

from “Self-Reliance”
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Transcendentalism:

Also called transcendental philosophy.
Any philosophy based upon the doctrine that the principles of reality are to be discovered by the study of the processes of thought, or a philosophy emphasizing the intuitive and spiritual above the empirical: in the U.S., associated with Emerson.

Self-reliance: Reliance on one's own capabilities, judgment, or resources; independence.

APHORISM: (define, p.363)

1. “Envy is ignorance; imitation is suicide.”

- Don't copy other people, don't be envious or jealous.
- Make the best out of what you have. You have to create your own success.

2. Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string.

- Be satisfied with who you are and where you are in history or in the world.

3. “Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist.”

- Be true to yourself
- Good and bad are just words/labels
- Follow your nature

4. “What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think.”

- The great man is he who can follow his own conscience in the midst of the crowd.

5. “For nonconformity the world whips you with its displeasure.”

- It's tough to be a nonconformist.
- Don't worry about what people think, because fashions and fads change.

6. People are afraid of being different.
Fear of change.

- Consistency: conformity in the application of something, typically that which is necessary for the sake of logic, accuracy, or fairness.

7. “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines.”

- It’s okay to change your mind. You can contradict yourself.
- Many great thinkers were misunderstood.
- “To be great is to be misunderstood.”

#2. p. 367

In the excerpt from “Self-Reliance,”
Emerson focused

on several main points. First, (list 3 main
points)

#3.

Emerson’s ideas about the importance of
the individual apply to my life in several
ways. (list 3 ways)

**Define: Self-Reliance in your own words
and give one example of it.**