

THE RIVER WHY
PARTS 1-5 VOCABULARY:

STANDARD LEVEL: CHOOSE 15 WORDS
HONORS LEVEL: COMPLETE ALL 20 WORDS.

/30

DIRECTIONS:

-Write the definition in a phrase or synonym.

1 transcendence:

2 indefatigable:

3 raison d'etre:

4 instantaneous:

5 assimilate:

6 existential despair:

7 pious:

8 astute:

9 pantheism:

10 sophistry:

11 usurp:

12 misanthropic:

13 respite:

14 cacophony:

15 extemporaneous:

16 sardonic:

17 elusive:

18 exasperated:

19 reverence:

20 cursory:

FILL IN THE BLANK WITH THE WORDS ABOVE: use 11 words. None is repeated. (10 points)

Non-native Gus rejects school, friends, parents, and faith. _____ by the _____ness of God's presence in his life, Gus commands God to "make Himself less scarce." Recognizing that each of his mentors: Bill Bob, Titus, and Thomas Bigeater has faith in a divine presence, Gus wants to share this faith. While not _____ nor strictly religious, Gus develops a _____tic belief when he sees the beauty of the stars through his binoculars and concludes that there must be a spiritual element manifesting in the natural world. This _____ for the natural world leads to his emerging environmentalism. **(continue on next page)**

While Gus once believed fly fishing and maximizing his hours fishing would lead to Unending Satisfaction Actualization (U.S.A.), his discovery of Eddy makes him realize he is unlovable. After watching Eddy expertly fish and sunbathe naked, Gus decides his _____ must be to make himself worthy of her love. Gus replaces his Ideal Schedule with Bill Bob's drawing of the curves of the Tamanawis river that spells W-H-Y. His Ideal Schedule is _____ed by his commitment to answering the river's question: Why would humans treat rivers with contempt and ingratitude through pollution and dams? This leads Gus to follow US Grant Creek to its source and to his _____ conclusion that the source of the pollution is a bank, that the bank is covered by the facade of American liberty and independence in the fake Independence Hall, and that the real source of the pollution is American greed. Gus even decides to make friends with his neighbors and teach the local kids how to fish. He rejects his previous _____ and embraces the idea that each person has something positive to offer.

Once skeptical of philosophy, literature, and the Bible as full of _____, Gus learns from Titus that two ways to intuit the existence of our immortal souls are to contemplate the ineffable moments in nature and the wisdom of sages and prophets. Gus now regrets the _____ glance he gave the Bible and his quick rejection of it. Gus is becoming native, and his emerging native intelligence is shaped by his inchoate faith, environmentalism, and love for others.