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”?
Poetry

REMEMBER

by Joy Harjo

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star’s stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is. I met her
in a bar once in Iowa City.

5 Remember the sun’s birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother’s, and hers.

10 Remember your father. He is your life also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.

15 Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe. I heard her singing Kiowa war

20 dance songs at the corner of Fourth and Central once.
Remember that you are all people and that all people are you.
Remember that you are this universe and that this universe is you.
Remember that all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember that language comes from this.

25 Remember the dance that language is, that life is.
Remember.