**Excerpts from Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Nature”: Reading Questions**

**Introduction**

1. What does Emerson mean by the first two sentences in his introduction? (Hint: if you don’t know what “retrospective” or “sephulcher” means, look them up! ☺) What tenant of Transcendentalism does this reflect?
2. Do you believe Emerson’s statement that “we have no questions to ask which are unanswerable”? Why or why not?

**Nature**

1. What does Emerson mean by “Nature is a setting that fits equally well as comic or a mourning piece”? Do you agree with him? Explain.
2. Emerson’s line, “I become a transparent eye-ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part of particle of God” is undoubtedly his most famous. Break down what he means – why does he describe himself as a “transparent eye-ball”? What causes him to feel this way?

**Spirit**

1. What simile does Emerson use to describe the relationship between man and God?
2. What do you think Emerson mean by “A man is a god in ruins”? Explain.
3. Why does Emerson mention Adam and Caesar? What is he trying to say to his readers?