

beyond it; which was heard gnawing out for several weeks, hatched perchance by the heat of an urn. Who does not feel his faith in a resurrection and immortality strengthened by hearing of this? Who knows what beautiful and winged life, whose egg has been buried for ages under many concentric layers of woodenness in the dead dry life of society, deposited at first in the alburnum¹⁹ of the green and living tree, which has been gradually converted into the semblance of its well-seasoned tomb—heard perchance gnawing out now for years by the astonished family of man, as they sat round the festive board—may unexpectedly come forth from amidst society's most trivial and handselled furniture, to enjoy its perfect summer life at last!

I do not say that John or Jonathan²⁰ will realize all this; but such is the character of that morrow which mere lapse of time can never make to dawn. The light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us. Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.

19. **alburnum** (al ber' nem) *n.* soft wood between the bark and the heartwood, where water is conducted.

20. **John or Jonathan** average person.

Critical Reading

1. **Respond:** From your point of view, what would be the advantages and disadvantages of spending two solitary years in a natural setting?
2. (a) What advice does Thoreau offer to his "fellows" about ownership of land or property? (b) **Interpret:** What does Thoreau mean by his comment, "It makes but little difference whether you are committed to a farm or the county jail"?
3. (a) What advice does Thoreau offer to those who live in poverty? (b) **Analyze:** What does this advice suggest about Thoreau's definition of true wealth?
4. (a) According to Thoreau, by what is our life "frittered away"? (b) **Interpret:** What does Thoreau mean by his advice to "Simplify, simplify"?
5. (a) **Deduce:** What did Thoreau hope to achieve by living at Walden Pond? (b) **Make a Judgment:** Do you believe Thoreau felt his time at Walden was well spent? Explain.
6. (a) **Apply:** How would you define those things that are necessary to the soul? (b) **Take a Position:** Do you agree with Thoreau that "Money is not required to buy one necessary of the soul"? Explain.