

Script:

At Walden Pond

***remind Ms. Small to put us last*

Narrator Enters

Narrator: You may have heard of the popular Youtuber Mr. Beast. He has garnered incredible fame and wealth from his videos, often involving challenges and prizes. Well today, Mr. Beast has acquired a time machine built by one of his subscribers and travelled back to the 1840s to film a one-of-a-kind video.

Enter Mr. Beast and Thoreau

Mr. Beast: WELCOME BACK TO THE CHANNEL!!! I WENT BACK TO 1840 TO CHALLENGE THE ONE AND ONLY HENRY DAVID THOREAU TO THIS AWESOME CHALLENGE. HE HAS TO STAY IN THE WOODS IN COMPLETE SOLITUDE, MEANING HE CANNOT LEAVE THIS SECTION OF THE WOODS OR TALK TO ANYONE, FOR ONE WHOLE WEEK TO WIN 1 MILLION DOLLARS!!!!!!! TIME STARTS NOW!!!!

Thoreau: This will be easy. "I find it wholesome to be alone the greater part of the time. To be in company, even with the best, is soon wearisome and dissipating. I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude. We are for the most part lonelier when we go abroad among men than when we stay in our chambers." Hey, I should write that down.

*Thoreau goes to **cabin** and starts writing*

Mr. Beast turns to the audience

Mr. Beast: LET'S FIND OUT IF HENRY CAN RESIST THE JUICY VILLAGE GOSSIP!!!

Mr. Beast knocks on the door.

Mr. Beast: Henry, I don't know if you've heard, but the village is full of new rumors.

Thoreau: Can we not do without the society of our gossips a little while under these circumstances?

Mr. Beast: The rumors they're talking about are pretty wild! I'd go if I were you...

Thoreau: **hesitantly** If you insist...

Thoreau gets up and goes to the village, eager to hear the gossip

Luciana and Anika (two villagers) are engaging in gossip

Luciana: Anika, have you seen the weird man in the woods? Beth from next-door told me that he used to be a great priest but retired to the woods after he broke his left hand. Now, he rambles his preachings only to the sky and himself.

Anika: Oh yes, I heard he-

Thoreau joins in

Anika: *surprised* Hello, sir!

Thoreau: Good afternoon, miss.

Luciana: We were just discussing this debate that has been rampaging through the town. Apparently, there's a fellow in this town by the name of Justin that has been courting two different women

Anika: Oh, yes. I heard about this debate. He is with one of the women, is he not?

Luciana: Yes, her name is Hailey, personally I think she's a little pretentious, but she and Justin seem quite happy together.

Anika: I'm sorry, my friend, I must disagree. I met the other mistress, Selena, and she's truly lovely, I believe they would've made a more fitting couple.

Luciana: Of course, you must be in contradiction of my ideas. Alas, it is not our job to judge other people's business, and may we wish them all the luck in their future endeavors.

Thoreau listens, very engaged

Thoreau: Let everyone mind his own business, and endeavor to be what he was made. What another brilliant quote!

Anika & Luciana stare at Thoreau, confused

They eventually walk away (off-stage)

Thoreau starts to walk through the town

Thoreau: Signs are hung out on all sides to allure me; some to catch me by the appetite, as the tavern and victualling cellar; some by the fancy, as the dry goods store and the jeweler's; and others by the hair or the feet or the skirts, as the barber, the shoemaker, or the tailor. Besides, there are a still more terrible standing invitation to call at every one of these houses, and company expected about these times.

Thoreau: Well, I'll be off. Sometimes, after coming home thus late in a dark and muggy night, when my feet feel the path which my eyes cannot see, dreaming and absent-minded all the way, until I am aroused by having to raise my hand to lift the latch, I am not able to recall a single step of my walk, and I think that perhaps my body would find its way home if its master should forsake it, as the hand finds its way to the mouth without assistance. I seem to have enough wonderful ideas to print a book.

Thoreau runs into Mr. Beast while talking to himself and fishing (Ashwin is the fish)

Mr. Beast: SINCE YOU LOST SO QUICKLY, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE! YOU NOW HAVE TO REMAIN IN THE WOODS IN TRUE SOLITUDE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CHALLENGE!!

Thoreau: Is it not a reproach that man is a carnivorous animal? True, he can and does live, in a great measure, by preying on other animals; but this is a miserable way. I have no doubt that it is a part of the destiny of the human race, in its gradual improvement, to leave off eating animals, as surely as the savage tribes have left off eating each other when they came in contact with the more civilized.

Thoreau catches holds up fish

Thoreau: "Ah, the pickerel of Walden! when I see them lying on the ice, or in the well which the fisherman cuts in the ice, making a little hole to admit the water, I am always surprised by their rare beauty, as if they were fabulous fishes, they are so foreign to the streets, even to the woods, foreign as Arabia to our Concord life." I should write that down.

Mr. Beast: It looks like Thoreau is having a bit more fun than I'd like. I'm going to have to make this challenge a little bit more difficult. Let's see how he handles this.

Mr. Beast: gets **mud (bring bucket)** and sets up trap on door of cabin

Thoreau gets mud dumped on him

Thoreau: Oh no! I must go to the pond and do my laundry now...

Thoreau goes to pond to do laundry

Thoreau struggles and contemplates how to begin

Narrator: It seems like our hero is having a hard time doing his laundry

Thoreau: I have no choice. It seems my only option is to visit my mother's house so that she may wash my garments for me. But I must be swift enough so that Mr. Beast may not catch my return again.

Narrator: Oh, Thoreau. "To be a philosopher is not merely to have subtle thoughts, nor even to found a school, but so to love wisdom as to live according to its dictates, a life of simplicity, INDEPENDENCE, magnanimity, and trust." If only, Thoreau, if only.

Thoreau goes to his mom's house

Mom: Hi Henry! Are you home for dinner as usual? I made your favorite.

Thoreau: Keep your voice down. Mr. Beast can't know I'm here.

Thoreau makes sure no one is around to hear

Thoreau: *close to tears* Can you help me do my laundry? I tried to but I just didn't know how to start

Mom: I told you not to try without asking for my help first.

Narrator: Thoreau then does his laundry with the help of his mom.

Thoreau goes back to cabin

Mr. Beast is waiting right outside the cabin door.

Mr. Beast: You've already used your free pass, Henry. It looks like this challenge is over. I don't think you'll be receiving this briefcase full of 1 million dollars anytime soon.

Mr. Beast: Now for your punishment,

pulls out beans from garden and throws at Thoreau TBD

Thoreau runs away

Thoreau: I will have my revenge. Someday I will write out all my thoughts into a 300-page book that students years later will have to write essays on. *looks at audience* Have fun with that.

Mr. Beast: THANKS FOR WATCHING! MAKE SURE TO HIT THAT LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE VIDEO TO SEE MORE VIDEOS LIKE THIS!!

Narrator: The end.

Pond - All

Fish?? - All

Cabin - All

Bucket - Luciana

Briefcase - Ravena

Monopoly money - Luciana