

# Review Sheet

## Major Points of Transcendentalism

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- God exists in every human, whether a saint or a sinner.
- There is no need for guilt.
- Personal insight is stronger than logic.
- Humanity needs to transcend the material world and become aware of the spirit of the universe.
- A major formative leader in the American Transcendentalist movement was R. W. Emerson.
- Emerson stated: “I am moved by strange sympathies, I say continually: I will be a naturalist.” What did he mean by “naturalist?”
- Emerson developed many theories that would guide his life’s work when he travelled overseas to France. One major point was that humanity and nature are one, and that everyone should be able to recognize that they are a uniquely, significant human being.
- Emerson felt that a person could find his/her “true self” by getting rid of confining notions from past history, religion, and social forms. Be able to provide examples and explain this concept.
- When Emerson uses the word “Nature,” he seems to mean plants, animals, rocks, and sky, however what he really means was God.
- Be able to define “Pantheist”.

## Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Transparent Eye Ball (Another one of his major theories)

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- Be able to explain this concept in five complete sentences mentioning three bulleted points of information from provided worksheet.

## Walt Whitman “Song of Myself”

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- The poem mirrors biblical texts; explain enumerations, anaphora.
- All of his work celebrates the diversity of life, the diversity of God.
- Whitman mainly utilized extended lines of poetry in a style of free verse.
- Despite the title, the poem is not an ego-centric, egotistical view of the world.
- The poem moves in theme from the poet-speaker, to America, then to the World, and finally to the entire Universe.
- Overall the text is optimistic, a love poem to Humanity.

### **Emily Dickinson “Because I Could Not Stop for Death”**

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- In the poem, Death is shown as a personified being, as well as Immortality.
- The poem’s speaker is on a journey with Death towards Eternity.
- The first stanza establishes a declaration with perfect rhyme.
- The remaining stanzas all use false, slant, or repeating rhymes showing something is not quite right for the narrator.
- The full poem uses a folk ballad stanza strategy: a/b/c/b scheme, alternating meters of 4/3/4/3.
- First half of the poem shows events during daylight; the second half of the poem shows the progression of the story during nighttime.
- The civility of the personified figure of Death is brought into question once a reader examines the details of the story closely and the structure of the poem.
- Be able to explain the significance of the images of “Gazing Grain” and “the Setting Sun.”
- Be able to define “strove” – why is this word important for understanding the alternative meaning in Dickinson’s poem “Because I Could Not Stop for Death.”
- Be able to explain the use of dashed throughout the poem, especially the last line—why is the placement of the dash important here?
- Be able to distinguish a random line by Whitman from a random line by Dickinson.