

Section: L Group: 2

Thoreau v.s. the Modern World

Cast/Characters:

- Narrator – Jacky
- Thoreau - Neil
- Guard - Daanish
- Teen 1 - Bao Han
- Teen 2 – Maxi
- Hunter - Jacky
- Gossiper 1 - Bao Han
- Gossiper 2 - Maxi
- Driver - Jacky
- Advocate - Daanish

Scene 1:

Narrator: Scene 1, Walden Pond, Concord, 2019

Thoreau: (*wakes up and stretches*) What a lovely day it is, the birds are chirping, and the woods are full of excitement.

(*walks outside and starts to walk into Walden pond*)

Guard: Halt! I need 5 dollars from you first in order to get into the pond.

Thoreau: 5 dollars? That's how much I make from 1 month in the bean field!

Guard: I don't care, in order to get in it is state law to pay 5 dollars.

Thoreau: This is madness! The pond was created by mother nature herself to sustain the fauna of the surrounding forests. The water for us to drink, the air for us to breathe, the berries to relieve ourselves of hunger.

Guard: Hey man, I don't make the rules. If you don't leave imma have to call security.

Thoreau: Do it your way sir, I will make myself scarce right away. (*to himself*) I must protest this unjust law!

(*Ends up leaving, guard checks his phone, Thoreau sneaks in*)

(*2 teenagers are in front of Walden taking selfies*)

Teen 1: Come take a selfie with me!

(*does a bunch of "teenager" things*)

Teen 2: hashtag blessed, hashtag mother nature

Thoreau: What is the youth up to these days? Get off your portable telegraphs and get back to the nature around you!

Teen 1: You're not my dad! Stop telling me what to do!

(Thoreau gasps)

Teen 2: Yea! All Walden pond is good for is taking selfies in front of the beautiful scenery!

Thoreau: You fools! Falling to the feet of modern technology! Walden should be expressed through poetic writing of the humans who take on the vast beauty, not through frivolous conversations and devices. *(Calling on someone in audience/a teacher)* _____, can you believe these teenagers?

Teen 1: What is your problem? We are just trying to make every other teen in our grade jealous of us, like no big deal. By the way, do you have Instagram? Follow me and drop a like.

(Both teens take a picture with Thoreau, then teens exit. Bird starts "flying")

Thoreau: *(shocked)* Magnificent! A rare blue macaw! Such an exotic sight in the woods of Walden.

("Bang" sound effect offstage, bird falls, and hunter enters.)

Hunter: Hey! Are you trying to take my kill?

Thoreau: No sir, just admiring this marvelous creature. Are you an ornithologist?

Hunter: Nah fam, just a hunter. I hunt to collect species and put 'em on my wall.

Thoreau: Sport hunting is a waste of the wilderness; this bird belongs free under the sun, or studied by humans, not caged up in your dark parlor.

Hunter: I'll live my life and you live yours.

(Guard starts running towards the Thoreau and Hunter)

Hunter: Oh no, the popo! *(runs away with the bird)*

Thoreau: *(to himself)* What is a pope doing in Walden?

Guard: Hey you! You didn't pay! How did you get in? Never mind, under the Massachusetts state laws you are under arrest!

(Guard takes Thoreau off stage, scene ends)

Narrator: End Scene

(Everyone exits)

Scene 2:

Narrator: Downtown Boston, 2019, Thoreau - fresh out of jail

(Thoreau walks out of jail and is now in the center of a city. The gossipers are also walking in the city)

Thoreau: *(to himself)* Another night in jail, another cause served!

Gossiper 1: *(eating a burger, to Gossiper 2)* School has been so stressful lately, way too many projects!

Gossiper 2: *(to Gossiper 1)* Did you hear that Darshan did his physics in the library right before class?

Gossiper 1: *(very surprised)* No way! I must've been too busy working on my STEM project to notice.

Thoreau: *(to himself)* Ah! A homeopathic dose of gossip. *(interrupting the gossipers)* Are you talking about school on your day off? Why not just stop working altogether?

Gossiper 2: Who even are you? We don't even know you and you think you can just-

Thoreau: *(interrupting the gossipers)* We inhabit the same world. This land is for all of us to be free to listen and look at whatever we choose.

(Gossipers whisper to each other, confused. They continue to eat.)

Thoreau: *(Grabs Gossiper 1's sandwich)* By the by, what kind of unique sandwich is that? Did you hunt that meat yourself?

Gossiper 1: *(Takes sandwich back)* Is it even meat though? It's McDonald's...

Thoreau: Synthetic food? Relying on others is a dangerous game. Self-reliance grants the ability to live deliberately without the chains of society.

Gossiper 2: Whatevah.

(Gossipers roll eyes and exit)

(Driver speeds by Thoreau with sound effects, and nearly hits him)

Thoreau: How can you possibly enjoy your surroundings in such a fast coach? How could you possibly see the ants fight when you've scared them all away?

Driver: *(angrily)* Who do you think you are? Move out of my way. I have the green light right now!

(Driver speeds away and Advocate walks toward Thoreau with an extra climate change sign, Thoreau walks toward advocate to try and meet him in the middle)

Thoreau: Society is slave to this light? People talk of work, not ideas? And Walden itself is monetized? Is there anyone out there who...

Advocate: *(interrupting Thoreau)* Henry David Thoreau? Is that you? THE Thoreau? We're having a climate change rally a few blocks away. Please, please join us!

Thoreau: I'll gladly join you! Man has made Earth what it is. I must stop Man from destroying it. What do you call yourselves?

Advocate: We are environmentalists; it's our mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

Thoreau: *(to audience and Advocate)* Environmentalists, you are our only hope. The future depends on you. Good luck and goodnight.

(Everyone exits)

Narrator: The End