

Transcendental Thoughts in Music – Part 2

In groups of four

1. Play portion of the songs you brought to the class in the category we discuss today.
2. Discuss the reasons that the songs fit the characteristic of transcendental thoughts/ideas. Make a note for the group.
3. Write the title of the music and the artist (singer/band/author on a chart paper).
4. Answer questions:
 - Which category has the most songs?
 - What surprises you see about the lists?
 - Are there kinds of songs that aren't well-represented?
 - What would happen if songs were divided further into sub-genres (e.g. heavy metal, alternative rock)?
 - Are there artists whom you think of as following transcendental ideas? Do their songs represent those ideas?
 - How do the songs that are listed represent your (e.g. students') individualism?
5. Revise definition of TRANSCENDENTALISM

Transcendentalism is a philosophical movement that started in the 1830s with the belief that the most important reality is what is sensed or what is intuitive, rather than what is thought such as scientific knowledge. It called on people to view the objects in the world as small versions of the whole universe and to trust their individual intuitions. A **transcendentalist** is a person who accepts these ideas not as religious beliefs but as a way of understanding life relationships. **Transcendentalists** believed in numerous values, however they can all be condensed into three basic, essential **values**: individualism, idealism, and the divinity of nature. The two most noted American **transcendentalists** were **Ralph Waldo Emerson** and **Henry David Thoreau**.

6. Final Project for the Unit - **HOMEWORK DUE 4/10-11/2018**

Examining Transcendentalism through Popular Culture Final Project

Look at all the resources in pop culture that you have access to. You can consider genres such as sitcoms, television dramas, children's cartoons, movies, commercials, newspaper editorials, and so forth. Your job is to find examples that complete the Transcendental Thought Chart.

- Provide at least one example for each characteristic of transcendental thought. You may provide more than one example if you wish.
- Choose a different quotation for each category of your chart. You can repeat the sources that you choose but should find different example quotations or actions. For instance, two of your quotations might come from the movie *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*; but the quotations from the movie must be different.
- Look for examples from multiple genres. Try to include at least two different genres in your chart.
- Be sure that you provide explanations for the quotations or examples that you've chosen that show why each is an example of transcendentalist thought.
- If possible, attach a copy of each of your examples to the chart that you submit. For instance, attach a copy of a newspaper editorial. Don't worry about providing a copy of a television show.

Examining Transcendentalism through Popular Culture Final Project Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Quotations and Examples	Provides unique examples for each characteristic of transcendentalism from two or more genres of popular culture.	Provides unique examples for each characteristic of transcendentalism from one genre of popular culture.	Provides examples for each characteristic of transcendentalism from one or more genre of popular culture, but repeats information.	Provides some examples of characteristics of transcendentalism from one genre of popular culture, but information is incomplete.
Description	Makes a complete and detailed description of the examples or quotations from popular culture resources.	Makes a detailed description of most of the examples or quotations from popular culture resources.	Makes a detailed description of some of the examples or quotations from popular culture resources.	Descriptions are not detailed or complete.
Explanation	Accurately describes several dominant characteristics of transcendentalism and accurately relates how they are used in the example or quotation.	Accurately describes a couple of dominant characteristics of transcendentalism and accurately relates how they are used in the example or quotation.	Describes some dominant characteristics of transcendentalism, but has difficulty describing how these relate to the movement.	Has trouble picking out the dominant characteristics of transcendentalism.