

WORDS TO OWN

from Self-Reliance
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Pupil's Edition page 224

Vocabulary and Context Clues

In each sentence below, use the list of Words to Own and context clues to find the word that has the same meaning as the italicized word or words. Write the word in the blank in front of the sentence. Underline any context clues that help you find the answer. Context clues may be synonyms or antonyms of the correct word, and may be single words or phrases. You may use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

EXAMPLE: _____ *divinity* Believing in the essential *godliness* of all people, Emerson always looked for their superhuman qualities.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| proportionate | manifest | conspiracy | conviction | imparted |
| predominating | transcendent | benefactors | integrity | aversion (to) |

- _____ 1. In Emerson's view, a person of *good moral character* is first of all honest with himself or herself.
- _____ 2. A *strong opinion* of your own worth—belief in yourself—is a good start toward self-reliance.
- _____ 3. With one's own inner voices *prevailing*, Emerson believes, a person will take the correct path through life. Some might argue that it is difficult to let inner voices be one's major influence.
- _____ 4. A person's special inborn talent may not be *apparent*. The talent cannot show itself if the opportunity to develop it has not occurred.
- _____ 5. Some may see a paradox in the fact that Emerson *disclosed* his philosophy of self-reliance to students, rather than letting them discover it on their own. However, if he did not reveal his philosophy, how were they to embrace it?
- _____ 6. *Philanthropists*, by definition, have good intentions; but they should try to ensure that their gifts do not stifle a recipient's self-reliance.
- _____ 7. People with an *intense dislike of* hard thinking may find it easier to rely on the ideas of others. In the end, their abhorrence of thinking will not be to their advantage.
- _____ 8. Emerson believes that an individual's trust of self is of *exceeding* importance. It surpasses trust in any authority.
- _____ 9. When Emerson talks about a *secret plan* to rob people of their individuality, he is exaggerating the truth. It is unlikely that a group of people would actually conceive of such a plot.
- _____ 10. A child's level of self-reliance must be *related* to his or her chronological age, just as the ability to make judgments is equal to his or her maturity.

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