

Transcendentalism Concepts

Concept One: The Importance of Emotion:

Emotion is more important than reason.

Intuition is more important than logic.

Concept Two: The Importance of Individuality:

Individuality is more important than being part of a group.

Concept Three: The Importance of The Natural World:

The Natural World is spiritual and sublime.

Technology and science get in the way of our understanding of The Natural World.

Concept Four: The Importance of Transcendence:

- The point of life is to transcend everyday experience...

The
Wanderer
by
Caspar
Freiderich
1818





'THE BEACH'

MIKE LUKONICH
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Aylmer says the following to Georgiana, just before the experiment:

“Unless all my science have deceived me, it cannot fail”
(Hawthorne 10).



Eve
Tempted

by
Hiram
Powers

1842

The Importance of The Natural World:
The Natural World is spiritual and sublime.
Technology and science get in the way of
our understanding of The Natural World.

How does *The Birthmark* encourage
transcendentalism through the use of
satire, regarding scientists?



Jean-Léon
Gérôme
*Pygmalion
and
Galatea,*

oil on canvas,
c. 1890

(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Pygmalion and Galatea

from Ovid's *Metamorphosis*

"Pygmalion had seen them, spending their lives in wickedness, and, offended by the failings that nature gave the female heart, he lived as a bachelor, without a wife or partner for his bed. But, with wonderful skill, he carved a figure, brilliantly, out of snow-white ivory, no mortal woman, and fell in love with his own creation. He marvels: and passion, for this bodily image, consumes his heart. Often, he runs his hands over the work, tempted as to whether it is flesh or ivory, not admitting it to be ivory....

He kisses it and thinks his kisses are returned; and speaks to it; and holds it, and imagines that his fingers press into the limbs, and is afraid lest bruises appear from the pressure. The day of Venus's festival came...when Pygmalion, having made his offering, stood by the altar, and said, shyly: "If you can grant all things, you gods, I wish as a bride to have..." and not daring to say "the girl of ivory" he said "one like my ivory girl...."

Golden Venus, for she herself was present at the festival, knew what the prayer meant, and as a sign of the gods' fondness for him, the flame flared three times, and shook its crown in the air. When he returned, he sought out the image of his girl, and leaning over the couch, kissed her. She felt warm: he pressed his lips to her again, and also touched her breast with his hand. The ivory yielded to his touch, and lost its hardness, altering under his fingers.... The lover is stupefied, and joyful, but uncertain, and afraid he is wrong, reaffirms the fulfillment of his wishes, with his hand, again, and again."

“Galatea Before the Mirror”:

*my perfection isn't mine
you invented it
I am only the mirror
in which you preen yourself
and for that very reason
I despise you.*

By Claribel Alegría

Simone de Beauvoir:

"When I started writing — it wasn't exactly memoirs, but an essay on myself—I realized that I needed first of all to situate myself as a woman. So first I studied what it meant to be a woman in the eyes of others, and that's why I talked about the myths of woman as seen by men; then I realized it was necessary to go deeper to the heart of reality, and that is why I studied physiology, history, and the evolution of the female condition."