

Scene 1: The Crash (1845)

Marty and Doc crash their flying car into a tree next to Thoreau's house (stage left). Thoreau is off stage.

Crash!!

Narrator: Walden Pond, 1845

Marty: Oh no! The car is ruined!!

Doc: Great Scott Marty!

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Marty: Where are we Doc?

Doc: Well according to my calculations the year is 1845 and look at that sign (*points to sign*) - we must be near Concord, Massachusetts.

Marty: 1845!? Dang! Is the car, okay? We could always walk to town and get some help. It's not even that far - I can see it from here (*cups hand over brow, looks into distance*).

Doc: No, we don't want to throw off the space time continuum, we have everything we need right here. Let me just take a look under the hood... (*crouches down to look at the car, signals Marty for help.*)

Marty bends down to help, they are blocked from Thoreau's view and vice versa.

Thoreau sneaks on stage from the opposite end of the stage (stage right).

QUEUE Golden Age Suite Adagio (10s-30s)

Thoreau: (*Rubs belly*) This beautiful day makes me hungry for a Woodchuck. (*Sees car and looks confused, music stops*) What extraterrestrial locomotive have I encountered? A miniature train? (*begins messing with the car and opens a door. He falls in out of shock*) AHH!

Marty: (*Stands up quickly*) What was that??

Doc: No worries, Marty. It was probably just some forest creature, like a woodchuck. (*gets back up*) Alright, let's get back to 2021 (*pats car affectionately*).

Scene change: swoosh sound, **QUEUE "Back in Time" (8s-35s)**, car runs around audience.

Scene 2: Walden Pond (2021)

Marty: Hey, we're back. Let's get back to what we were doing.

Doc: Right, I need to gather more plutonium for the Delorean.

(Marty and Doc turn to exit stage left. Thoreau pops out of the car, M & D spin around and they all make eye contact, Thoreau takes off running)

Doc: Good gracious! Who is that? What have we done now?

Marty: Hmmm. 1845, Concord, a big pond... You wouldn't suppose it's...Henry David Thoreau!!

sound: DUN DUN DUNN (voiced!)

Scene 3: Thoreau roaming around

QUEUE Gas Gas Gas, end as Thoreau enters (27s-51s)

Thoreau (out of breath): Did they say 2021? Wait a minute... I recognize this place... This is my home! It's just... different. Am I in the future?

(Looks around)

Thoreau (continued): Is that a museum?!?!?!? With a GIFT SHOP!! This can't be right. My simple home! My simple life! Where has it all gone? *(Sees tour guide walking by)* My heart, a woman... *(clutches chest)*

Tour Guide: Over there we have the foundation of Henry David Thoreau's chimney. And over in that corner we have a reproduction of what the cabin would have looked like.

Thoreau: I appreciate their attempt at respect... though my philosophical points seem to be disregarded. My beautiful home, a tourist attraction! How could this have possibly happened? Wait a minute, is that a statue.. Of me? And a plaque too? "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately." That's catchy. And quite summative. I should use that.

Teenagers *(using their phones, removed from the moment - BUMP into each other)*: oh. Sorry

Thoreau *(going to look at the teenagers with their phones)*: The youth of today - what are they obsessing over? What irrelevant information is stored in those devices? They have no respect for one another, instead they are tools of these little boxes of.. of.. knowledge?

Teenagers: What are you talking about - these are literally phones. *(takes selfie)*

Thoreau: I have had it! This future is terrible! The people live mechanistic lives, and do not enjoy the natural simplicity of the beauty surrounding them. I must find my way back home and stop any of this from ever happening. And on the idea of materialism, *(scribbles in journal)* "We

know but few men, a great many coats and breeches . . . The head monkey at Paris puts on a traveler's cap, and all the monkeys in America do the same."

Doc and Marty enter the stage.

Marty: There he is!

Doc: You! Back in the car! We're going back to 1845!

Scene Change: The trio runs through the audience in the car

Scene 4: Fixing the Past

The car landed at Walden, 1845. The trio gets out.

Thoreau: Thank you for taking me back. I have so much work to do, so much horror to prevent!

Doc: Woah, woah, woah. You can't do anything to alter the course of time. It's messy, and it's wrong, and it will ruin lives... keep your mouth shut!

Marty: Yeah! We need things to stay the way they are.

