

Animals

I think I could turn and live with animals,
they're so placid and self-contained,
I stand and look at them long and long,
They do not sweat and whine about their condition,
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,
Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented with the mania
of owning things,
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived
thousands of years ago,
Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.

from *Song of Myself* by **Walt Whitman**.

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately,
to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could
not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die,
discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what
was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practise
resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live
deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily
and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to
cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a
corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved
to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine
meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if
it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to
give a true account of it in my next excursion.

From *Walden* by **Henry David Thoreau**.

Whitman, Walt.

in full Walter Whitman (b. May 31, 1819, West Hills, Long Island, N.Y., U.S.--d. March 26, 1892, Camden, N.J.), American poet, journalist, and essayist whose verse collection *Leaves of Grass* is a landmark in the history of American literature.

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Thoreau, Henry David.

(b. July 12, 1817, Concord, Mass., U.S.--d. May 6, 1862, Concord), American essayist, poet, and practical philosopher, renowned for having lived the doctrines of transcendentalism as recorded in his masterwork, *Walden* (1854), and for having been a vigorous advocate of civil liberties, as evidenced in the essay "Civil Disobedience" (1849).

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