

Juniors May 18th – June 1st

DUE JUNE 1st.

Feel free to turn in EARLY!!!!

Emerson and Thoreau were promoting their Transcendental ideas way back in the mid-1800s and, yet, those same ideas still surround us today in our media and popular culture. When you pause and closely examine the music in your earbuds, the movies you watch, and the bestsellers loaded in your Kindle, you'll see that some of today's artists promote the very same ideas as the fathers of Transcendentalism.

For this assignment, you are going to become an expert on Emerson and Thoreau by finding echoes of their words in the works of people you enjoy today. T.V. shows, movies, cartoons/comic strips, music, products/packaging, internet news stories, and public figures are fair game as you find examples to illustrate the words of Emerson and Thoreau. All works submitted as examples must come from the previous two decades. For this assignment, "modern" means items only from the past 20 years. (So, no, hippie/1960's counter-culture stuff doesn't count.)

Provide **THREE** examples of modern transcendentalism using the ideals we have studied over the past four weeks and be able to explain how the examples exemplify the characteristics of the culture.

Example:

Book/Movie

Released: 2007

Into the Wild

"Deliberate living: Conscious attention to the basics of life, and a constant attention to your immediate environment and its concerns - A job, a task, a book; anything requiring efficient concentration (Circumstance has no value. It is how one relates to a situation that has value. All true meaning resides in the personal relationship to a phenomenon, what it means to you"

— **Christopher McCandless**

Explanation: *This quote represents the third value of transcendentalism Christopher McCandless went into the Alaskan wilderness in pursuit of connection to nature, one of the main ideals of transcendentalism. Just as Thoreau and Emerson believed that it was critical for people to connect to nature, McCandless knew that when one was truly connected to the outside world, they would reach their most refined and peaceful place as a human and would find more value in their life. This particular passage addresses that value because it shows how no circumstance one encounters reaches its true potential without the awareness nature provides.*

Extra Credit Opportunity

Optional Assignment (Extra Credit): Write two sincere letters to peers, teachers, or community members that you miss seeing regularly due to the pandemic. While we can't see a lot of people, that doesn't mean we can't add some cheer to their day.

You must write the letter on a word doc or Google doc, email it to me and I will print all letters and put them in the US Post Office Mail. There are three reasons I do it this way... 1. – I need to make sure you actually wrote the letter. 2. I need to make sure the letter actually gets to the person. 3. I need to check to make sure the tone of the letter is kind – I do not read in detail, a quick glance shows me the mood and I will fold it up and send it out.

- Letters must be a minimum of 10-12 sentences and should be a genuine reflection of your feelings/appreciation.
- Letters should be free of spelling and grammar errors.
- Letters must have your name at the bottom, in order to get credit, you must take credit.
- Letters will be checked for length and a positive tone but will not be read in detail.
- You may use your own font but the school printer can only print black and white. If you can find a way to spice up your letter otherwise, have at it!

Letters are due to me by June 1st for extra credit.