



Two Paths, One Idea

Directions: Read both excerpts carefully. Pay attention to how each author presents a similar idea or theme in a different way (through word choice, tone, imagery, or perspective). Answer the questions below by comparing and contrasting the excerpts. Use direct evidence from the texts to support your answers.

Excerpt A (Adapted, Literary - Ralph Waldo Emerson)

"The sun shines today also. There is more wool and flax in the fields. There are new lands, new men, new thoughts. Let us demand our own works and laws and worship."

Excerpt B (Adapted, Literary - Walt Whitman)

*"I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."*

1. What idea do both authors seem to express about individuality or self-reliance?

2. How does Emerson's tone differ from Whitman's?

3. Which words or phrases in each excerpt stand out as key to understanding the author's view of the self?

4. How do the two excerpts together show different approaches to the same idea?
