

“When is it Right to do the Wrong Thing” 3 Day Lesson

To begin, do a KWHL about Henry David Thoreau.

Read to students “If You Spent a Day with Thoreau at Walden Pond.” Students add to their chart information learned about Thoreau.

Quickwrite: “When is it right to do the wrong thing?”
As students finish their writing, have them stand up and share with other students.

Make a list on the board of times the students came up with when it is okay to break the rules.

Play the You Tube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gugnXTN6-D4> that explains Thoreau’s views in simple ways.

Add notes to to the KWHL chart.

Exit ticket: Vote for the best example of a the right time to do the wrong thing.

Day 2 - Climbing Mountains

Get out KWHL charts and share with someone at another table group and get ideas to add to their chart.

Read “Henry Climbs a Mountain” by D.B. Johnson. Give each table group a large piece of butcher paper. Have the students create a plot map using the story as a resource. Make story maps into a mountain (like in the story), and put the major events in the story on the mountains. Have a gallery walk so different groups can see the other tables’ work.

Add any new information on KWHL charts.

Exit ticket: Write a summary of the story in 25 words or less.

Day 3: What would you do?

Read to students, "A Year in the Woods"

Quickwrite: Using KWHL charts, write a descriptions of Henry David Thoreau like you were introducing him to a friend.

When students finish quickwrites, pick a partner to share writing.

Using the exit tickets from yesterday's lesson, pass out situations for the students to discuss. Use a Mix-Freeze strategy by playing music and have students stop next to the nearest person to have a discussion with about their topic.

Before reading, make a t-chart in reading response journals to add some of Thoreau's famous friends.

Enrichment:

Read to students “Henry Hikes to Fitchburg.” As we hear a name from the book, add it to our t-chart.

After we finish reading the book, distribute short biographies of each of the names we wrote down. Have students try to match description of “friends” with the short biographies. Pick one to do further research on and complete a poster advertising his/her work.