

Time to practice ANALYSIS!!
From *Self Reliance* by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Reading Skill: Understanding figures of speech

The following chart lists passages from “Self Reliance.” Within each passage are boldfaced words and phrases that are figures of speech. Interpret and explain each figure of speech in the box provided.

| Figure of Speech | Interpretation |
|--|----------------|
| “...no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through the toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till.” | |
| “Trust Thyself: Every heart vibrates to that iron string .” | |
| “For nonconformity the world whips you with its displeasure.” | |
| “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds .” (A hobgoblin is an ugly and mischievous monster.) | |

OVER
From *Self Reliance* by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Reading Skill: Analyzing an author's argument

The following chart lists assertions / interpretations about the author's argument. Quote a line from the essay that supports each argument. Then, explain if you agree or disagree with this assertion and why.

| Assertion / Interpretation | Quote | Agree or Disagree |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| A man is happy when he can be proud of his hard work and accomplishments. | | |
| A person must be an individual and not conform to the rest of society. | | |

Now Answer these questions:

1. In lines 26-29, what is implied by Emerson's use of the word *sacred*? Why does he believe that one should follow his other own nature?
2. In lines 35-38, what does Emerson say is easy to do? What does he say a great person is able to do?
3. In lines 39-42, what does Emerson say is one consequence of being a nonconformist?
4. In lines 47-52, why does consistency scare us from trusting ourselves?

