

Transcendental Scavenger Hunt

American Literature

Name: _____

Instructions: Below are the central features of Transcendentalism. Provide the clearest and most self-evident example of each by choosing a quote from any of the four selected excerpts we read by Emerson and Thoreau. Be sure to *cite the essay* from which you have chosen your quote. *Do not use your own words.*

Idealism: Facts and figures do not reveal the truth of reality—the ideas behind those facts and figures do. Logic and science do not shape our future—imagination does; we must dream of the possibility long before it becomes reality.

Self-Reliance: The height of individualism: do not allow society to shape you—you can shape society!

Human Divinity: Each of us has a spark of divinity inside us; by understanding ourselves we can understand God.

Organic Universe: The universe is spiritual, growing, and changing . . . and we are all a part of it—everything is connected and each thing is a means of understanding another. The “Transparent Eyeball!” The “Over-Soul!”

Instructions: Below are common literary devices used both by Emerson and Thoreau. Provide the clearest and most self-evident example of each by choosing a quote from any of the four selected excerpts we read. Be sure to *cite the essay* from which you have chosen your quote. Do not use your own words. Your quote should stand on its own.

1. **Allusion:** A passing reference to something or someone outside the immediate scope of the work.

Example: _____

2. **Analogy:** An explanation of a complex concept or idea using a more familiar one.

Example: _____

3. **Anecdote:** A short, often witty, account of an interesting or humorous personal incident.

Example: _____

4. **Aphorism:** A short statement of general truth that often conveys a lesson.

Example: _____

5. **Paradox:** A statement that seems self-contradictory or absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth.

Example: _____

6. **Parallelism:** Repetition of a grammatical structure to suggest or emphasize meaning.

Example: _____

7. **Symbol:** Something that stands for something else. Metaphors! Similes!

Example: _____
