

Unit: Lowell and the Industrial Revolution

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Lesson Topic: Literary and Artistic Responses to Industrialization

Lesson Title: Introducing Transcendentalism and the Ideas of Thoreau

Grade Level: High School

Class Time: 45-60 minutes

Objectives: Students will listen to a reading of a picture book to hear the basic ideas written by Henry David Thoreau.

Materials: Henry Hikes to Fitchburg by D.B.Lewis

Procedure:

1. Introduce students to the basic concepts of Transcendentalism.
 - a. Individuality
 - b. Intuition
 - c. Nature
2. Read Henry Hikes to Fitchburg slowly, pointing out all the pictorial references to citizens of Concord and the surrounding areas.
3. When the book is finished, ask the students to write a journal response to the following prompt:
 - a. What does it mean to “stop for blackberries?”
 - b. How can we have “blackberry days” in this class or in the school?