Brandon Lee

Period 4

Jaroch

Ralph Waldo Emerson Response

*Nature*

3) a. Emerson becomes a “transparent eyeball” when he is enveloped by the nature around him. He feels he becomes one with it, being only a shell as the nature possesses him.

b. Emerson describes this experience as becoming connecting to every living thing around him, finding himself lost in the eternal beauty of nature.

c. The idea of an Oversoul is that everything that lives or has lived is connected through one soul. When Emerson falls into this trance with nature he is utilizing his connection with the Oversoul.

6) a. Emerson’s main point is to help spread Transcendentalist beliefs by explaining how he connected with nature and the beauty he felt being part of something much bigger than himself.

b. Emerson’s passage is convincing as he does not try too hard to argue for his beliefs. He is merely describing his own experiences with nature which apply to Transcendentalism

7) There is not many people that are affected by Emerson’s work today. People may share similar views to him, but mainly from other writers. Also, there is a significant majority of the population who believes in more industrialized society rather than the preservation of nature.

*Self-Reliance*

2) a. He calls it a “conspiracy”, relating it to a stock company that prioritizes wealth over personal liberties or happiness.

b. Emerson believes society’s purpose is the birth of great minds through the struggles it imposes on those who challenge it.

c. Emerson believes that people should embrace negative criticism as a sign that they are reaching some intelligence greater than those around them.

5) a. “Divines”, in Emerson’s view, have the role of challenging consistency of thought that society pushes onto people. This will allow for self-reliance in thought and individual freedom from society

b. Emerson would say each person’s purpose for living is to make an impact on those around them and challenge society for what it is.

*Where I lived and What I Lived For*

2) a. Thoreau advises “fellows” to consider their decisions carefully when making large life choices such as buying land or property.

b. I interpreted it in saying that no matter your circumstances in life, there is always a way to make the best of it and build something from your life.

3) a. Thoreau believes that life is something that should be enjoyed because it is special and the small happinesses should be treasured despite financial situations or poverty.

b. True wealth is living and enjoying life rather than monetary value.

4) a. Our lives “fritter away” and are lost in the small details

b. He means that we should be living life enjoying every task in the moment and not worry about the future or past mistakes.

6) a. The things that are necessary to the soul are what maintain it and cultivate it.

b. I do agree partially that people should enjoy the small details in life but society today punishes those in poverty and makes it hard to enjoy life.

*Civil Disobedience*

4) a. Thoreau is attempting to convince the readers to stand against a standing government by voicing their opinions, which has been a thing that people have seem to forgotten how to do.

b. In Thoreau’s argument, he claims that the government makes decisions without much input of the citizens, leading to the loss of people’s trust and desire for input.

5) a. A standing government cannot be a part of a free country and is not needed at all times. People should be left to govern themselves until the government is truly needed.

b. A government that equally treats its citizens, providing services to all equally. In places like Canada, their socialism is not perfect but it does work to ensure enjoyable lives for the majority of the citizens.

*The Future of Life*

1) a. I believe that life and its aspects are a form of art as if you really sit down and analyze it there is so much beauty inside.

2) a. Wilson criticizes Thoreau for having too much faith in people. Although we are capable of a lot, Wilson believes there is a limit on humans evolution and that Thoreau’s ideas are not applicable to the world now.

*Going to the Woods is Going Home*

The essay describes Muir’s feelings about the magnificence of nature. With the beauty of it being lost in the fast paced lives we all live in today, it is good to take a step back and appreciate what we are a part of. Muir’s ideas are similar to Thoreau and Emerson as they all encourage the ideas of nature’s beauty in an effort to live better lives.

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Dillard talks about her childhood and how she would hide pennies for strangers “as a gift from the universe”. This idea of even the smallest things being gifts relates to Thoreau’s idea of appreciating the small details in life. However, Dillard does continue to write about how now as an adult she has lost a piece of that innocence as she used to be able to observe the smallest things, like insects, but she now only sees the big picture.