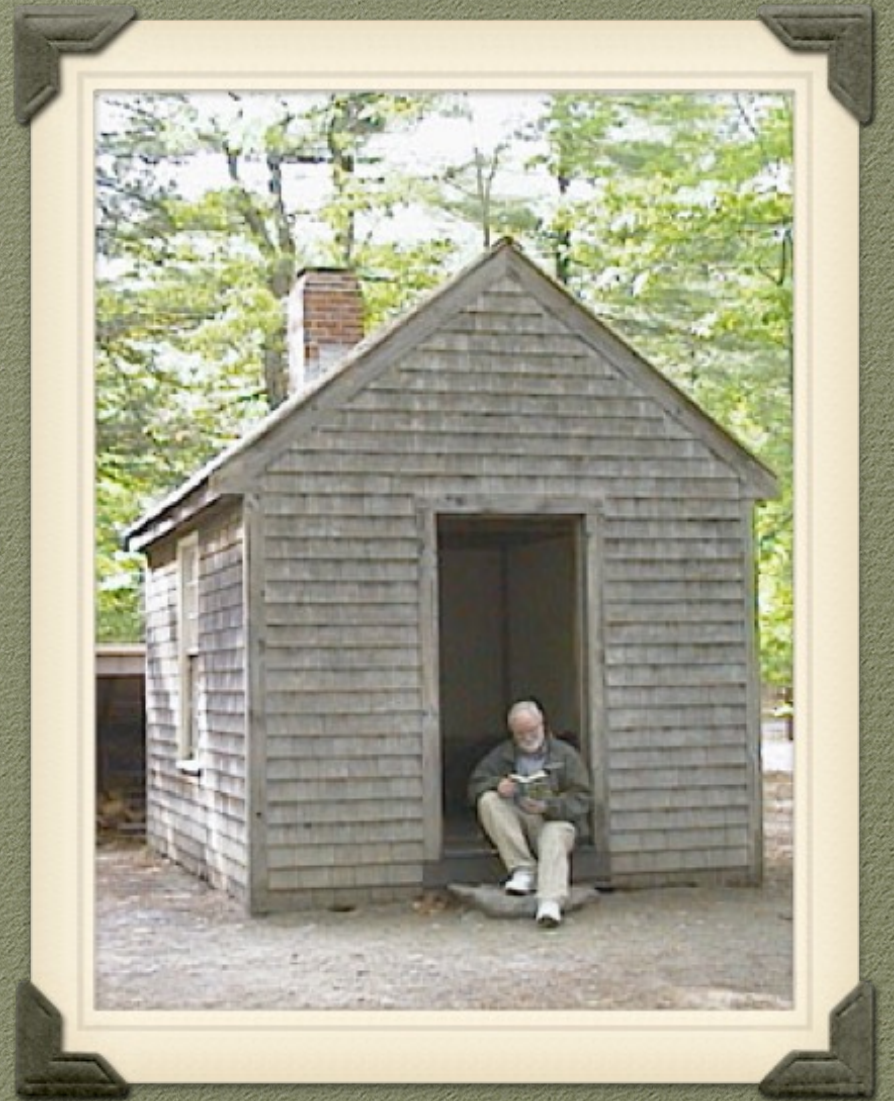


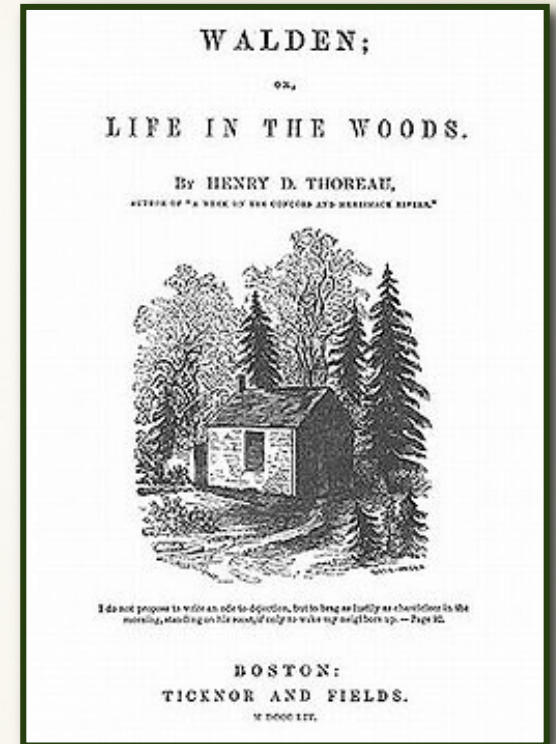
Henry David Thoreau

WALDEN



WALDEN

1. Thoreau & American Romanticism
2. Economy
3. Economy (continued)
4. Where I Lived, and What I lived For
5. Reading
6. Solitude
7. Visitors; The Village
8. Higher Laws
9. Brute Neighbors
10. Spring; Conclusion
11. Final Thoughts (Journals Due)



AGENDA

RW EMERSON & AMERICAN ROMANTICISM



