

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS
TO USE WITH THE INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER ONE
OF EMERSON'S *NATURE*

1. In the first paragraph, in the sentence beginning, "Embosomed for a season in nature...", the "faded wardrobe" refers to
 - a) nature
 - b) the living generation
 - c) the past
 - d) floods of life.

2. By the sentence "there is more wool and flax in the fields," Emerson
 - a) means methods of farming have improved
 - b) is showing his ignorance of farming because wool is not obtained from plants
 - c) means there is not need to wear outdated clothing when materials are plentiful
 - d) means there is much to be discovered in the present.

3. Each of the following quotations from "Self-Reliance" is similar in thought to ideas expressed in the first paragraph except
 - a) "These roses under my window make no reference to former roses or to better ones; they are for what they are; they exist with God today";
 - b) "Man is timid and apologetic; he is no longer upright; he dares not say 'I think,' 'I am,' but quotes some saint or sage";
 - c) "...man postpones or remembers; he does not live in the present, but with reverted eye laments the past, or, heedless of the riches that surround him, stands on tiptoe to foresee the future";
 - d) "There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance..."

4. "A solution in hieroglyphic" (paragraph 2) would be
 - a) a symbolic explanation,
 - b) an unsolved puzzle,
 - c) a puzzle written in the Egyptian language,
 - d) an explanation which is not understood.

5. In paragraph 2, Emerson states that
 - a) the fact that man exists is an explanation of the design of creation, but understanding the design is difficult
 - b) man's station in life is a puzzle
 - c) it was not meant for man to know the reason of creation
 - d) the puzzle of man's existence can never be solved.

6. By the "great apparition," Emerson means
 - a) man
 - b) nature
 - c) creation
 - d) creator.

7. In paragraph 3, Emerson asserts that the theories of creation so far advanced
 - a) are logical in their approach
 - b) are not religious enough
 - c) are not abstract enough
 - d) are not scientific enough

8. He believes that whenever a true theory appears it will
 - a) need only to explain those phenomena not yet explained
 - b) explain not only the phenomena as yet unexplained but the phenomena thought to be unexplainable
 - c) require much proving and testing
 - d) be a scientific rather than a religious theory.

9. He defines Nature, philosophically, as
- a) physical man
 - b) physical man and all environment
 - c) physical man and art
 - d) physical man and his soul
10. Nature, in the common sense, is defined as
- a) the physical universe
 - b) the physical universe and art
 - c) the universe and man's will
 - d) man and art
11. Emerson classifies as Art (paragraph 4) all the following except
- a) a house
 - b) a canal
 - c) a picture
 - d) the river
12. He regards Art as
- a) An expression of man's will
 - b) superior to nature
 - c) impressive and grand
 - d) a significant influence
13. In paragraph 5, Emerson says that "To go into solitude," a man must retire from his chamber; that is, a man must
- a) become a hermit
 - b) sleep outdoors
 - c) avoid reading except in the company of others
 - d) withdraw his mind from the material world
14. In his discourse on the stars (paragraph 5), Emerson asserts that
- a) the common presence of the stars makes man disregard them
 - b) the air is transparent solely for the purpose of communication with the stars
 - c) in cities, the stars appear greater than they actually are
 - d) man can truly be alone only when he is looking at the stars.
15. Emerson uses the word "toy" in paragraph 6 in the sense of
- a) a plaything
 - b) a thing of little value
 - c) an ornament
 - d) a headdress
16. In paragraph 6, Emerson is stating his belief that
- a) nature is the herald of inward and eternal beauty
 - b) intuition is more trustworthy than standards and laws
 - c) reason is an intuitive faculty
 - d) man is driven by two forces
17. Emerson contrasts "the stick of timber of the wood-cutter, from the tree of the poet" (paragraph 7) to
- a) question the integrity of nature
 - b) distinguish between the active and contemplative sides of man
 - c) characterize wood-cutter as unobservant men
 - d) characterize poets as all-knowing and wise
18. The single sentence which begins "There is a property in the horizon..." (paragraph 7) is
- a) a reiteration of Emerson's belief in the superiority of the contemplative side of man
 - b) simple statement of fact that no man owns a view
 - c) belief that only poets can appreciate nature
 - d) belief that the farmers did not receive full title to their property
19. The thought in the sentence beginning "The lover of nature is he whose..." (paragraph 8) is expressed in the following quotation:
- a) "The things which I have seen I now can see no more"
 - b) "Little we see in nature that is ours"
 - c) "The Child is father of the Man"
 - d) "Bliss it was in that dawn to be alive,/But to be young was very heaven!"

20. Emerson believes that the man who reacts to nature is he who
- retains the faith of childhood
 - is immature intellectually
 - is sophisticated
 - grows old gracefully
21. With the sentence "I am glad to the brink of fear" (paragraph 8), Emerson expresses
- a hidden fear of nature
 - a pleasure in nature akin to awe and reverence
 - relief in having crossed the common with mishap
 - all of these
22. When Emerson says "In the woods, we return to reason and faith," he means
- through nature, man becomes aware of his intuitive faculty
 - man is better able to rationalize his beliefs when he is alone
 - everything seems more reasonable when one is surrounded by nature
 - man should, when practicable, live in the woods
23. He would credit his perception of "the suggestion of an occult relation between man and the vegetable" to
- whimsy
 - intuition
 - understanding
 - discernment
24. To Emerson, the "man laboring under calamity," is
- practicing self-reliance
 - fearful of the future
 - unmindful of nature's beauty
 - all of these
25. As a whole, Emerson believes that man's happiness lies in his
- patterning his life on temperance
 - remembering the past
 - ability to foresee the future
 - living with nature in the present
26. The pattern of this essay is
- formal
 - informal
 - humorous
27. The style may be characterized as
- satirical and ironic
 - rambling and chatty
 - logical and serious
 - charming and unconventional

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 10. a | 19. c |
| 2. d | 11. d | 20. a |
| 3. d | 12. a | 21. b |
| 4. d | 13. d | 22. b |
| 5. a | 14. a | 23. b |
| 6. b | 15. b | 24. c |
| 7. c | 16. a | 25. d |
| 8. b | 17. b | 26. a |
| 9. b | 18. a | 27. c |