The first derives from his theory of "gifts," the inherited distinctives by which a race lives. Combined with Natty's cultural distinctives is the ________________ code of conduct he has learned from the teaching of Moravian missionaries. Natty acts according to the ________________ virtues of patience, prudence, fortitude, and humility. The words spoken sarcastically by the Indian are, however, quickly proven true: "Good! My brother very young--but he very wise. Little warrior--great talker. Chief, sometimes, in council.
* Natty passes the ________________ in this chapter successfully. The renaming of Natty at the end of the excerpt confirms his successful completion of a stage in his initiation. The ________________ Hawkeye is given in recognition of Natty's skill with his rifle. Later in the novel he faces another trial when he is captured and tortured by Indians He maintains his courage and ________________ under the taunts of the Indians. Cooper seems to portray in Natty the ________________ American, capable of maintaining his standards even in the midst of great cruelty and temptation.

**Summary of excerpt from chapter 7**
Deerslayer awakens to discover that his calculations about the current of Glimmerglass and the effect of the wind have been very inaccurate: One canoe has drifted toward the shore and is soon grounded on a small sunken rock a few yards from land. Although he feels that the Mingos cannot be far away,
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Deerslayer must take a chance and get the canoe. He is almost ashore when an Indian shoots, and Deerslayer narrowly escapes being hit. The advantage is now his, but Natty cannot shoot an enemy unless both have a fair and equal chance to defend or to attack. Reaching the beached canoe, Deerslayer challenges his opponent to an honorable confrontation. Startled and bewildered by this unusual action, the Mingo argues with the white man about the possession of the canoe. Natty states directly that the canoe belongs to Hutter, and the Indian apparently accepts this explanation. Deerslayer, happening to glance backward as he prepares to depart, sees the Indian preparing to shoot him. Natty fires quickly, and two shots are heard simultaneously. Rushing at Deerslayer, the Mingo hurls his tomahawk which the former adroitly catches; and the savage, wounded fatally by the bullet, falls at Natty's feet. Deerslayer brings the dying Indian to the lake for water which the Indian has requested. He also arranges the savage in a comfortable position and does not scalp his fallen foe. Sighting another Indian and hearing shouts of others compel Deerslayer to flee from the scene of his "first warpath."

About the novel

* The ____________ of the novel is intuition. Natty is introduced to the realities of life and survives due to his intuition. Note the paragraph on pp. 167-168.

* Cooper uses descriptive details to build ____________ in the story.

* Many feel that one of Cooper's chief weaknesses in writing was his ____________. Often the dialogue is stilted and the original text contains obsolete spellings and pronunciations. Natty uses long, pretentious discourses that do not seem appropriate for a frontiersman facing such a crisis situation. His dialogue does not seem ____________ due to its wordy style. With his Indian characters, Cooper does a better job because the Indians speak in broken English. However, in the long run the Indian characters are portrayed ________ differently than the white men which is a problem because the difference in culture.

William Cullen Bryant

"I grieve for life's bright promise, just shown and then withdrawn."

"Difficulty, my brethren, is the nurse of greatness—a harsh nurse, who roughly rocks her foster-children into strength and athletic proportion."

About the Author

* William Cullen Bryant was the first eminent American ____________ poet and a forerunner to the Romantic movement. His poems often reflect his love for the beauty of ____________.
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* He supported many "liberal causes" such as women's suffrage and the labor's right to strike.
* He was the first American ______________ to win international recognition.
* Additionally, he turned from his childhood background: from Calvinist to ____________ (Unitarian as well), Federalist to Democrat, and Neoclassicist to ________________.
* His works include a benevolent __________________, emphasis on the individual (the loner), a soothing, melancholy mood that focuses on emotion, and blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter).
* "Thanatopsis: A View of Death" is Bryant's most ______________ poem.

"To a Waterfowl"
* This poem compares the waterfowl's ________________ flight to man's walk through life. The sunset perhaps symbolizes the approach of ________________.
* This is considered Bryant's ________________ work because of its classic simplicity.
* What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? ________________
* This poem is an example of __________________, in which the speaker addresses something that is not there. The speaker is talking to a waterfowl flying off into the evening sky.
* Some think that this poem emphasizes God's providence in life, but the "Power" mentioned in stanza 4 does not necessarily mean the God the Bible. Bryant did ________ personally believe in God's providence. He was a ____________ and Unitarian. Remember that just because one of author's work's seems Christian it does not mean that all his/her works are.