Standing on the bare ground, my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space, all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball--I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me--I am part or particle of God.

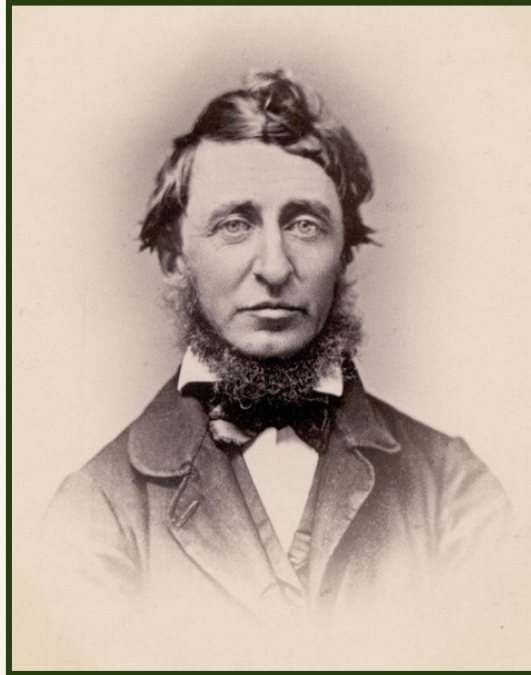


“THE TRANSCENDENTAL CLUB”

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

- the priority of individual conscience over law
- the doctrine of self-reliance and individualism
- the disregard of external authority & tradition
- the mandate to reform American society





