**APHORISMS**

The definition of aphorism is: "Aphorism" is a noun meaning a terse saying embodying a general truth, or astute observation. One famous example of an aphorism is: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely” (Lord Acton)

Explain the following three aphorisms from Emerson’s “Self-Reliance.” Also discuss what they make you think about (this can relate to your life or just life in general; think of specific examples that show that aphorism). The first one is done for you.

* 1. “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by statesman and philosophers and divines.”

MEANING: Too much consistency cuts off the flow of progress through fresh ideas and differing viewpoints. These little statesmen, philosophers and clergy cling to what they know and are familiar with, rather than expanding their vision to include new thoughts and methods.

PERSONAL CONNECTION: People tend to do what is known and has always been done, because it is the easiest choice whether or not it is the best choice. Students tend to study the same way they have always studied for tests even if they are not achieving well on the tests.

* 1. “Imitation is suicide”

MEANING: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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PERSONAL CONNECTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* 1. “Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist.”

MEANING: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* 1. “It is easy in the world to live after the world’s opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude..."

MEANING: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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PERSONAL CONNECTION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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