



# Are you a TRANSCENDENTALIST?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Are you a TRANSCENDENTALIST?

Give yourself 1 point for each YES. Answer honestly.

Y / N 1. Do you ever take a walk with no destination in mind?  
Y / N 2. Do you voice your opinions even when they are controversial and unpopular?  
Y / N 3. Do you value personal intuition over reason?  
Y / N 4. Do you strive to live a simple life, without lots of "stuff"?  
Y / N 5. Would you prefer to be out in the quiet wilderness instead of in a big bustling city?  
Y / N 6. Would you go to jail rather than conform to a law with which you disagree?  
Y / N 7. Do you believe that exploring nature is essential to fully understand life?  
Y / N 8. Do you value the individual more than the community?  
Y / N 9. Do you trust yourself and your "gut feelings"?  
Y / N 10. Do you consider yourself a nonconformist in any aspect?  
Y / N 11. Do you feel that humans and nature are interconnected?  
Y / N 12. Do you like to be alone often, to relax and think about life?  
Y / N 13. Do you believe that humans are inherently good?  
Y / N 14. Do you believe happiness is more important than money?  
Y / N 15. Are you an optimist?

**BONUS!** Give yourself 2 points for each YES. These questions are weird. They're supposed to be.

Y / N Would you go live in a cabin in the woods for two years as a sort of experiment to connect with nature and reflect upon your experiences by writing a book???

Y / N Do you ever feel like a transparent eye ball that is nothing but sees all???

**Scoring Key** (But don't take this too seriously, folks.)

**12+ points:** You are a Transcendentalist at heart! Emerson and Thoreau would be proud. They might even have invited you to the intellectual "Transcendental Club," which was kind of a big deal.

**7-11 points:** You might be what the Transcendentalists called a "conformist." You probably couldn't sit with the Transcendentalists at lunch. (FYI: The Transcendentalists were much nicer than the Mean Girls, though.)

**6 or less points:** You are definitely not a Transcendentalist. You are probably the kind of person that Emerson and Thoreau thought of as "basic," but hey, you probably don't care about their opinion anyways!

On the back: Choose one question to reflect upon. Fully explain your response!

Engaging  
magazine-style  
quiz to help  
students  
understand  
Transcendentalism  
before reading the  
works of Emerson  
and Thoreau

PERFECT AS AN INTRODUCTION TO  
TRANSCENDENTALISM

# Are you a TRANSCENDENTALIST?

Give yourself 1 point for each YES. Answer honestly.

- Y / N 1. Do you ever take a walk with no destination in mind?
- Y / N 2. Do you voice your opinions even when they are controversial and unpopular?
- Y / N 3. Do you value personal intuition over reason?
- Y / N 4. Do you strive to live a simple life, without lots of "stuff"?
- Y / N 5. Would you prefer to be out in the quiet wilderness instead of in a big bustling city?
- Y / N 6. Would you go to jail rather than conform to a law with which you disagree?
- Y / N 7. Do you believe that exploring nature is essential to fully understand life?
- Y / N 8. Do you value the individual more than the community?
- Y / N 9. Do you trust yourself and your "gut feelings"?
- Y / N 10. Do you consider yourself a nonconformist in any aspect?
- Y / N 11. Do you feel that humans and nature are interconnected?
- Y / N 12. Do you like to be alone often, to relax and think about life?
- Y / N 13. Do you believe that humans are inherently good?
- Y / N 14. Do you believe happiness is more important than money?
- Y / N 15. Are you an optimist?

**BONUS!** Give yourself 2 points for each YES. These questions are weird. They're supposed to be.

- Y / N Would you go live in a cabin in the woods for two years as a sort of experiment to connect with nature and reflect upon your experiences by writing a book???
- Y / N Do you ever feel like a transparent eye ball that is nothing but sees all???

**Scoring Key** (But don't take this too seriously, folks.)

**12+ points:** You are a Transcendentalist at heart! Emerson and Thoreau would be proud. They might even have invited you to the intellectual "Transcendental Club," which was kind of a big deal.

**7-11 points:** You might be what the Transcendentalists called a "conformist." You probably couldn't sit with the Transcendentalists at lunch. (FYI: The Transcendentalists were much nicer than the Mean Girls, though.)

**6 or less points:** You are definitely not a Transcendentalist. You are probably the kind of person that Emerson and Thoreau thought of as "basic," but hey, you probably don't care about their opinion anyways!

**On the back: Choose one question to reflect upon. Fully explain your response!**