THOREAU

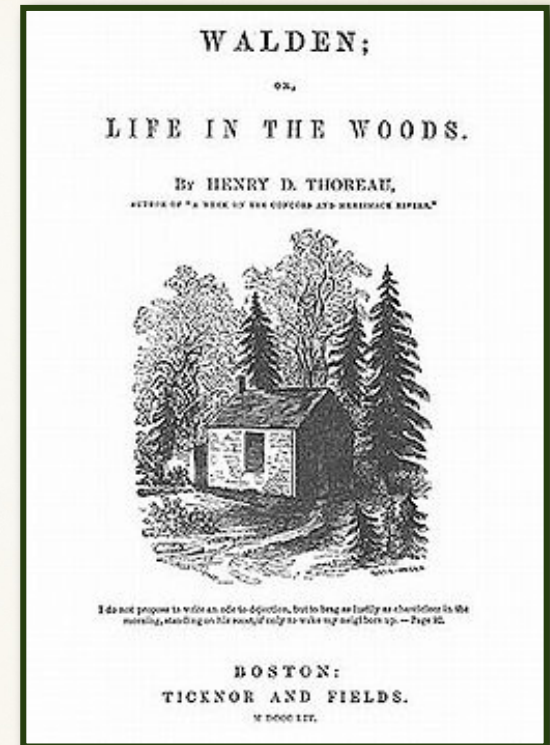
**1817 -
1862**

- 1817 - Born in Concord as David Henry Thoreau, July 12
- 1833 - Enrolls at Harvard College (graduating 19th of 44 students in 1837)
- 1836 - Reads Emerson's *Nature*
- 1837 - Hears Emerson's address, "The American Scholar"; reverses first and middle names
- 1837 - Teaches briefly in Concord Public School
- 1838 - Teaches in Concord with brother John (until 1841)
- 1839 - Excursion with John on Concord & Merrimack Rivers; first lecture at the Concord Lyceum
- 1840 - Poems and essays published in *The Dial*
- 1841 - Proposes marriage to 17 year-old Ellen Sewall and is rejected; moves in with Emersons
- 1842 - John cuts himself with razor on January 1, dies from lockjaw ten days later
- 1843 - Lives on Staten Island; tutors William Emerson's children
- 1844 - Works in family pencil factory; accidentally sets fire to Walden woods, burns down 300 acres
- 1845 - Moves to Walden Pond on July 4 (on Emerson's land)
- 1846 - Arrested and jailed for non-payment of poll tax
- 1847 - Leaves Walden Pond & moves back in Emerson's home while RWE lectures in England
- 1848 - Delivers "Resistance to Civil Government"
- 1849 - *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* is published
- 1854 - *Walden* is published
- 1860 - Catches cold while counting tree rings; gets bronchitis and ultimately tuberculosis
- 1862 - Dies in Concord, May 6, age 45

WALDEN



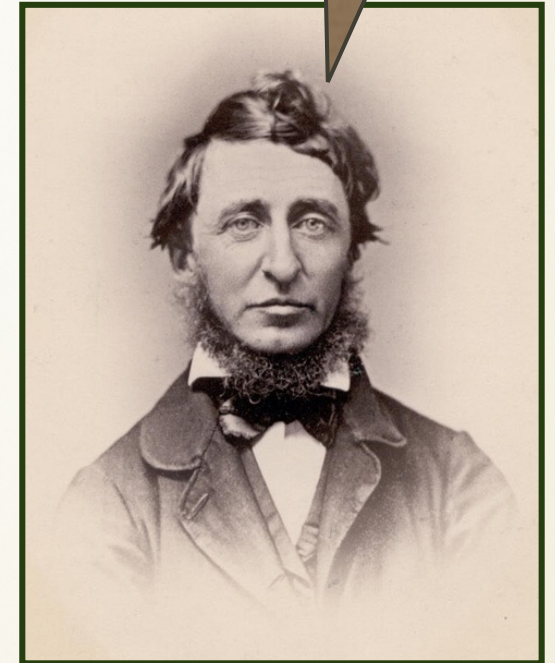
- Instead of an essay test or formal paper, your assessment for this unit will be in the form of a reflective journal.
- The journal will consist of 20 entries, each one being a quotation from *Walden*, with a brief statement to place it in context, followed by your reflection or personal application. Each entry should be about one page in length.
- You can write more than 20. You can include quotes from chapters not assigned in class. Your journal should be handwritten, and should be as personalized as possible.
- Your reflections should be a minimum of a few *substantive* paragraphs; *think* before you write. The idea is to think like Thoreau did, philosophically or personally, in the context of your life and our times.
- Work on your journal *as you read*. Don't try to do the whole thing at the last minute!
- The journal will include one additional entry: a reflection chronicling what you learned from taking “The Thoreau Challenge.” (see next screen)
- This is your formal assessment for this unit, but it is also something to keep. Be creative; make it meaningful.



JOURNAL

- Go without your cell phone for a week or more.
- Abstain from using social media for at least seven days (no looking!)
- Make a significant change in your diet that you may have wanted to do for some time.
- Deliberately practice solitude for an extended period (hours), several times...in your room, taking walks, etc. *Think deliberately* about your life.
- Take a detailed inventory of your stuff. How much do you really need? Give some stuff away. Resolve to live simpler. How will you keep your resolution?
- Embark on an ecological or environmental project.
- Take responsibility for your own care and feeding for at least one week...do your own cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc. Ask nothing of anyone. Reflect: *How independent (self-reliant) am I, really?*
- “Go Thoreau” in any other way your reading leads you...and write honestly about it.

“Simplify, Simplify.”



**THE
THOREAU
CHALLENGE**