Emerson – Nature

Ch. 1 – Nature

1. Provide a brief summary of Emerson’s main points from this section.
2. What is Emerson’s point about the stars in the chapter’s first two paragraphs?
3. According to Emerson, what is the difference between the way a child sees nature and the way an adult sees nature?
4. What do you think Emerson means by “Nature always wears the colors of the spirit”?

Ch. 3 – Beauty

Section 1 – “nature’s beauty has medicinal/healing qualities”

1. Provide a brief summary of Emerson’s main points from this section.
2. Emerson says “To the body and mind which have been cramped by noxious work or company, nature is medicinal and restores their tone.” What do you think he means? How is nature like medicine?
3. Emerson gives several examples of nature as an evolving process in this passage. What examples can you provide?
4. What do you think Emerson means in the last paragraph of this passage?

Section 2 – “nature’s beauty brings the virtuous closer to God”

1. Provide a brief summary of Emerson’s main points from this section.
2. What do you think Emerson means by “In proportion to the energy of his thought and will, he takes up the world into himself”?
3. According to Emerson, who is in the best position to experience the benefits of nature’s beauty? Why?
4. What do you think Emerson means by “Nature stretcheth out her arms to embrace man, only let his thoughts be of equal greatness”?

Section 3 – “nature’s beauty is pleasing to the intellect”

1. Provide a brief summary of Emerson’s main points from this section.
2. How does Emerson define the love of beauty? How does he define art?
3. According to Emerson, how beautiful can a single object be? Why do you think he says this?
4. Emerson states, “The world thus exists to the soul to satisfy the desire of beauty.” Do you think this is true? Explain.