

Transcendental Translation

American Literature

Name: _____

Instructions: Below are some important quotations from Emerson’s famous transcendental essay “Self-Reliance.” Interpret and explain the significance of each within the context of the transcendentalist’s search for “self,” being sure to *explicitly explain* the ways in which the concepts of *individualism* and *truth* are addressed in each quote. Do not simply repeat the words of Emerson—interpret and explain in your own words.

“envy is ignorance . . . imitation is suicide . . .”

“Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members. . . . The virtue in most request is conformity.”

“Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind.”

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds . . .”

“To be great is to be misunderstood.”
