



English I: Reading: Module 2: Practice 1: Section 2

Annotate and Analyze a Paired Passage

Reading and Annotating Texts

Instructions: Use the following texts to help you complete the lesson. Mouse over the **bold** terms to see definitions.

A narrow fellow in the grass

by Emily Dickinson

A narrow fellow in the grass
Occasionally rides;
You may have met him,—did you not?
His notice sudden is.

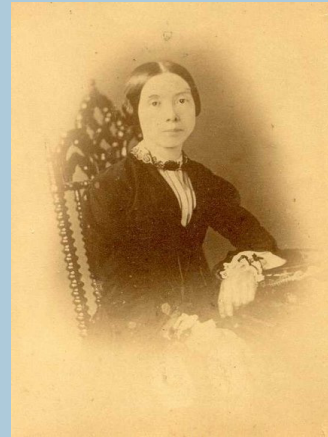
5 The grass divides as with a comb,
A spotted **shaft** is seen;
And then it closes at your feet
And opens further on.

10 He likes a boggy acre,
A floor too cool for corn.
Yet when a child, and barefoot,
I more than once, at morn,

15 Have passed, I thought, a **whip-lash**
Unbraiding in the sun,—
When, stooping to secure it,
It wrinkled, and was gone.

20 Several of nature's people
I know, and they know me;
I feel for them a transport
Of **cordiality**;

But never met this fellow,
Attended or alone,
Without a tighter breathing,
And zero at the bone.



Source: Emily-dickinson-ca1850, Phillip F. Gura, Wikimedia



Source: Garter Snake, Blaine Hansel, Wikimedia



Source: Thoreau1967stamp, Jonathunder, Wikimedia

Excerpt from “Walking”

by Henry David Thoreau

- 1 [A]ll good things are wild and free. . . . I love even to see the domestic animals reassert their native rights,—any evidence that they have not wholly lost their original wild habits and vigor; as when my neighbor's cow breaks out of her pasture early in the spring and boldly swims the river, a cold, gray tide, twenty-five or thirty rods wide, swollen by the melted snow. It is the buffalo crossing the Mississippi. This **exploit** confers some dignity on the herd in my eyes,—already dignified. The seeds of instinct are preserved under the thick hides of cattle and horses, like seeds in the bowels of the earth, an indefinite period.
- 2 Any **sportiveness** in cattle is unexpected. I saw one day a herd of a dozen **bullocks** and cows running about and frisking in **unwieldy** sport, like huge rats, even like kittens. They shook their heads, raised their tails, and rushed up and down a hill, and I perceived by their horns, as well as by their activity, their relation to the deer tribe. But, alas! a sudden loud Whoa! would have damped their ardor at once, reduced them from venison to beef, and stiffened their sides and sinews like the locomotive. . . . Indeed, the life of cattle, like that of many men, is but a sort of locomotiveness; they move a side at a time, and man, by his machinery, is meeting the horse and the ox half-way. Whatever part the whip has touched is thenceforth palsied. Who would ever think of a side of any of the supple cat tribe, as we speak of a side of beef?
- 3 I rejoice that horses and steers have to be broken before they can be made the slaves of men, and that men themselves have some wild oats still left to sow before they become **submissive** members of society.



Source: Longhorn, Tom Haynes, Flickr