

Transcendentalism

INTO THE WILD UNIT



Response: 15 Points

Format:

1. Two Paragraphs

* quote analysis

* apply to Chris

2. Typed, Double-Spaced

Directions: Read excerpts from “The Pond in Winter” (239) and *Nature* (215). Then, write a thorough analysis of the quote you are assigned and apply the quote to Chris. During class, you will meet with your group members and discuss and document your analyses.

Quotes:

1. “Our age is retrospective...Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe? Why should not we have a poetry and philosophy of insight and not of tradition... why should we grope among the dry ones of the past, or put the living generation into masquerade out of its faded wardrobe? The sun shines today also...There are new lands, new men, new thoughts. Let us demand our own works and laws.”

2. “In the woods is perpetual youth...and the guest sees not how he should tire of them in a thousand years...There I feel that nothing can befall me in life...which nature cannot repair. All mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball. I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me.”

3. “to be brothers, to be acquaintances, master or servant, is then a trifle and a disturbance. I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness, I find something more dear and connate than in streets or villages. In the tranquil landscape...man beholds somewhat as beautiful as his own nature.”

4. “spirit is present; one and not compound it does not act upon us from without, that is, in space and time, but spiritually, or through ourselves: therefore, that spirit...the Supreme Being, does not build up nature around us, but puts it forth through us, as the life of the tree puts forth new branches...Who can set the bounds to the possibilities of man?”

5. “The [naturalist] raises the moss and bark gently with his knife in search of insects; the [wild men] lay open logs to their core with [their] axes...The perch swallows the grubworm, the pickerel swallows the perch, and the fisherman swallows the pickerel; and so all the chinks in the scale of being are filled.”