



The Walden Woods Project

Keeping Thoreau's Legacy Alive

2016-2017

Live Deliberately Essay Contest

Open to youth around the globe aged 14 - 21

Cash Prizes Awarded

This year's prompt (consider both quotations together):

“Let me say to you and to myself in one breath—Cultivate the tree which you have found to bear fruit in your soil. Regard not your past failures nor successes. All the past is equally a failure and a success; it is a success in as much as it offers you the present opportunity.”

—Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*, after 29 July 1850

“Old trees are our parents, and our parents' parents, perchance. If you would learn the secrets of Nature, you must practice more humanity than others.”

—Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*, 23 October 1855

Consider the different meanings of trees, cultivation, and soil as Thoreau uses them in the passages. What guidance does Thoreau offer us in these quotations about living a deliberate life full of humanity and meaning? How do you “cultivate the tree which you have found to bear fruit in your soil” and why is that important? Use specific examples to support your ideas.

Read the *Contest Guidelines* and submit essays at
www.walden.org/education/essay-contest/

Deadline for submission is March 15, 2017



Call The Walden Woods Project at 781-259-4721 or email education@walden.org with questions