**Reading Questions: Emerson: Nature**

1. Emerson states that “The foregoing generations beheld God and nature face to face; we, through their eyes” (21).
   1. Paraphrase what Emerson means:
   2. What does Emerson want instead of this?
2. Before proceeding to his inquiry concerning “to what end is nature,” Emerson defines a few key terms. How does Emerson define the following terms:
   1. Nature (in the philosophical sense):
   2. nature (in the common sense):
   3. Art:
3. Why does Emerson suggest that a man feel a greater solitude when looking at the stars than when reading and writing by himself in his study?
4. What does Emerson mean when he writes that “few adult persons can see nature”? How does his examples of the “wood-cutter” (someone who earns his living by chopping down trees for timber) and the farm owners of the preceding paragraph help Emerson set up his point?
5. What does Emerson mean by the statement “Nature always wears the colors of the spirit” (25)? How does this idea affect the meaning of the preceding description of Emerson’s experience crossing the common?
6. What are the functions of nature?
7. How does Emerson define beauty? What are the three stages?