

Cornell Notes: Self-Reliance

Key Points/Questions	Notes
1. What is important about the verses written by the painter in the first sentence?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2. How does Emerson define genius?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3. Why, according to Emerson, do we value Moses, Plato, and Milton?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4. Based on your reading of paragraph 1, how does Emerson define individualism? Support your answer with references to specific sentences.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Summary	

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<p>5. What does Emerson mean by stating, “that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till”? What is the effect of this analogy in the text?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>6. What, according to Emerson, makes a man content?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>7. The author describes the heart as vibrating on an “iron string.” How do the figurative and connotative meanings of iron contribute to the author’s idea of individualism?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Summary</p>	

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<p>8. What is a “joint-stock company”? What point is Emerson making through this comparison? What is the effect of this comparison?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>9. What is Emerson’s call to action in the beginning of paragraph 5?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>10. What does it mean to not be hindered by goodness? How does Emerson suggest people should know whether something is good?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>11. According to Emerson, what makes a man great?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Summary</p>	