**Investigating Emerson’s *Self-Reliance* and**

**Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience***

**From Emerson’s *Self Reliance* p. 362**

***Discuss the following questions in one or two complete sentences.***

1. According to the first sentence, what does every person realize at some moment in his or her education?

2. Read paragraph three and explain how being a nonconformist is similar to not being hindered, held back “by the name of goodness” but exploring “if it be goodness.”

3. In paragraph three when an advisor prompts Emerson to question his motto to live wholly from within because his internal impulses may be from hell rather than heaven, explain Emerson’s response. What does it suggest about his order of values?

4. Considering the whole of the essay, explain why (line 30) Emerson might think the greatest man is “he who is in the midst of a crowd [that] keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.”

5. Why, according to paragraph six, are we scared from self trust? Explain how it might be true with an example or connection.

6. What does Emerson think of people who call for consistency in thought and action and who fear being misunderstood?

**Figurative Language is language that describes one thing in terms of another, and is not meant to be taken literally. Emerson employed figurative language in *Self Reliance*. Read each example below and come up with a literal translation of what he’s saying.**

1. “Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string.”

2. “…speak what you think today in words as hard as cannon balls…”

3. “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.”