

Reading-Writing Connection

WRITING PROMPT

UPDATE EMERSON'S MESSAGE Emerson's ideas about nonconformity were radical for their time—and they are still relevant today. Write a **three-to-five-paragraph speech** in which you present an updated version of Emerson's message for an audience of contemporary high school students. Recast his ideas about the importance of the individual, using up-to-date examples and descriptive details that will resonate with your audience.

SELF-CHECK

An effective speech will . . .

- have a clear thesis
- reflect the **ideals** and values Emerson presented in "Self-Reliance" and *Nature*
- engage the audience with relevant examples

GRAMMAR AND STYLE

USE DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS Review the **Grammar and Style** note on page 364. The power and precision of Emerson's prose owes a good deal to his skillful use of **adjective clauses**—subordinate clauses that, like adjectives, add important detail about nouns and pronouns. An adjective clause usually follows the word it modifies and is introduced by words such as *when*, *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *that*, and *which*. Here is an example from "Self-Reliance":

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better for worse as his portion. . . . (lines 1–3)

Notice that each of the highlighted phrases offers information about the word it modifies. The first phrase tells you about the "time in every man's education" Emerson is discussing. The second, third, and fourth clauses explain what kind of convictions he embraces at this time.

PRACTICE Identify the adjective clause in each sentence from Emerson's work. Then write your own sentences, using adjective clauses as Emerson does.

EXAMPLE

He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness.

Those who wish to make a true difference cannot worry what others might say behind their backs.

1. There is a kind of contempt of the landscape felt by him who has just lost by death a dear friend.
2. Nature is a setting that fits equally well a comic or a mourning piece.
3. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life,—no disgrace, no calamity, (leaving my eyes,) which nature cannot repair.



SUNSHINE STATE STANDARD Writing Process

Benchmark LA.1112.3.4.4 Grammar and usage, including but not limited to parts of speech, verb tense, noun/pronoun agreement, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement, parallel structure, modifier placement, comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and unintended shift in person or tense.

WRITING TOOLS

For prewriting, revision, and editing tools, visit the **Writing Center** at ClassZone.com.