

Two-Sided Emerson – This is an exercise in close reading. I have selected several passages from Emerson’s “On Education.” Your task is to interpret each of those passages. You may use this double-sided worksheet or rewrite the passages and translations on a separate sheet of paper. Look closely at each passage. Be sure to pay attention to punctuation and context. You may need to read from the beginning of the paragraph in order to completely understand the passage.

“See how far a young doctor will ride or walk to witness a new surgical operation. I have seen a carriage-maker’s shop emptied of all its workmen into the street, to scrutinize a new pattern from New York” (paragraph 9).

“...that it is not strange that this calomel of culture should be a popular medicine. On the other hand, total abstinence from this drug, and the adoption of simple discipline and the following of nature involves at once immense claims on the time, the thoughts, on the Life of the teacher” (paragraph 12).

“I tell you the child just born in yonder hovel is the beginning of a revolution as great as theirs. But your must have the believing and prophetic eye” (paragraph 13).

Pick one additional passage to interpret.