

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 17 AMERICAN LITERATURE STUDENT NOTES

### WALT WHITMAN

Whitman wrote in “\_\_\_\_\_” which is recognized by its lack of **rhyme** and **meter**. However, we know that there is more to poetry than those two elements.

A poem has:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. “Subtlety of \_\_\_\_\_”
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ language
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and sense.

WHITMAN had the most powerful influence on \_\_\_\_\_ poets

1. He was an innovator of style and \_\_\_\_\_
2. He created poetry which showed the \_\_\_\_\_ effect of

Transcendentalism on America

3. He was the last of the Transcendental Optimists but was a “\_\_\_\_\_” between American Romanticism and American Realism.

- a. His ideas and attitudes are \_\_\_\_\_
- b. He inherited his “optimistic spirit, \_\_\_\_\_ and mysticism” from Emerson and Thoreau
- c. However, his free verse, musical form, conversational style, colloquial language and willingness to treat any subject are characteristic of “\_\_\_\_\_”.

E. While \_\_\_\_\_ put Emerson’s ideas to practical use, (“Walden’s Pond”)...

F. Whitman took the ideas and developed them to their logical \_\_\_\_\_.

For example: *If a man’s soul is divine, so is his body and therefore, whatever impulses he has are “good”.*

### V. POE/ TRANSCENDENTAL PESSIMISTS (OR ROMANTIC PESSIMISTS)

- I. Poe was a ROMANTIC PESSIMIST JUST as NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE WAS. (“\_\_\_\_\_” means sharing the age’s interest in the exotic and the remote, in the imaginative, and in the anti-aristocratic).
- II. Poe was the first American writer to influence his successors in POETRY, FICTION AND \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. Poe had a set of “aesthetic principles”

- IV. 1. The mind is divided into 3 parts: \_\_\_\_\_, soul and conscience.
- A. TRUTH appeals to the \_\_\_\_\_...
  - B. BEAUTY appeals to the \_\_\_\_\_ and
  - C. DUTY appeals to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. No overlapping was allowed in his mind.
  - E. He felt that writers like Longfellow were inartistic because they tried to “teach truth” through poetry...which was “beauty”...only appealing to the \_\_\_\_\_ -- not the mind.
  - F. \_\_\_\_\_ was also important to Poe...a poem or short story should only be as long as could be read in \_\_\_\_\_ sitting.
  - G. Poe used only \_\_\_\_\_ feeling (melancholy) for poetry and
  - H. ONE feeling for his short stories ( \_\_\_\_\_ or terror)