The Fireside Poets
* The ________________ Poets were the best loved of the American Romantic poets. They wrote poems that people loved to share with their family and friends. These poets include the following:
  - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
  - John Greenleaf Whittier
  - Oliver Wendell ________________
  - James Russell Lowell
* The Fireside Poets were also known as the Schoolroom Poets because their works were read and memorized by schoolchildren. Many of these poems express ________________ themes such as man's aspirations, devotion to God, romantic love, delight in nature, love of country, interest in the arts, and concern over ________________ and eternity.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
1807-1882

All things come round to him who will but wait.

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All things must change to something new, to something strange.

Each morning sees some task begun, each evening sees it close; Something attempted, something done, has earned a night's repose.

If you would hit the mark, you must aim a little above it.

It takes less time to do a thing right, than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

Music is the universal language of mankind.

* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was the most __________________ American poet in the nineteenth century and probably the most influential American Romantic poet. Robert Frost called him "one of the real poets of yesterday." Also, he has been considered an unofficial poet laureate. Additionally, he has been called the ___________________ 's poet.
* He knew at least __________ languages and taught at Harvard.
* He experienced many tragedies in his life. His first wife died from a miscarriage. His second wife died in a ______________. Her dress caught fire when she was sealing a letter with wax. Longfellow was severely injured trying to save her.
* Longfellow believed that the poet should act as a __________ guide and teach as well as entertain.
* He wrote some of the most beloved poems in all American literature, including "A Psalm of life," "Paul Revere's Ride," and "The Village Blacksmith." He is also famous for his long ______________ poems, Evangeline, The Courtship of Miles Standish, and The Song of Hiawatha.
* After his death England placed a bust of him in ________ 's Corner of Westminster Abbey. He is the ______________ American poet to receive this honor.
* His greatest achievement was the Americanization of European ______________ and poetic forms in his verse.
* However, he is criticized for the following:
  - It is difficult to ______________ with his relatively shallow optimism.
  - Nature often seems indifferent. For instance, sun shines after death.
  - There is no tension or __________________. This is probably the main problem.
  - He tries to resolve problems which have already been solved. There are no ______________ for his characters and readers to go through.

John Greenleaf Whittier
1807-1892
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It is no use trying to sum people up. One must follow hints, not exactly what is said, nor yet entirely what is done.

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

The smile of God is victory.

You don't always win your battles, but it's good to know you fought.

About the Author

* Whittier was a man of strong conviction who __________________ Transcendentalism and believed in the abolishment of slavery. He is most famous for his poetry--hymns, love poems, patriotic poems, ballads, and pastorals.
* Whittier was a __________________.
* His masterpiece is Snow-Bound, a pastoral that celebrates the New England countryside and family life. This poem has been called America's greatest __________________.

James Russell Lowell

Blessed are they who have nothing to say and who cannot be persuaded to say it.

Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind.

Creativity is not the finding of a thing, but the making something out of it after it is found.

Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.

About the Author

* Lowell was a reformer like Whittier, but unlike Whittier he was famous for his __________ as well as his poetry. He was known as quite the astute critic. His essay on transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau destroyed Thoreau's reputation.
* The Biglow Papers were two series of dialect works by Hosea Biglow, a homespun village bard,
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caught the New England ____________ beautifully.
* Lowell taught at Harvard, worked as an editor, and ministered in Spain as a diplomat.

A Fable for Critics
* Lowell’s greatest achievement was to produce interest in literature through his writings as a ____________. This poem of over a thousand lines in rhymed ________________ was first published anonymously. It satirizes Lowell as well as his contemporaries. The speaker is a literary critic who is addressing ________________, the god of poetry (apostrophe).
* Perhaps to prevent ill-feelings he called his work a ____________--a fictitious story meant to teach a moral lesson.

