

## **Conformity**

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away (156).

I have sworn no oath. I have no designs on society--or nature--or God. I am simply what I am, or I begin to be that (10).

I desire that there may be as many different persons in the world as possible: but I would have each one be very careful to find out and pursue his own way, and not his father's or his mother's or his neighbor's instead" (11).

**In what ways do you “conform” to society and others’ expectations for you?**

**In what ways are you a distinct individual that does not conform to society?**

**Reflect on one of the above quotes. What do you think Thoreau is attempting to say?**

## **Carpe Diem / Seize the Day / Courage**

“Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.” (Emerson)

“I am not afraid that I shall exaggerate the value and significance of life, but that I shall not be up to the occasion which it is. I shall be sorry to remember that I was there, but noticed nothing remarkable...”(181-2).

“We do not commonly live our life out and full--we do not fill all our pores with our blood--we do not inspire and expire fully and entirely enough” (182).

“It is life near the bone where it is sweetest” (182).

**What was your quote you yelled?**

**Describe a day or moment that you enjoyed and felt the most “alive”.**

**How can you live like that everyday/more often?**

## **Possessions / Simplicity**

“Our life is frittered away with detail...Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity!” (289)

“...Simplify the problem of life, distinguish the necessary and the real” (289).

“I am amused to see from my window here how busily man has divided and staked off his dominion. God must smile at his puny fences running hither and thither everywhere over the land” (257-8).

| What I really want / My prized possessions |  |
|--------------------------------------------|--|
|                                            |  |

## **Nature / Solitude / Detail**

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived" (?)

"There can be no very black melancholy to him who lives in the midst of Nature and has his senses still" (225).

"Nature will bear the closest inspection; she invites us to lay our eye level with the smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain...every part is full of life" (228).

"Let men tread gently through nature" (235)

**Bubble Map: What did you observe with all five of your senses?**

**Describe your object in the fullest detail possible.**

## **Opinion and Advice**

“Public opinion is a weak tyrant compared with our own private opinion. What a man thinks of himself, that is which determines, or rather indicates, his fate” (246).

“Let us settle ourselves, and work and wedge our feet downward through the mud and slush of opinion, and prejudice, and tradition, and delusion, and appearance, that flood which covers the globe” (247).

“There is a stronger desire to be respectable to one’s neighbors than to one’s self” (247).

“I have lived some thirty years on this planet, and I have yet to hear the first syllable of valuable or even earnest advice from my seniors. They have told me nothing, and probably cannot tell me any thing to the purpose. Here is life, an experiment to a great extent untried by me; but it does not avail me that they have tried it. If I have any experience which I think valuable, I am sure to reflect that this my Mentors said nothing about” (248).

## **Success**

“Regard not your past failures nor successes. All the past is equally a failure & a success. It is a success in as much as it offers you the present opportunity” (304).

“In the long run men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, though they should fail immediately, they had better aim at something high” (305).

“A living dog is better than a dead lion...Let every one mind his own business, and endeavor to be what he was made” (305).