

## Unit 2: Collection 4

**Selection Test**

## READING AND LITERATURE

**from Walden, or Life in the Woods** Henry David Thoreau

**COMPREHENSION** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 6 points each)

1. Thoreau says he wants to live at Walden because he—
  - A) wants to withdraw from life and prove that he can make it on his own
  - B) desires to live life more fully
  - C) wants to prove that he does not need other people
  - D) dislikes people and wants to get away from them
  
2. Which of the following statements best describes Thoreau's attitude toward progress?
  - A) Progress is essential for a country's survival.
  - B) Progress is made for its own sake, and not to improve daily life.
  - C) Progress improves the lives of ordinary people.
  - D) People should not follow their dreams because dreams are unreal.
  
3. Why is Thoreau never lonely at Walden?
  - A) He is not close to other people, but he is close to the things that are most important to his nature.
  - B) He is able to visit people whenever he wishes.
  - C) Walden is close to the places in Boston where people gather.
  - D) The stars and planets are Thoreau's neighbors.
  
4. In the section called "Brute Neighbors," what do the ants symbolize?
  - A) The people that Thoreau does not like or respect
  - B) The historical conflicts of the Greeks and Romans
  - C) Human warfare
  - D) Conflict between animals
  
5. With which of the following statements would Thoreau most likely agree?
  - A) Most people's lives are too simple.
  - B) Most people forfeit their lives by doing what society tells them to do.
  - C) The chief purpose of everyone's life should be to glorify God.
  - D) People need to learn to compromise to get along.

Unit 2: Collection 4, Selection Test *continued*

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT** Match the definition on the left with the vocabulary word on the right. On the line provided, write the letter of the correct vocabulary word. (10 points; 2 points each)

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|---|----------------|
| _____ 6. ridicule or contempt               | A) superficial |
| _____ 7. on the surface; shallow            | B) incessantly |
| _____ 8. very noisy, disorderly, or violent | C) derision    |
| _____ 9. not of the earth; spiritual        | D) tumultuous  |
| _____ 10. without stopping; constantly      | E) ethereal    |

**VOCABULARY SKILL** Complete the analogy on the left with one of the vocabulary words on the right. Write the letter of the word on the line provided. (10 points; 2 points each)

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 11. imitation : copying :: _____ : ridiculing  | A) superficial |
| 12. carefree : burdened :: _____ : substantial | B) incessantly |
| 13. core : surface :: _____ : never            | C) derision    |
| 14. heavenly : deity :: _____ : clouds         | D) tumultuous  |
| 15. aching : discomfort :: _____ : applause    | E) ethereal    |

**LITERARY FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

16. When Thoreau uses the **metaphor** “I wanted to live deep and suck the marrow of life,” he means that he—
- A) never wants to go hungry
  - B) wants to dive into the ocean and explore caves
  - C) wants to get the most from life that he possibly can
  - D) needs to live deliberately and pull ahead of his neighbors
17. Which of the following statements includes a **metaphor**?
- A) “The life in us is like the water in the river.”
  - B) “Our life is like a German Confederacy, made up of petty states . . .”
  - C) “An honest man has hardly need to count more than his ten fingers, or in extreme cases he may add his ten toes, and lump the rest.”
  - D) “I did not wish to take a cabin passage, but rather to go before the mast and on the deck of the world.”

**Unit 2: Collection 4, Selection Test** *continued*

18. Which is the best paraphrase of the following **metaphor**: “We do not ride on the railroad; it rides upon us”?
- A) People are primitive and need technology to succeed.
  - B) Life is uncertain; therefore, we must toil to support ourselves.
  - C) In order to communicate with nature, we must become self-reliant.
  - D) People are controlled by what they create rather than controlling their creations.

**READING FOCUS** Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

19. Which of the following statements is the best **generalization** of Thoreau’s attitude toward individuality and conformity?
- A) A certain amount of conformity is necessary if people are to get along.
  - B) We live best when we conform to society.
  - C) Only certain people are really individuals; the others are best off conforming.
  - D) People must follow their inner voice so as not to be tyrannized by conformity.
20. What **generalization** can you make about Thoreau’s feelings after witnessing the battle between the black ants and the red ants?
- A) Ants, like humans, will fight ferociously for what’s at stake.
  - B) The winner of a conflict is determined by military might, not numerical superiority.
  - C) Conflict between humans is more honorable than conflict between ants.
  - D) Both humans and ants lead interrelated lives in the woods.
21. Which of the following **generalizations** best summarizes Thoreau’s opinions about life?
- A) Solitude is tedious and boring.
  - B) Intelligent people need many friends.
  - C) A simple life is a happy life.
  - D) The mind can be stimulated only by reading.

**FIFTEEN MINUTE TIMED WRITING** (20 points)

22. On a separate sheet of paper, cite at least two metaphors that Thoreau uses to explain his philosophy of life. Then, write a paragraph that explains the metaphors. Support your ideas with details from the selection.