

**LEARNING STRATEGIES:**  
Reading aloud, Choral reading,  
Marking the Text, Visual/  
Auditory Prompt

My Notes

## Learning Targets

- Support interpretive claims with textual evidence.
- Collaboratively develop criteria for evaluating how texts treat themes or topics.

## Before Reading

1. While the Transcendentalist movement occurred in the first half of the nineteenth century, it fundamentally influenced American thinking by giving expression to many ideas, values, and themes that continue to be explored in literature today. How might Transcendentalism connect to a modern song?

## During Reading

2. As you read the poems, mark the texts for ideas that connect to transcendental thinking. How do the following three pieces relate to the core tenets of Transcendentalism?

## Poetry

# In the Depths of Solitude

by Tupac Shakur

- I exist in the depths of solitude  
 Pondering my true goal  
 Trying to find peace of mind  
 And still preserve my soul
- 5 Constantly yearning to be accepted  
 And from all receive respect  
 Never compromising but sometimes risky  
 And that is my only regret  
 A young heart with an old soul
- 10 How can there be peace  
 How can I be in the depths of solitude  
 When there are two inside of me  
 This Duo within me causes  
 The perfect opportunity
- 15 To learn and live twice as fast  
 As those who accept simplicity

## After Reading

3. A genre is a style of literature or art with specific characteristics, features, and format. These generalizable characteristics are called **genre conventions**. What conventions characterize poetry as a broad literary genre? How does Shakur use these conventions in "In the Depths of Solitude"?

## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**Genre conventions** are the essential features and format that characterize a particular genre.

