

# Emerson Questions

## From “Nature”

1. What part or aspect of humanity is Emerson criticizing in the first paragraph of the essay?
2. What, according to Emerson, can Nature “repair”? How?
3. Who, according to the essay, can “set bounds to the possibilities of man”? How or why?

## From “Self Reliance”

4. Why does Emerson compare envy to ignorance and imitation to suicide?
5. When is man most happy, according to the writer?
6. According to the essay, what is society?
7. What, according to the selection, must a man be?
8. Why must great men be misunderstood?
9. What is the fault of philosophy?

## From “Friendship”

10. According to the essay, what is a friend?
11. What does Emerson mean when he says, “Every man alone is sincere”?
12. What does Emerson mean when he says, “A friend is a sane man who exercises not my ingenuity but me”?
13. How is a friend a paradox—a seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true—in nature as well as being a “masterpiece”.

## From “Experience”

14. According to Emerson, what has “thinking” done for our generation?
15. What is Emerson saying about intellectual endeavors in comparison with Education Farm?
16. What advice does Emerson give about life?
17. What is happiness?
18. What is wisdom?
19. What is the job of a fanatic or a mathematician, but not of man?

## From “Fate”

20. Define “fate”. Define “power”.
21. How does fate limit power? How does power “antagonize” fate?
22. According to Emerson, what is man?
23. What role does free will play in fate?

## From “Journals”

24. According to Emerson, what is a man made of?
25. What part do “the preacher and the poet and the musician speak to”?
26. What is the best part of any mind?
27. What is the life of a man?