

HENRY THOREAU AND THE WILDERNESS

Choose one of the two extracts, then rewrite what follows using the suggested vocabulary if you wish. Insist, while writing the continuation of the text, on the escape from the Industrial Revolution and the difficulties of the cities

In Walden, Henry David Thoreau tells the story of living alone in a small cabin he built near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, from 1845 to 1847. Thoreau wanted to step away from the growing industrial society and the industrial revolution which he felt was too focused on money, machines, and busy lives. He believed people were losing touch with what really matters. By living simply in nature, he hoped to find a better, more meaningful way to live. A big part of his idea was the value of wilderness—wild, untouched nature.

TEXT 1 / I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was no life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion. For most men, it appears to me, are in a strange uncertainty about it, whether it is of the devil or of God, and have *somewhat hastily* concluded that is the chief end of man here to “glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumbnail. Simplify, simplify. Instead of three meals a day, if it be necessary eat but one; instead of a hundred dishes, five; and reduce other things in proportion....wilderness

TEXT 2 / This is a delicious evening, when the whole body is one sense, and imbibes delight through every pore. I go and come with a strange liberty in Nature, a part of herself. As I walk along the stony shore of the pond in my shirt sleeves, though it is cool as well as cloudy and windy, and I see nothing special to attract me, all the elements are unusually congenial to me. The *frogs trump to usher in the night, and the note of the whippoorwill (a bird) is borne on the rippling wind from over the water. Sympathy with the fluttering alder and poplar leaves almost takes away my breath; yet, like the lake, my serenity is rippled but not ruffled. These small waves raised by the evening wind are as remote from storm as the smooth reflecting surface. Though it is now dark, the wind still blows and roars in the wood, the waves still dash, and some creatures lull the rest with their notes. The repose is never complete. The wildest animals do not repose, but seek their prey now; the fox, and skunk, and rabbit, now roam the fields and woods without fear. They are Nature’s watchmen, -- links which connect the days of animated life....

Men frequently say to me, “I should think you would feel lonesome down there, and want to be nearer to folks, rainy and snowy days and nights especially.” I am tempted to reply to such...

list of vocabulary : solitude, reflection, clarity, survival, purpose, stillness, challenge, shelter, dawn, discovery, path, silence, freedom, instinct, firelight, , nature, truth, transformation, journey, serenity, wind, twilight, solitude, reflection, harmony, creatures, rustle, moonlight, stillness, nocturnal, connection, murmur, contemplation, shadow, distance, wander, freedom, essence, mystery...