Examining Transcendentalism through Popular Culture

**Overview**

Consider all of the resources in pop culture that you have access to. You can consider genres such as sitcoms, television dramas, comics, movies, music, public figures (political, athletic, entertainment, religious), and so forth. Your job is to find examples of the Transcendental Tenets.

**The Tenets –** your task is to find 6 representatives for the following 6 tenets:

* Nonconformity
* Self-Reliance
* Confidence (trusting your intuition)
* Civil Disobedience (not supporting law/policy that is contrary to your nature)
* Importance of Nature (looking for something spiritual here)
* Simplify, Simplify, Simplify – you can also consider this in light of questioning progress that is at the detriment of the human condition/spirit.

**The Project**

You will create an augmented reality poster to be submitted that presents your findings. You may use: ThingLink or Aurasma. (*Google it and follow tutorial*!)

***For each*** pop-culture finding, you must:

* Identify which Tenet heading your finding falls under from the list above
* Visually display your representative example
* Create a well-written **SPES paragraph** for each that: o Links a quote from one of the Transcendentalists to your finding (you need to identify which author it came from)
* Explain via ThingLink (or Aurasma) the relationship between the selected quote and the selected example (why it is transcendental) – this needs to be specific - you need to draw on key quotes, images, or actions – for example, if using Tyler Durden from Fight Club, I would need some specific quotes that align with my transcendental quote – same thing goes for song lyrics.

**Requirements:**

- Visual Display – visually appealing, demonstrates thought and effort

- 3 Representative Examples

- 3 Quotes

- 3 Explanatory Paragraphs

- Brief sharing of your artifacts with the class

**Timeline:**

- **All projects must be prepared for presentation by end of class on Wednesday, March 26. We’ll do a Gallery Walk and Presentations on Thursday, March 27th and Friday, March 28th.**

**Sample Paragraph:**

**Transcendentalist Tenet: Non-conformity**  **Artist: Green Day Song: Minority**

Stepped out of the line Like a sheep runs from the herd Marching out of time To my own beat now The only way I know Green Day’s song “Minority” represents the Transcendental tenet of non-conformity. A non-conformist is someone who does not “fit in” with the crowd. This song suggests that stepping out of the line “like a sheep runs from the herd” is a positive action. “Marching out of time / to my own beat now / the only way I know” is a clear reference to Thoreau’s idea that a man sometimes walks to the “beat of a different drummer.” This song is a declaration of independence from conforming to the idea that you should be anything other than the individual that you are in your life.

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*Ideas (not required): Find several songs that have a Transcendental theme and make a CD cover for it – put it on your poster (as your trigger image for ThingLink or Aurasma). Go to recitethis.com and make a motivational poster to go on your presentation to embed in your project.*

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