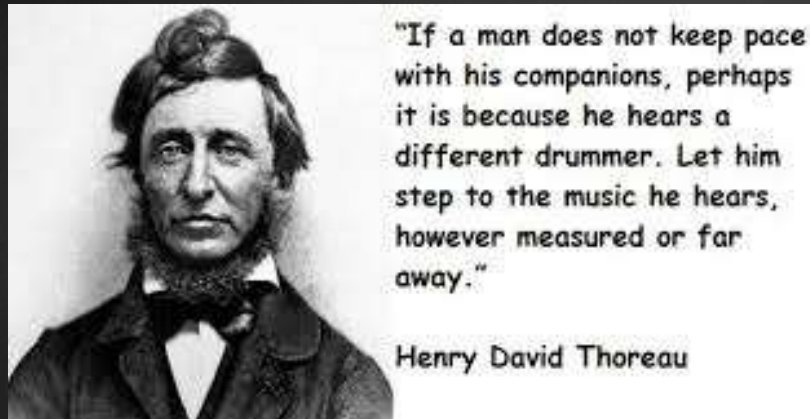


# Recognition



# AP Language and Composition

## Wednesday, 16 September 2015



- ▶ Time will pass; will you? 51 school days remain in the fall semester.
- ▶ Today's Class:
  - ▶ The writing and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau
  - ▶ "Transcendentalism is more an outlook or frame of mind than an actual philosophy"

# Housekeeping

- ▶ The *Daily Course Calendar* was last updated on **September 11**
- ▶ Making up work? Need to see me? This week:
  - ▶ **Today and Tomorrow, 2:30-3:30**
- ▶ The daily Power Points are now available on the class website, just beneath the course calendar.
- ▶ Please keep your grades monitored in IC, and alert me immediately to any discrepancies.
- ▶ Ongoing Reading Logs—what are you reading, and where are you finding it?

*Coming Due—do not squander time—  
that's the stuff life's made of!*

▶ Tomorrow:

- ▶ Annotated Bibs # 3 and 4 *–tii upload required*

▶ Monday:

- ▶ Grammar Lesson #3: Subordination in the Complex Sentence

▶ Tuesday:

- ▶ Philosophy essay drafts—writer's workshop
  - ▶ Workshop focus: parallel structure and active verbs

▶ Thursday/Friday:

- ▶ Philosophy papers due *–tii upload required*

▶ Due October 15/16:

- ▶ Annotated bibs # 5, 6 and 7

# Philosophy Essay Prompt (drafts due 9/22):

- ▶ Pick one idea from anything we have read in this unit, and write an essay which explains what that idea means to you. You must directly quote at least one piece of writing.
- ▶ You may combine this assignment with the TWI writing contest, but you are still required to bring in an idea from one of these readings:
  - ▶ Plato's "The Allegory of the Cave"
  - ▶ Roy Baumeister's "Do You Really Have Free Will?"
  - ▶ Bryant's "Thanatopsis"
  - ▶ Ralph Waldo Emerson
    - ▶ "Self-Reliance," or related essays
    - ▶ "Nature"
  - ▶ Henry David Thoreau—from *Walden*

# Today's Class

- ▶ Socratic Discussion: Thoreau's *Walden*
  - ▶ 30 minutes
  - ▶ Hands raised —*the goal is for everyone to speak who has something to say.*

# Socratic Discussion Questions: Period 0

- ▶ What's this castle in the air? How can it float without a foundation, and what is this foundation? What does this metaphor mean?
- ▶ Thoreau mentions that men live like ants—is the life of men just a blind game of follow the leader?
- ▶ What shall I learn of beans, or beans of me? What can we learn from this world, and what can it learn from us?
- ▶ If we lived simply, like Thoreau suggests, would humans advance?
- ▶ When Thoreau says “We do not ride on the railroad, it rides upon us,” is he saying that men are somehow controlled? By whom? By what?
- ▶ Why does Thoreau use so many references to Greek mythology as opposed to using Biblical allusions?

# Let's not forget Thoreau...

- ▶ “Simplify, Simplify, Simplify”... can you do it?
  - ▶ Must be completed by 9/22
- ▶ Wrap:
  - ▶ The Best Quote in the text
  - ▶ Hanging of the Questions...



# Socratic Discussion Questions: Period 1

- ▶ Has society changed, or are Thoreau's ideologies still relevant? Why aren't people listening to his advice that we live too fast?
- ▶ Will the need for efficiency become the bane of our existence?
- ▶ Does religion define or set a box onto how and why we live the way we do?
- ▶ Thoreau emphasizes simplicity, but is simplicity always the best answer? In which cases might simplicity fail to resolve issues?
- ▶ Why does Thoreau stress not falling into a daily routine? Is it really such a bad thing?
- ▶ When you die, do you believe you will become one with nature?

# Socratic Discussion Questions: Period 3

- ▶ How has the economy ruined the mindset and the morals of individuals in the modern-day world?
- ▶ Thoreau compares life to a tomb that everyone lives in. What can this tomb be compared to?
- ▶ Are we, as Americans, intellectual dwarves?
- ▶ How do we know what to value and trust in this world?  
How can nature be/or lead us to the ultimate truth?
- ▶ How does Thoreau's careful evaluation of his surroundings affect his views between nature and society?
- ▶ Why would making life simple be beneficial?

# Socratic Discussion Questions: Period 4

- ▶ How has society today become more about sleepers and less about the people who will build the railroads? Is it too late to change the course being taken?
- ▶ Thoreau opines about society “how deep the ruts of tradition and conformity”. In what ways are we in these “ruts” today?
- ▶ What does Thoreau mean when he writes “What sort of space is that which separates man from his fellow and makes him solitary?” p. 213
- ▶ “A living dog is better than a dead lion.” p. 217) Should we live our lives for ourselves, or to be remembered? What’s the difference? Is nature truly the perennial source of our life? What does this mean? (p. 213)
- ▶ What do the warring ants represent, and what does it reflect about people?
- ▶ What does this quote infer: “The light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us?”

# Socratic Discussion Questions: Period 5

- ▶ Why do people find comfort in ridged, overbearing and unstable environments, such as nature?
- ▶ If we live the life we want to live, are we successful? P. 217
- ▶ What does the battle with the ants represent? P. 214
- ▶ Are all living creatures more similar than we think?
- ▶ Is it ever good to conform, or does it hinder?
- ▶ What is meant by “The light which puts out our eyes is darkness. Only that day dawns to which we are awake.”?
- ▶ “Would life be better without routines?” p. 217

# Close Reading

- ▶ Defining an author's purpose, and identifying and analyzing the techniques and strategies employed to achieve that purpose.

# *What is rhetoric?*

- ▶ The traditional definition of rhetoric, first proposed by Aristotle, and embellished over the centuries by scholars and teachers, is that rhetoric is the art of observing in any given case the “available means of persuasion.”

# *Rhetoric—Whose idea was it?*

- ▶ Socrates: 469-399 B.C.E.
  - ▶ Father of Western philosophy and Mentor to Plato. Epistemology and logic.
- ▶ Plato: 424-348 B.C.E.
  - ▶ Student of Socrates and founder of “The Academy” Philosophy, logic, ethics, rhetoric and mathematics.
- ▶ Aristotle: 384-322 B.C.E.
  - ▶ Student of Plato, and teacher to Alexander the Great.