* Lowell noted that Ralph Waldo Emerson's verse shows good qualities but is marred by its lack of ________________ or pleasing wholeness.
* He describes Bryant as quiet, cool, dignified, and smooth. Lowell ranks him as perhaps the ________________ American poet. His weakness is that he lacks enthusiasm, warmth, and the ability to inspire.
* Poe is "three-fifths ____________ and two fifths fudge." He is too preoccupied with meter and places more emphasis on the mind rather than on the heart.
* Lowell describes himself as one who is continually striving to achieve ________________ poetry using great ideas. His concern is that he is overly _____________ and lacking artistic merit. He says that his verse is hampered by his desire to preach for reform.

"The Courtin'"
* This poem is taken from the second series of Lowell's The Biglow Papers. It deals with a simple incident in the lives of humble people. Zekle is Ezekiel Biglow.
* The poem is humorous in its use of ________________ and its descriptions of Zekle's awkward behavior while courting Huldy.
* Zekle is a big, strong man who had dated many girls but never ____________ any until he met Huldy. He becomes bashful when he visits her but finally develops boldness and asks her to ________________ him.
* The poem remains popular due to its ________________ theme.

Oliver Wendell Holmes
1809-1894

A person is always startled when he hears himself called old for the first time.
Apology is only egotism wrong side out.

Beware how you take away hope from another human being.

Don't flatter yourself that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. The nearer you come into relation with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become.

Have the courage to act instead of react.

About the Author
* Oliver Wendell Holmes was a _______________ and author and was known as Mr. Boston because of his lively personality, poetic skill, and conversational ability.
* He is famous for the poems "The Last Leaf," "The Deacon's Masterpiece," and "Old Ironsides."
* He is also known for his light, rambling _______________ in the series called The Autocrat of the _______________ Table which appeared in a publication begun by James Russell Lowell.

"Old Ironsides"
* This poem is an example of _______________ verse (written for a specific occasion).
* Holmes wrote this poem when he heard that the Constitution was to be destroyed. The ________ had been built between 1794-1797 and had been used in the War of 1812. As a result of this poem, the ship was _______________, and Holmes earned recognition as a poet. Today it is the oldest warship afloat in any of the world's navies. It is docked at the Charlestown Navy Yard in _______________.
* The poem is _______________ because the speaker says to tear down the ship, but he does not really mean it. Because it stirs the reader's _______________ for the ship, it is an effective poem.
* What metaphors are used in the poem?

Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882
The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.

Shallow men believe in luck.

Eloquence is the power to translate a truth into language perfectly intelligible to the person to whom you speak.

Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy.

Skill comes by doing.

A weed is a plant whose virtues have not been discovered.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Hitch your wagon to a star.

The truest test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of cities, not the crops; no, but the kind of man the country turns out.

About the Author
* Emerson lived in Boston and was a ________________ minister for six years. Because he did not see the point to the Lord’s Supper, he left the pastorate to formulate his own philosophy, Transcendentalism. His first publication _______________ became the bible of the Transcendentalists.
* He is also famous for his essay, "Self-Reliance," which expresses the idea that every man is accountable only to the dictates of his _______________ conscience and reason.
* Emerson is considered the most influential Romantic writer and one of the three main _______________ Romantic writers because he was concerned with how things ought to be and did not recognize the evil in man. The other two are Thoreau and Whitman. The three pessimistic writers are Poe, Hawthorne and Melville. They focused on the evil in man and have an overwhelmingly questioning tendency in tone.
* Emerson lost optimism due to _______________ tragedies. His father died when Emerson was eight, his brothers died at early ages, his wife died after two years of marriage, and three of his four children died at early ages.
* Emerson lived to see what Transcendentalism became and recognized that Transcendentalists were _______________ good citizens.
* His weaknesses include a failure to _______________ and strategize paragraph development.

Transcendentalism
* Transcendentalism grew out of Unitarianism, a religion that denies the _______________ of Christ and ignores man's need of forgiveness. Unitarians believe that human nature is essentially _______________, and man can get better by trying. They also say that natural law and reason are the source of all truth and heaven and hell are not places but conditions of the soul.
* In some aspects, Transcendentalism is simply _______________ with a new name.
* Transcendentalism was formulated by _______________ and revolved around Emerson's teachings.
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* Transcendentalists believe the following:
  - Man is ___________ and therefore must rely on himself. He can better himself.
  - Man is not bound by Biblical principles or human conventions.
  - Man let his conscience and _______________ guide him to the discovery of truth.
  - Nature is _______________; and therefore, man must live close to nature and commune with it. Nature is the revelation of God, the manifestation of his spirit.
  - Intuition is the faculty by which man corresponds with God in nature. Intuitive communion with nature as a spirit can purify/____________________ man.
  - Society can be perfected.
  - The _______________ is irrelevant because man is higher.
  - History is irrelevant.
  - The individual is more important than what authorities dictate.

