

Your **Summer Assignment for Humanities** focuses on Henry David Thoreau's **Walden**, a seminal text that has become part of Mass Academy culture and lore, and includes reading the text, writing reflections, and expanding your vocabulary.

Obtain a copy of the Enriched Classics Pocket Books edition of **Walden and "Civil Disobedience"** by Henry David Thoreau (ISBN # 13:978-0-7434-8772-6). This edition was selected specifically because of its accessibility and the applicability of its explanatory notes. (Note: you do *not* have to read Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" at this time.)

**IMPORTANT:** Before you begin reading **Walden**, watch "Why Every Student in America Should Read Henry David Thoreau's **Walden**" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TfhwmU6sFo>

### **DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (AUGUST 16, 2017):**

Your own personal **Walden Journal**. As you read **Walden**, write a running commentary of reflections and reactions to what you are reading. Write one page (8 ½ x 11 inch, double spaced) of reflections/reactions for each chapter of the book. Do not worry about the format. Be as informal or "conversational" as you want; use bullets if you are so inclined. But you must use correct grammar and spelling. Do not write more than one page per chapter.

Your **Walden Journal** should be in the form of a logbook or diary, with a recorded date for each journal entry. Your entries must be printed or typed.

Your reflections/reactions should be genuine responses to what Thoreau says. Argue with him, talk back to him, ask him questions. Challenge his observations and comments, agree or disagree with him, and make your own comments and observations.

Because this is a difficult book to read, the *Introduction* (pp. vii – xv), *End Notes* (pp. 401 - 428), and *Interpretive Notes* (pp. 431 – 430) in the Enriched Classics edition of **Walden** should help you as you make your way through Thoreau's text.

At the back of your **Journal** should be a *Vocabulary Appendix* listing of at least 50 new words (plus their definitions) that you encountered in reading **Walden**.

Feel free to embellish your **Journal** with illustrations and/or a unique cover.

In order to assist you in your understanding of **Walden**, you should watch the "Great Books: *Walden*" documentary at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHRDq4z3brs> II.

**Also due on August 16**, is a copy of a **Corrected Essay** that you wrote in an English (or "Language Arts") class during 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

This is important for a couple of reasons. It establishes a base-line for the type of writing that you have been accustomed to producing in English classes. And it provides an indication of the thoroughness of feedback and the kinds of corrections that you are accustomed to receiving for your written work.