

NAME: _____
American Literature and Composition Honors
Transcendentalism: Ralph Waldo Emerson
“Self-Reliance” and “Nature”

Emerson’s Biography Notes:

- Motto: “Trust thyself” – emphasized the dignity of the individual and advocated a simple, mindful life.
- Every individual capable of discovering truth on his or her own, through intuition.
- People are inherently good and should follow their own beliefs.
- “Over Soul”: belief that humankind, nature, and God are all interconnected.

Directions: As you read “Self-Reliance” and “Nature,” record the following annotations in a concept map. Please create your own map to display the information below. Clearly label each criteria displayed. You must create a separate concept map for each essay and print hard copies of the maps for class.

- 1) Annotate the inferred **theme** of each essay.
- 2) Annotate key elements that reflect the **beliefs of transcendentalism** and include examples from the text (direct quote) for each essay. Use your introductory notes on the movement and Emerson’s biography notes above as a guide in identifying the elements of Transcendentalism.
- 3) Annotate **figurative language** utilized in the essays, particularly similes, metaphors, and personification.

Total Value = 10 Points