

### **What is Transcendentalism?**

*In your groups, respond to the following questions. You may have different individual answers for each question. Use your responses to come up with a definition for Transcendentalism, then write your definition on the provided construction paper to share with the class.*

1. How are you affected by nature? Do you find comfort in it? Do you reflect the moods of nature?
2. What is the role of nature in your life?
3. What is meant by an individual's spiritual side? How to you define it?
4. Is there a connection between the individual's spirit and nature? If so, what is that connection?
5. What does it mean to know something intuitively? For example, has a parent or a sibling ever known something was wrong with you without having talked with or seen you?
6. What do we mean when we say "I just know it"?
7. How do you demonstrate that you are an individual? Do you think independently of others or do you follow the crowd?

Definition of Transcendentalism: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Ms. Morgan  
English 3

**“Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*In your groups, read the excerpt from “Self-Reliance” and answer the following questions thoroughly.*

1. What does Emerson mean when he says that "envy is ignorance and imitation is suicide"?
2. What does he want each individual to recognize about him/herself?
3. How is trust a part of being self-reliant?
4. Why does Emerson see society as the enemy of individuality?
5. What is the role of nonconformity? What did that word mean to Emerson?
6. What is a "foolish consistency"? How does it get in the way of genius?