TRANSCENDENTALIST QUOTES:

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

*"The Transcendentalist adopts the whole connection of spiritual doctrine. He believes in miracle, in the perpetual openness of the human mind to new influx of light and power; he believes in inspiration, and in ecstasy...."

*It was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person, ‘Always do what you are afraid to do.’

*That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do; not that the nature of the thing itself is changed, but that our power to do is increased.

* Allow yourself to trust joy and embrace it. You will find you dance with everything.

*Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them

*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

*What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not been discovered.

*All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.

*The only way to have a friend is to be one.

*Is it so bad, then, to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood.

*Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

*Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.

*True friendship can afford true knowledge. It does not depend on darkness and ignorance.

*On tops of mountains, as everywhere to hopeful souls, it is always morning.

*Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes.

*So behave that the odor of your actions may enhance the general sweetness of the atmosphere, that when we behold or scent a flower, we may not be reminded how inconsistent your deeds are with it; for all odor is but one form of advertisement of a moral quality, and if fair actions had not been performed, the lily would not smell sweet. The foul slime stands for the sloth and vice of man, the decay of humanity; the fragrant flower that springs from it, for the purity and courage which are immortal.

*Most of the luxuries and many of the so-called comforts of life are not only not indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind.

*It is never too late to give up your prejudices.

*Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises? If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.

*I heartily accept the motto: “That government is best which governs least”
MARGARET FULLER:

The especial genius of women I believe to be electrical in movement, intuitive in function, spiritual in tendency.

The character and history of each child may be a new and poetic experience to the parent, if he will let it.

Nature provides exceptions to every rule.

Men for the sake of getting a living forget to live.

Male and female represent the two sides of the great radical dualism. But in fact they are perpetually passing into one another. Fluid hardens to solid, solid rushes to fluid. There is no wholly masculine man, no purely feminine woman.

It seems that it is madder never to abandon one's self than often to be infatuated; better to be wounded, a captive and a slave, than always to walk in armor.

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.

I am suffocated and lost when I have not the bright feeling of progression.

Drudgery is as necessary to call out the treasures of the mind, as harrowing and planting those of the earth.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

*Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty in them, and try to follow where they lead.

*Love is the only thing that we can carry with us when we go, and it makes the end so easy.

*Beth could not reason upon or explain the faith that gave her courage and patience to give up life, and cheerfully wait for death. Like a confiding child, she asked no questions, but left everything to God and nature, Father and Mother of us all, feeling sure that they, and they only, could teach and strengthen heart and spirit for this life and the life to come. (Little Women, chapter 36)

*I do not ask for any crown
But that which all may win;
Nor try to conquer any world
Except the one within.
Be Thou my guide until I find
Led by a tender hand,
The happy kingdom in myself
And dare to take command.

*A child her wayward pencil drew
On margins of her book;
Garlands of flower, dancing elves,
Bud, butterfly, and brook,
Lessons undone, and plum forgot,
Seeking with hand and heart
The teacher whom she learned to love
Before she knew t'was Art.