

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class pd. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

## Emerson on Nonconformity

**Directions:** Analyze the following excerpt from Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Self-Reliance." Then answer the questions.

. . . Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members. Society is a joint-stock company, in which the members agree, for the better securing of his bread to each shareholder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater. The virtue in most request is conformity. Self-reliance is its aversion. It loves not realities and creators, but names and customs. Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist. . . .

1. Summarize the passage in your own words.
2. Superficially, what parts of this passage parallel Mr. Norton's philosophy?
3. In what ways is Mr. Norton blind to Emerson's words?
4. Do you see any character in the book serving as a nonconformist?