

Name _____ Class pd. _____ Date _____ Score _____

The Mechanical Man

Directions: Read the following passages from chapter 3 of *Invisible Man*. These passages are said by the old veteran at the Golden Day. As you read, circle words that connect to Ralph Waldo Emerson's text, and underline parts for class discussion. Then synthesize the passages with what you have previously learned regarding Emerson. Explain how the excerpts illustrate the superficial nature of Mr. Norton.

Passage 1

"You see," he said turning to Mr. Norton, "he has eyes and ears and a good distended African nose, but he fails to *understand* the simple facts of life.

Understand. Understand? It's worse than that. He registers with his senses but short-circuits his brain. Nothing has meaning. He takes it in but he doesn't digest it. Already he is—well, bless my soul! Behold! a walking zombie! Already he's learned to repress not only his emotions but his humanity. He's invisible, a walking personification of the Negative, the most perfect achievement of your dreams, sir! The mechanical man!"

Passage 2

"You cannot see or hear or smell the truth of what you see—and you, looking for destiny! It's classic! And the boy, this automaton, he was made of the very mud of the region and he sees far less than you. Poor stumblers, neither of you can see the other. To you he is a mark on the scorecard of your achievement, a thing and not a man; a child, or even less—a black amorphous thing."