* Henry David Thoreau is probably Emerson's most famous follower. Emerson was the inspiration for Thoreau's ideas. Emerson thought of the idea, and Thoreau would "act" upon them. Thoreau probably came _______________ to carrying out the teachings of Transcendentalism. He describes his experiment in Walden.

* The _______________ Farm experiment, a supposedly utopian community grew out of this movement. The members were supposed to commune with nature, read, write, and develop their instincts. Instead, they argued. The experiment _______________ due to these arguments and financial problems.

* Hawthorne, Melville, Lowell, Whittier, and even ____________ rejected Transcendentalism.

* Transcendentalists deny the ___________ nature of man. Their basic mistake is self-trust, and the essence of the movement is selfishness. Emerson told Thoreau, "Trust yourself, in self-trust all the virtues are comprehended." He ignored Proverbs 28:26, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool."

* The greatest _______________ to the false teachings came from the preaching of Charles Finney.

* Today aspects of Transcendentalism can be seen in Modernism (religious Liberalism), Secular Humanism, civil disobedience, the worship of nature, transcendental meditation, disrespect for authority, and rebellion against _______________ principles.

Nature

* This work was the _______________ of the Transcendentalists.

* Emerson says that the sun shines into the eye and the heart of a child and few _______________ can see nature, or if they do, they have only a superficial seeing. A child uses his imagination more and can see things an adult would not see.

* Emerson says, "The lover of nature is he whose inward and outward senses are still truly adjusted to each other: who has retained the spirit of infancy even into the era of manhood." He means that the _______________ should approach nature imaginatively with the wide-eyed wonder of a child and be open to the lessons it can teach.

* Emerson says that communing with _______________ results in a feeling of delight and a sense of belonging to nature.

* Emerson is famous for the statements, "I become a transparent _______________; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or parcel of God."

Self-Reliance

* Emerson tells the reader to "__________ thyself," but this kind of thinking allows for no absolutes and consequently, good and bad become "but names readily transferable."

* This work uses aphorisms, compact statements expressing a _______________. They may be a
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moral, definitions, comparison, or use of symbolism.

* What does the Bible say about self-trust?

* Emerson believes that to be a real man one must be a nonconformist. What is biblical and non-biblical about this idea?

* Emerson does not regard the doctrines of the church as important because impulses are supposed to guide man. He says that good to him is only what he _________ within himself to be good. This is not an absolute definition because man often changes his mind.

* Emerson says that man should control chance and fortune by his own _________ and work.

* According to Emerson, the only thing that can bring _____________ is oneself and the triumph of principles. What is un-biblical about these ideas?

"Concord Hymn"

* This poem is an occasional poem.

* This poem was written to be _____________, not read, at the dedication ceremony of the monument raised to commemorate the _____________ shots fired in the War for Independence on April 19, 1775. The tune used was "Old Hundred," the common tune to the _____________.

* Patriotism and _____________ of country were popular themes during the nineteenth century.

* "The shot heard round the world" symbolizes the shot for democracy. That shot began the War for Independence and had a tremendous influence on the world.

* The _____________ bridge means that the bridge is humble and formed without precision or skill.

* In the last stanza, personifications of Spirit, Time, and Nature are used.

* What examples of alliteration can you find? assonance? consonance?

* What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? ___________________
Be not simply good - be good for something.

Do not hire a man who does your work for money, but him who does it for love of it.

I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

About the Author
* Thoreau was a naturalist, essayist, and poet from Concord, _________________. He was a devout follower of ________________ and Transcendentalism so he preferred the woods to the town.
* He is most famous for squatting on Emerson's property at the edge of ________________ Pond near Concord for two years, two months, and two days and recorded his experiences in his book Walden as if his experiences occurred in one year. After this he wanted to try new things and became a political activist.
* Thoreau also believed that a man must follow his own ________________ leadings even against the government. This led to him refusing to pay ____________ in protest of the Mexican War and the slavery issue and therefore spent the night in ____________. He wanted men to march to the tune of his drum! In "Civil Disobedience" he stated that the individual should refuse to obey any government rule that he believes is _____________. He assumes in the work that the individual is above the ________________, conscience is superior to law, the government which governs least is best, and that men are naturally good and will do the ____________ thing when faced with a choice.

