

Study Questions for Thoreau's "Life without Principle"

1. A good deal of "Life without Principle" is devoted to a critique of money. Comment on Thoreau's views of money and the extent to which it is relevant to our modern society.

2. Please debate in your group the relevance or "Truth" of this quote from Thoreau's essay. Look deep into what he is saying and keep in mind the larger context of his essay.
"If a man walk in the wood for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer; but if he spends his whole day as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making earth bald before her time, he is an esteemed industrious and enterprising citizen" (Thoreau 76).

3. Brainstorm and catalogue as many prescriptive values that Thoreau thinks are important principles to live by. List the page of each passage that you identify.