

Henry David Thoreau Resident Author November News

We are sad to report that Ralph Waldo Emerson was unable to visit the eighth grade students due to a leg injury. He expressed his disappointment and is planning to reschedule after the holiday season.

Students still have Henry periodically as their substitute teacher. The eighth graders are using *Walden* as a source for writing and are using Henry's philosophical thoughts as a means to evaluate their own lives. The focus was that we have only one life to live. Will we live it deliberately? How will we choose to spend our time? They spent time writing an essay on their use of time during a forty-eight hour weekend and evaluating whether it was used wisely or wasted. The essays were written very well, and the students did a great deal of critical thinking about their lives.

The sixth graders wrote and illustrated narratives about spending the day with Henry David Thoreau after hearing the story *If You Spent the Day with Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond* by Robert Burleigh. Their narratives showed that they would like to share some new activities with Henry like teaching him to play modern games, as well as going to parks and viewing nature because that is what he would like to do.

Seventh grade students read Henry's journal entry about his father's lost pig. They identified the characteristics of a narrative by using the journal entry as a source. Then students wrote their own narratives from the pig's perspective. The results were hilarious as well as the illustrations that the students did based on their narratives.