

## “Your Life on Earth” STARTERS AND JOURNAL PROMPTS

<b>Starter 1.8</b>	<p>Watch Alan Watts' "<a href="#">What do you desire?</a>" and freewrite on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the purpose of your existence?</li> <li>• What gives your life meaning?</li> <li>• How do you define happiness?</li> </ul>
<b>JOURNAL 1.8</b>	<p><b>Stanford Research Reveals...</b>  <a href="#">"The meaningful life is a road worth traveling"</a></p> <p>Do you agree with Aaker's classifications of happiness and meaning? In other words, are they as separate as Aaker makes them out to be? Can they exist without each other? Which do you feel is more dominant in guiding your choices and thoughts in your current phase of life? Explain your thoughts thoroughly and give examples. (These comp books are just between you and me!)</p>
<b>Starter 1.9</b>	<p>Choose a quote from the reading ("<a href="#">The Meaning of Life</a>") that struck a chord with you personally. Explain what the quote means to you and how it might relate to your developing philosophy about the meaning of life.</p>
<b>JOURNAL 1.9</b>	<p><b>“Meaning of Life” Freewrite:</b></p> <p>Freewrite on one (OR MORE) of the philosophical questions that came out of the reading, all the while processing your own ideas on the meaning of life. Incorporate your own ideas on the reading if you like.</p>
<b>Starter 1.10</b>	<p>To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,          Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,          To the last syllable of recorded time;          And all our yesterdays have lighted fools          The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!          Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player          That struts and frets his hour upon the stage</p>

	<p>And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury Signifying nothing.</p> <p>— <i>Macbeth</i> (Act 5, Scene 5, lines 19-28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does Macbeth mean? <i>INTERPRET</i> the passage.</li> <li>• Do you agree with Macbeth? Why or why not?</li> </ul>
<b>Journal 1.10</b>	<p><b>JOURNAL 1.10 REACTION TO PRUS</b></p> <p>(as individuals, based on your work with your partner): What do you think Prus might believe about the place of humans in the great cosmic mystery?</p>
<b>Starter 1.11</b>	<p><b>Starter 1.11:</b> <i>Interpret</i> the song and react. What might it mean? What intellectual and/or emotional impact do the lyrics and music have on you? (philosophically speaking...)</p> <p>Pink Floyd "<a href="#">Time</a>" (<a href="#">lyrics</a>)</p>
<b>Journal 1.11</b>	<p><a href="#">TED Talk: Why does the universe exist?</a></p> <p><a href="#">Transcript</a>, if you want to follow along or review....</p> <p>Takes notes on the following in your comp book....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What different explanations does Holt mention that humans use to explain why the universe exists?</li> <li>• Which explanation does he arrive at?</li> </ul> <p><b>JOURNAL:</b> REACT! Review the transcript if you need to. Which pieces of his discussion do you agree with? Which do you reject? What do you personally believe about the universe and its existence? If you don't really know yet (as many don't), use this journal entry to wonder in words....</p>
<b>Starter 1.14</b>	<p><a href="#">DanIsNotOnFire</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think existentialism is at this point?</li> <li>• Did DanIsNotOnFire terrify you? How are you feeling about studying this topic? (Are you worried you might spill milk all</li> </ul>

	<p>over the counter while making cereal one morning? If so, there's no use crying over spilt milk.)</p>
<b>Journal 1.14</b>	<p><b>Reflections on Existentialism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which pieces of existentialism are you attracted to? Repulsed by?</li> <li>• Do any of these tenets have a place in your own personal philosophy?</li> <li>• With which quote do you agree more? Macbeth's "Tomorrow" speech or Dylan Thomas' "Do not go gentle..."?</li> </ul>
<b>Starter 1.15</b>	<p>Journal for 10 minutes in response to the following poem (on page 19 in the reader if you want to annotate!). Or write a poem back. Or just react. In light of everything we have been studying lately, where does this poem hit you?</p> <p><b>Mary Oliver, The Summer Day</b></p> <p>Who made the world?  Who made the swan, and the black bear?  Who made the grasshopper?  This grasshopper, I mean--  the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--  who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,</p>

