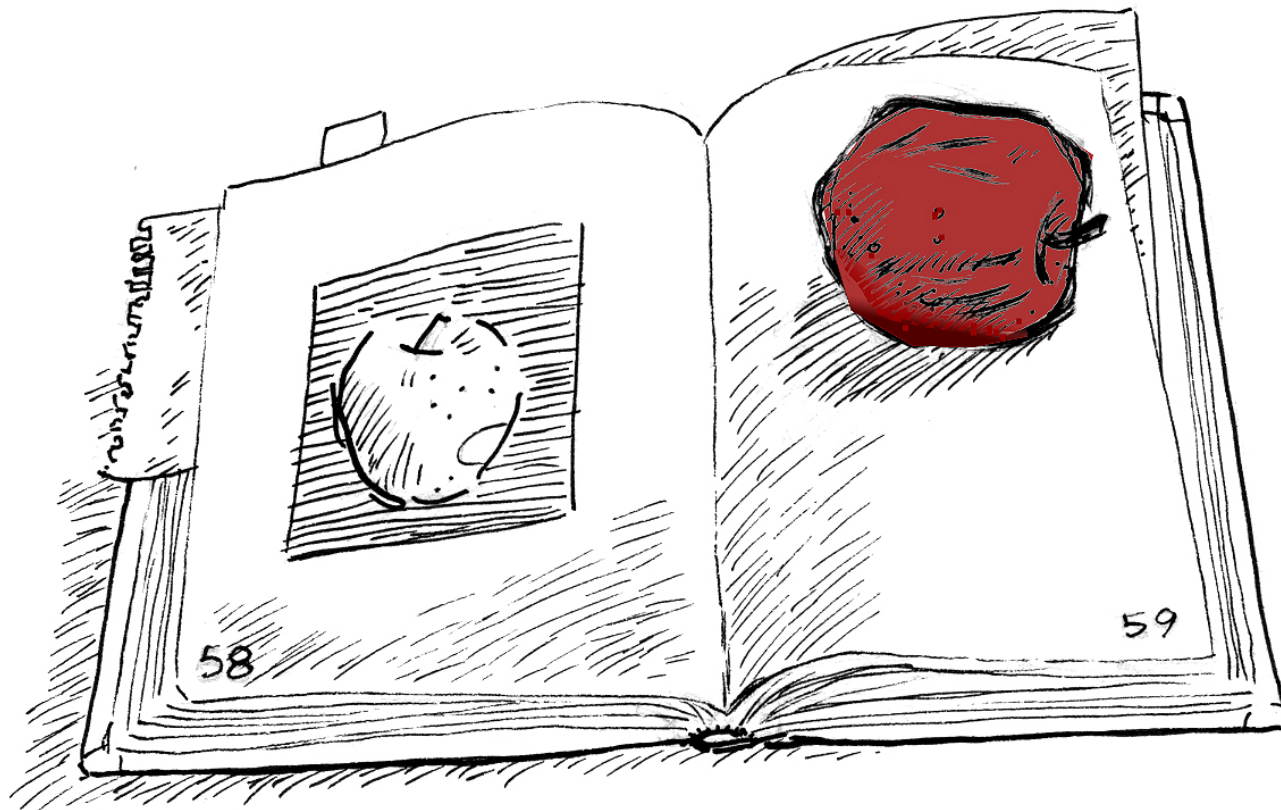


N. Hawthorne || Transcendentalism



Transcendentalism | | Hawthorne

I. System of thought, belief in essential unity of all creation

- God exists in all of us — no matter who you are; even sinners or murderers, still contain the spark of godliness within themselves. No need for guilt.
- Personal insight is stronger than logic or experience: through insight a deeper inner truth can be found
- They encourage humanity to transcend the material world of experience and facts, and become aware of the spirit of the universe.
- Influenced by German Trans. Immanuel Kant, Platonic and neo-platonic thought, Eastern Philosophies
- Part of the Romantic Movement in Europe and the Abolitionist Movement in US
- Heavily involved in humanitarian causes

II. Humans feel guilt due to sins humans create.

- We need to ask God for forgiveness.
- Continually wrote on themes of repentance and guilt which allows him to be “modern”— he addresses the problems of sin and guilt as an internal conflict— proposing psychological issues in his characters.
- Overt morals on human conditions.
- He did not believe in a specific theology.
- William Faulkner heavily influenced by Hawthorne. Both use images of failed Christians as focal points.
- He considered his work to be *partial* allegories.