

## Anticipation Guide: Transcendentalism

Use at least 3 sentences to answer each question; feel free to consult and discuss with your group.

1. In *Walden: Life in the Woods*, Henry David Thoreau retreats into the woods to live in a cabin near a place called Walden Pond. Here he tries to live a simple and reflective life according to a minimalist philosophy. If you were to retreat from society and attempt to live in nature on your own, what are three different items you would make sure to bring with you? List them below and explain why each item you chose is important or necessary in your opinion

2. Read the following quote by Martin Luther King and use at least 3 sentences to explain if you agree or not with his position on violating the law. Describe a situation in which you believe it might be justified to violate society's laws.

"An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law"

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

3. Read the following poem and use at least 3 sentences to discuss how you think James Russell Lowell feels about the people who live on or inhabit the streets of the city? (poem on back)

### The Street

By James Russell Lowell (1819–1891)

THEY pass by me like shadows, crowds on crowds,  
Dim ghosts of men, that hover to and fro,  
Hugging their bodies round them like thin shrouds  
Wherein their souls were buried long ago; 5  
They trampled on their faith and youth and love—  
They cast their hope of human kind away—  
With Heaven's clear messages they madly strove  
And conquered,—and their spirits turned to clay;  
Lo! how they wander round the world, their grave, 10  
Whose ever-gaping maw by such is fed,  
Gibbering at living men, and idly rave  
“We only truly live, but ye are dead,”—  
Alas, poor fools! the anointed eye may trace  
A dead soul's epitaph in every face.

4. Look at the following piece of art work and use at least 3 sentences to describe what message you think the artist is trying to communicate about the connection between humans and nature. Be sure to use details from the picture to explain your answer.