	<p>which is what I have been doing all day.  Tell me, what else should I have done?  Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  Tell me, what is it you plan to do  with your one wild and precious life?</p>
<b>Journal 1.15</b>	<b><u>Existentialism Review</u></b>
<b>Journal 1.17:</b> <b><i>Stranger than</i></b> <b><i>Fiction Analysis</i></b>	<p><b>Make an interpretive claim that connects this film to existentialism. Write a TEA paragraph that supports the claim with evidence from the film.</b></p> <p><b>Terms/ideas to consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meaninglessness</li> <li>• Existential crisis</li> <li>• Existence precedes essence</li> <li>• The absurd</li> <li>• Absurd hero</li> <li>• Angst</li> <li>• Alienation</li> <li>• Freedom/Free will</li> <li>• Acceptance of one's own absurd condition</li> <li>• Authenticity</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions to consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is Harold Crick an absurd hero?</li> <li>• What does Ms. Eiffel represent? How might Harold becoming aware of her voice relate to existentialism?</li> <li>• How does Harold's angst impact his perspective on his own life?</li> <li>• What or who might Dustin Hoffman represent? (think about his advice to Harold about pancakes AND to accept his death...)</li> <li>• What might this film be saying about living an authentic life?</li> <li>• HONORS: How does <i>Stranger than Fiction</i> relate to <i>The Stranger</i>? In what ways are Meursault and Harold Crick similar?</li> </ul>
<b>Starter 1.23</b>	<p>What is your personal definition of "a life well-lived"? At the end of your life, what do you hope to be able to look back and</p>

	say?
<b>Starter 1.24</b>	How are Aristotle's ideas on Happiness and a Meaningful Life resonating with you? What do you reject? What questions does it raise for you?
<b>Journal 1.24</b>	<p>Identify some of the ways you are exercising virtue in your life, using the table of Virtues and Vices and/or the <u>24 Character Strengths</u> from Positive Psychology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choose 3 strengths that you feel guide you or are inextricably bound to your personal moral code. How does each add happiness/meaning to your life?</li> <li>2. Choose 3 you wish to improve in, in order to live a more happy and meaningful life. Explain how strengthening these attributes could lead to a more fulfilled sense of being.</li> </ol>
<b>Starter 1.31</b>	What might human beings find in the wild that they do not find in civilization? (Relate your answer to the assigned chapters and/or to your own personal outdoor experiences.)
<b>Journal 1.31</b>	<p>React to the content of the article and relate it to the bigger questions of our project and/or your own personal experience and/or philosophies. What connections might you see between the scientific worldview and spiritual belief systems?</p> <p>-OR-</p> <p>Tell a story about an experience that you had in nature that had healing powers.</p>
<b>Starter 2.4</b>	<p>Write a haiku that attempts to capture one thought snapshot of your personal relationship with nature or another philosophical perspective. (5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables)</p> <p><i>Maybe next lifetime I could be a butterfly</i></p>

	<i>Who glides through this fog</i>
<b>Journal 2.4</b>	<b>Thoughts on Transcendentalism:</b> How does transcendentalism speak to you personally? Which pieces resonate and which do you reject? Why? Choose at least one quote from the Thoreau reading OR the Powerpoint lesson and react to it in the context of your response.
<b>Journal 2.5</b>	<p><b>Read</b> <a href="#">Keiran Eagen's intertextual email exchange with Nick Jans</a>  <i>*Note: Nick Jans is the author in Chapter 8 (p.71-72) who criticized Chris and Krakauer's coverage of him.</i></p> <p><b>Reader Response:</b> Do you agree with Keiran or with Nick Jans? Was Chris McCandless less competent than a boy scout? Or was he on a transcendental path that is worthy of our study?</p>
<b>Starter 2.11</b>	What is the difference between religion and spirituality?
<b>Journal 2.11 Response to "NOMA"</b>	<p>React to the idea of "Non-overlapping Magisteria" and/or Michael Shermer's article. Identify a specific passage in the article and agree or disagree with it.</p> <p>Philosophize: Are religion and science compatible? Can they work together to illuminate meaning in our lives? Or do they contradict each other?</p>
<b>Journal 2.12</b>	How do religion and other forms of spirituality give meaning and purpose to human life? Use evidence from Rick Warren's TED Talk and/or your personal experiences and observations.
<b>Starter 2.21</b>	Starter from Mini-Study
<b>Journal 2.21</b>	Journal from Mini-Study



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