

An excerpt from "Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what people think. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the distinction between greatness and meanness. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.

The suffix *-ness* means "exemplifying a quality" or "a state of." In line 2, *meanness* mostly likely means:

- A. The state of anger
- B. Showing great resentment
- C. A state of mediocrity, or being ordinary
- D. Exemplifying a quality of boredom

"Although not an easy task in action and in reason, focusing on one's self can help one rise to be better than the norm" best paraphrases which of the following sentences?

- A. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the distinction between greatness and meanness.
- B. The great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.
- C. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it.
- D. It is easy in solitude to live after our own.

Which sentence shows that transcendentalists value being one's self?

- A. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the distinction between greatness and meanness.
- B. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it.
- C. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion.
- D. What I must do is all that concerns me, not what people think.

Which sentence best supports the theme of this section from "Self-Reliance"?

- A. It is better to conform, or change, to fit into the crowd than it is to stand out.
- B. Finding solitude is necessary in order to become great.
- C. Do not worry about how society views you; instead live in society and do what is best for you.
- D. Listen to your peers when struggling with life; they often will have answers to help you become a better person.

Which expresses both transcendentalism and the author's perspective in this passage?

- A. You cannot buy the deepest satisfactions that exist in life.
- B. It is more important to grow as a person than to make money.
- C. Even in the midst of many, one must be willing to rely on one's self.
- D. One can only become great by surrounding one's self with others.