Thoreau: Of course, I understand. A man is only as good as his word.

Marty and Doc leave.

Thoreau: ... only as good as his word, except for when it comes to saving the world. I must warn everyone!

Thoreau runs off to tell the world about technology and stuff. He stands in front of everyone and starts to speak (while this is happening, someone from our group will sit in the front to yell back)

Thoreau: My fellow townsmen! I have horrible news to bear. I have seen the future, and it is terribly bleak. We are creatures that become imprisoned by the technological advancements of the modern world.

Townsperson: What?

Thoreau: Yes! We are slaves of these petty, meager boxes, they destroy our respect for one another. Our houses get knocked down, and perhaps worst of all, my life and legacy is exploited for personal gain!

Townsperson: Our houses?

Townsperson 2: This is awful.

Thoreau: Well, at least my god-like house is. But still! We must do everything we can to prevent technology from

advancing any more. Instead we should live purely, like we are supposed to. I'm telling you, technology debilitates all of us!!

Townspeople: mumbling

Townsperson 1: He's right. Let's prevent this dystopia!

Townsperson 2: Absolutely!

Scene 5: A Big Mistake

Thoreau goes back to his house

Thoreau: The world should thank me for what I have just done, I have saved the human race from their own terrible invention. (*Yells into the crowd*) You are welcome world! You are welcome audience! You are welcome Ellen, (*softly*) though you still will not marry me.

(Goes back to writing in his journal, Marty and Doc enter screen looking for Thoreau)

Doc: There he is!

Marty: Thoreau, did you mess with time?! You're stewed, you maniac!!

Thoreau: What do you mean?

Doc: The future, it's so different now. There's no computers, no antibiotics, no smart phones.

Thoreau: So you are telling me my plan worked? I go on to become a political influencer and halt the development of technology? Epic.

(Marty and Doc exchange glances)

Marty: Let's show him what he did. Get in the car.

(SCENE TRANSITION: The trio gets in the car and runs through the audience)

Scene 6: Tragedy

(The world is a wasteland. Everyone is sick and depressed.)

QUEUE Etude (0s-45s)

Teenager 1: Ever since Thoreau wrote his manifesto, it has been terrible! Between polio and measles and the coronavirus, there's nothing to do but sit around and rub our aching bellies.

Teenager 2: This is pretty miserable. I tried to talk to my friends from the next town over, but there's no way to communicate without walking 10 miles, and my legs are sore.

Teenager 1: I miss the trains. I wish the government didn't destroy them.

Teenager 2: Do you ever think that they will overthrow the Thoreau dynasty? It would be nice to have a little... progress.

Teenager 1: It's not looking good. After all, as written in the manifesto, "The ruling ideas of each age have ever been the ideas of its ruling class." (*collapses dramatically*)

QUEUE Menuet, play until bows are finished

Thoreau: Oh my, what have I done, I should have let my thoughts flow freely, not forcefully upon society. It is clear that for simple living there must be a balance between mindfulness and progress. Let the universe be wider than our views of it.

Characters:

- Doc - Garyth
- Marty - Robin
- Thoreau - Charlotte
- Teenagers on phones - Stephen, Gracie
- Tour guide - Robin
- Narrator (voice only) and Sounds - Gracie
- Townspeople - Gracie, Stephen

Props:

- DeLorean (cardboard)
- Fake phones
- Walden
- journal/pen
- Scene-change whiteboards?
- Sound effects for time travel
 - Scene transitions as well
- Sign that says "Concord"
- Someones phone to play music

Costumes:

- Sunglasses, hats, jackets?
- White wig/ lab coat for Doc
- Baseball cap for Marty, Red Vest
- Beard / timely clothes for Thoreau
- Teenagers - modern, regular clothing

... later scene angsty music

... later scene sad music

... ending music

Checklist:

Props to make

- (x) Concord Sign
- () Flying Car

Props to collect

- (x) Fake phones
- () Walden - Robin
- () Journal and Pen - charlotte
- () Clipboard - charlotte
- (x) Clock + Times
- (x) Soap box

Costumes

- () Marty vest- Robin will collect
- (x) Doc wig - Stephen will collect
- () Doc coat - charlotte
- () Thoreau - from classroom

Music

- () Speaker - Robin
- () Phone - Charlotte