

**Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden; or, life in the Woods*. Boston: Houghton, 1893. (1854)**

We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep. I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor. It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts. Every man is tasked to make his life, even in its details, worthy of the contemplation of his most elevated and critical hour. If we refused, or rather used up, such paltry information as we get, the oracles would distinctly inform us how this might be done.

*(L.N.1.1.1 author's purpose)*

1. What is the author's intended purpose in this passage?
  - A. to share his ideas about improving material wealth
  - B. to give a specific account about a day in his life
  - C. to compare himself to people who create art
  - D. to describe how people can improve their lives

*(L.N.1.1.3 evaluate techniques)*

2. Read the sentence from the passage:

"It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look..."

How does the author's use of imagery in this passage communicate an idea?

- A. It gives details that provide a course of action for the reader.
- B. It gives information that contradicts the rest of the passage.
- C. It gives concrete examples that effectively convey the author's point.
- D. It gives vivid description that reinforces a counterclaim in the passage.

*(L.N.1.2.4 connotations of words)*

3. Read the sentence from the passage:

"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor."

What is being suggested by the use of the words "conscious endeavor"?

- A. deliberate choice
- B. lively decisions
- C. factual ability
- D. wakeful journey

*(L.N.2.3.4 analyzing theme in context of a literary or historical period)*

4. Analyze how the excerpt illustrates the transcendentalist idea of self-improvement. Use information from the passage to support your analysis.

