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from *Walden*

by Thoreau

1. What do you want to experience in your life? opinion

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| Image | Meaning |
| 1. “the chopping sea of civilized life” (384) | Our lives are full of meaningless things that make us too busy. |
| 1. “We have the Saint Vitus’ dance” | We make frantic movements, but we never get anywhere. |
| 1. “let us…not be thrown off the track by…mosquito’s wing” (385) | Stop worrying about the small stuff. |
| 1. “…the whole body is one sense…” (386) | Enjoy life completely. |
| 1. “…castles in the air” (389) | Dream big. |

7. What did his house look like? (p. 382)

It was incomplete. There were large cracks between the boards and no plaster on the walls.

8. What are Thoreau’s reasons for moving into the woods? (383)

He wished to live deliberately.

9. How can someone “live what was not life”? (383)

People are not truly living when they are just going through the motions without thinking about anything.

10. What is the most important purpose of human life on earth? (383: lines 44-46)

to “glorify God and enjoy him forever”

11. What is Thoreau’s remedy for our hectic, detail-crowded lives?

Simplify – reduce life to only a few things.

12. What draws people to come to the scene of a fire? (384)

To see it burn or to see it put out, and help – because it is an exciting event that people want to be a part of

13. How should we spend our day? (385)

Deliberately as Nature – let things happen in their own time

14. What does Thoreau want to spend his time trying to understand?

He wants to figure out the secret of things.

15. Thoreau writes, “I have always been regretting that I was not as wise as the day I was born.” Why is a baby wiser than an adult?

A baby is just being itself, and by being true to its nature, it is wiser than an adult that has been influenced by civilization, and so cannot be perfectly true to his nature

16. What does Thoreau think he should use his head for?

Burrowing into the earth – this means that he wants to really dig into nature and discover things

From “Solitude” (386)

17. What does Thoreau say he is part of?

He is part of Nature.

18. What is Thoreau’s response when people ask him if he is lonely? (387)

He says that the distance between people doesn’t really matter, because we are all on the same planet, but we could be right next to someone, and still be distant from that person

19. Which words best describe Thoreau’s feelings throughout this section?

\*a. peaceful and content

b. anxious and expectant

c. lonely and wistful

d. restless and eager

From “The Pond in Winter”

20. What does Thoreau learn from digging under the ice of the frozen pond?

Life goes on beneath the ice. The fish do not let winter storms disturb them, and neither should we.

From “Spring”

21. Describe the change in seasons.

It goes from a stormy winter to a serene and mild spring. It goes from dark to light.

22. Describe what the pond was reflecting.

The pond reflected the hope of a summer evening, although it was still spring.

From “Conclusion” (p. 388)

23. Why does Thoreau leave the woods?

Thoreau felt like he had other things to experience.

24. What causes paths and ruts?

These occur because we fall into routines that don’t require us to think.

25. What did Thoreau learn? (389)

If one tries to accomplish his dreams, he will meet with a success that he didn’t expect to find when he was just living an ordinary life.

26. What happens when we simplify life? (389)

Everything will be less complex.

27. How can poverty not be poverty?

We only feel poverty when we look at what everyone else has. In America, even the poorest of us is richer than many people throughout the world.

28. What does Thoreau mean when he writes about “castles in the air”?

He is writing about the dreams we have.

29. What does it mean to hear a different drummer? (p. 390)

It means that sometimes we do our own thing, and it is different than what other people are doing.

30. How should we feel about our lives? (p. 390)

We should stop saying mean things about our lives, but enjoy the life that we have.

31. What similarities between poverty and wealth does Thoreau find? (p. 390, lines 255-260)

Rich and poor alike can receive the same pleasures and lessons from nature.

32. What benefits of poverty does Thoreau see?

Poverty helps people develop the ability to accept hardship.

33. What can be taken away from an army?

Its general.

34. What cannot be taken away from a man?

His thought.

35. According to Thoreau, even if we have a lot of money, what two things remain the same? (391)

Our aims (our goals) and our means (the methods we use)

36. Where is life sweetest and why?

Life near the bone is the sweetest, because we have to be happy with very little.

37. Why did Thoreau think that money was not important?

Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul.

38. What is the message of this famous parable of the “strong and beautiful bug”? (lines 299-317, p. 391)

It suggests that the renewal or the rebirth of life is a constant possibility, so we should never give up.

39. Thoreau writes that “The light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us.” What does this mean?

If we stare at the sun, we can be blinded by the light. Although something looks great, it might hurt us if it is misused.

40. Thoreau uses several paradoxes. He write, “We are determined to be starved before we are hungry” (p. 384). What does he mean by this?

He means that we go to extremes. We make it sound like it’s the end of the world, when it is one small thing that will probably not matter in a few days or hours.

If you could go to a place of your own choosing and figure out life, where would you go?

(Write out 5 sentences that describe this place.)

You have already had many life experiences, what lesson have you learned about life that you would like to share with someone?