

from *Walden*
by Henry David Thoreau

Paragraph 1:

1. Where was Thoreau's house?
2. How long did he live there?

Paragraph 2:

3. Why does Thoreau say he is writing this book?
4. What are some of the questions people have asked him?
5. When Thoreau says "We commonly do not remember that it is, after all, always the first person that is speaking" what does he mean?
6. Why might Thoreau single out "poor students" as his intended audience?
7. How does Thoreau describe James Collins' shanty?
8. Thoreau's story about the Collins' cat is an example of his humor. What does this style of humor say about him?

Paragraph 3:

9. What does Thoreau do with the Collins' shanty?
10. Identify the allusion at the end of the paragraph.

Paragraph 4:

11. What is the first thing Thoreau does?
12. Thoreau uses a woodchuck burrow as the start of his cellar. What does this show about him?

Paragraph 5:

13. Who helps Thoreau with his building?

Paragraph 6:

14. Why does Thoreau say people should build their own houses?
15. To what does Thoreau compare a man's building of his house?

Paragraph 7:

16. How large was Thoreau's house?
17. How much did it cost Thoreau to build the house?
18. How does Thoreau plan to earn a little extra money?
19. Why does Thoreau believe that he did better with his small profit than any other farmer in Concord?
20. What is your opinion of Thoreau's story/actions so far? Would you be able to do the same thing? What would you say about someone who did this?