About "Civil Disobedience"
* This work is an ________________ that was originally delivered as a ________________ with the title "The Relation of the individual to the State."
* This presents that the individual is above the ________________, that conscience is superior to law.

According to Thoreau, a person may justifiably break any law he considers bad; for if enough people break a law, the state will be forced to change it.
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* Thoreau advocated __________, nonviolent resistance; but some of readers misinterpreted his words and called for bloody revolution.

* Christians should remember that we should __________ to the law and those in authority over us, except when they order something against __________'s law.

* Listed below are several points paraphrased from the excerpt of "Civil Disobedience." Choose one of these points and defend or refute the idea embodied therein:
  - Our country should have no standing army.
  - The citizen should not delegate the task of lawmaking to elected legislators.
  - With regard to the justice of existing laws, the majority should not rule.
  - The law makes well-intentioned men the agents of injustice.
  - It is better to break the law than to petition the governor or legislature.
  - All change is for the better.

Summary of Walden Pond

Thoreau wrote Walden while living alone in the woods near Concord, Massachusetts. He states that most people are too busy to appreciate life, and argues that what is accepted truth today may later turn out to have been falsehood. He claims he has never received any advice that was valuable or even sincere from an older person, and questions the moral teachings of his neighbors. Thoreau states that living in the woods gives a person a proper perspective on the things that are truly necessary, and that if a person avoids the temptation to accumulate material things, he will have time to reflect on philosophy instead.

In March of 1845, Thoreau began cutting down trees near Walden Pond in order to build a cabin. He also planted a farm plot and sold the excess food at a profit. For several years, Thoreau lived by working hard for about six weeks a year to meet his basic needs, leaving the rest of his time available for studying. Thoreau recalls that morning was his favorite time of day.

Thoreau states that he went to live in the woods to learn about what is really important in life and then be able to tell others about it. He criticizes Christians who believe that the purpose of life is to glorify God. Thoreau urges the reader to live simply rather than extravagantly, and to avoid being a slave to news. After a time, Thoreau decided to leave the woods to try other things in life.

About the Walden Pond

* ______________ - "Time is but the stream I go a-fishin in."
* ______________ - "... you will see the sun glimmer on both its surfaces, as if it were a cimeter [curved sword]."
* Hyperbole- obvious exaggeration used to prove a point, "Men say that a stitch in time save nine, and so they take a thousand stitches today to save nine tomorrow."
* Surprise- the violation of the __________'s expectations
* In this work Thoreau uses various __________ devices to make his point. He also uses repetition, comparisons, and figurative language.
* Thoreau believed that news, newspapers, and the post office were __________.
* The last quotation at the top of this handout is Thoreau's strongest and most famous __________ of individualism.
* This work can be considered an __________.
* Thoreau also states that his way of life is __________ best for everyone and wants others to find their own ways.
* He believes that men lead lives of quiet desperation, living with an attitude of resignation. He wants men to live lives of __________ and "suck the marrow out of life."
In 1844 Thoreau and a companion had accidentally started a _________ that swept through the fields and woods near Concord, destroying at least three hundred acres of woodland. The public reaction was quick and strong to this action, labeled by the newspaper as "sheer carelessness." His reputation, as a result, was at its ______________ in the months before his 1845 move to Walden. Therefore, he withdrew to Walden due to this ______________ reaction.

Walt Whitman
1819-1892

A great city is that which has the greatest men and women.

Be curious, not judgmental.

I accept reality and dare not question it.

I celebrate myself, and sing myself.

I see great things in baseball. It's our game - the American game.

Produce great men, the rest follows.

