

## Two Paths, One Idea Answer Key

### Question 1:

- *Answer:* Both authors emphasize the importance of individuality and self-reliance.
- *Evidence:* Emerson encourages people to "demand our own works and laws and worship," while Whitman celebrates the shared value of the self ("I celebrate myself").

### Question 2:

- *Answer:* Emerson's tone is commanding and urgent, urging action. Whitman's tone is celebratory and inclusive, focusing on unity in individuality.

### Question 3:

- Emerson: Key phrases include "our own works" and "demand...worship," which stress independence and creation.
- Whitman: Key phrases include "celebrate myself" and "every atom belonging to me...belongs to you," which highlight both individuality and interconnectedness.

### Question 4:

- *Answer:* Emerson presents self-reliance as a responsibility and a call to action, while Whitman presents it as a joyful recognition of both personal worth and universal connection.
- *Theme Connection:* Both highlight the value of the self, but Emerson stresses duty while Whitman emphasizes celebration.

### Teacher Notes:

- Encourage students to notice both **similarities** (focus on the self) and **differences** (tone, purpose, imagery).
- Accept varied wording of themes as long as they are supported by textual evidence.
- Extension: Ask students to write their own short excerpt (3-4 lines) expressing the same idea of individuality, in a style either closer to Emerson or Whitman.