About the Author
* Whitman traveled throughout the United States and was extremely well read.
* Whitman served as a nurse in Washington, D. C. during the Civil War.
* Whitman is known as America's first ______________ poet and influenced other modern poets the most.
* He followed the Transcendental thought of Emerson, believing completely in the innate goodness of _________ (even though Emerson himself believed that this goodness did have limits) and taking a mystical view of nature. He believed that Emerson had helped him "find himself." He also believed that man was ______________ and he worshipped the divinity in man. His religion could be called the worship of ______________. "Self is supreme--Any expression of the self is therefore legitimate and not to be restrained."
* He was the most optimistic Romantic author and ______________ American Romanticism and American Realism.
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- His Romantic elements include Emerson's concept of the __________ of the poet, the spokesperson; pantheism, in that he identified deity with the forces and workings of nature; mysticism, in that he aimed at communion with an ultimate reality of god through deep meditation or trancelike contemplation; optimism; and symbolism.

- His Realistic elements include __________ verse (verse that does not follow a conventional metrical or stanzaic pattern and has either an irregular rhyme or none at all), frank content, conversational style, and colloquial language.

- Whitman declared that no subjects were forbidden to the poet and that the form of his poetry should reflect __________ from restraint. Often, his poetry is offensive to Christian.

- He did create a new kind of poetry and freed poetry from the restraints of traditional meter and rhyme by introducing __________ verse. He is therefore known as the father of free verse.

Know this title!
- His major work is a collection of poems called Leaves of __________ which he first published himself. In these poems, Whitman in effect, proclaimed himself as "National Poet of the United States."

- He also wrote many good poems when he focused on good subjects. These poems include poems about his love of America and warmth for President Abraham __________.

- His most famous poem probably is "O Captain! My Captain!"

"I Hear America Singing"
- This poem illustrates the freedom that Americans possess to be industrious and to enjoy the fruit of their __________. The figures celebrated are ordinary, common works who each contribute what they can in their work and songs.

- This poem is an example of __________ verse.

- Notice the __________ structure of the poem.

- Additionally, the poem illustrates cataloging, the __________ of different things.

Song of Myself
- This poem is Whitman's __________ poem. It serves as the foundation of Leaves of Grass.

- As the title indicates, the poem is essentially a celebration of the __________. In developing Emerson's ideas to their logical conclusion, Whitman conceives of the self as __________. His concept of the self's divinity includes not only man's spirit but also his __________.

"O Captain! My Captain!"
- Abraham Lincoln is the __________ portrayed in the poem.

- The public voice used in this poem differs quite markedly from the private voice of "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd." The public lament is more __________ in form with rhyme and some regularity of meter. It emphasizes the loss of the whole nation.

- What is the refrain in this poem?

- The first two stanzas are an __________ to the dead Abraham Lincoln. Stanza 3, however, switches to the speaker addressing the public.

- Please be familiar with the lines of this poem.

- Bonus: Recite this poem from memory.
"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"

* This is probably the finest example of Whitman's verse.
* The more personal ___________ indulges in freer expression of emotion to accentuate the speaker's sense of personal loss. It also is the more intricate poem, developing three important symbols and two major themes: America and ___________.
* Section 1 introduces the three dominant symbols of the poem: the lilac, the hermit thrush, and the star.
* Section 2 expresses the author's uncontrollable grief.
* Whitman witnessed the somber funeral procession of Abraham _____________.
* Section 1 introduces the three dominant symbols of the poem: the lilac, the hermit thrush, and the star.
* The speaker expresses admiration for Lincoln by using the fallen star as a _____________ for him and the lilac bush to symbolize the _________ the people had for him. The poem describes the mourning of the people over Lincoln's death.
* The hermit thrush represents _________________ himself.
* In lines 70-106, the bird's song is a carol of death and a verse for Lincoln which glorifies _____________ as lovely, soothing, and joyous: the final peace for the deceased. Here Whitman changes his ___________: He no longer grieves for Lincoln, but for the loss of his leadership. He believed that those that live suffer more than the dead. The living are the ones to be pitied.
* Throughout the poem the poet moves from uncontrollable grief to controlled sorrow. He now understands that death is _________ as dreadful as he thought. But he will not completely forget Lincoln; for every spring the trinity of lilac, star, and thus will remind him of the man he had loved and so highly admired.
* How does the Christian's response to death differ from Whitman's?

* Does the peace that Whitman seems to acquire by the end of the poem derive from the same source that a Christian's peace does?

* Is Whitman's view of the condition of the dead a biblical view?