

Walden Skits

Class Section: B Group Number: B3(The Wild Thoreau)

Title of Skit: The Wild Thoreau

Costumes/Clothing Accessories: Person Responsible Need Help?

- Hats/Beards for Visitors
- Beard for Thoreau
- Shoes
- Police hat

Stage Props: Person Responsible Need Help?

- Selfie Stick
- Axe
- Bag of beans - confetti
- Clap-board
- Book

Set Pieces Needed: Person Responsible Need Help?

- Cardboard house/jail
- 1 table
- 1 chair
- Speaking Podium (could be an actual one or cardboard made by us depending on material availability)

(Including chairs, tables, etc.)

Other needs (e.g. speakers for sound effects):

- Speakers: <https://www.soundtrap.com/signup?ref=18785bfl1ded5e4ea8b593a73b64aa8>
- Lights (will turn off lights for scene change)

Bournedale *Walden* Skits Worksheet
Group Number: B3(The Wild Thoreau)

Class Section: B

A. Title of Skit: The Wild Thoreau

B. Setting(s): The forest, his cabin, and town.

C. Tone (Your attitude towards the topic):

- Feigned seriousness (overall funny)
- Reflection

D. Theme (The message you would like to convey about your topic. This should be articulated as a phrase):

Social Isolation is no longer feasible today, to the point where visualizing it is absurd.

E. Short Summary:

This play highlights Thoreau's inability to be a part of society, and his animal-like behavior in his time at the woods. Throughout the play, the narrator follows Thoreau as he interacts with visitors that stop by his house (woodchopper, Emerson, etc), and describe his strange actions (chasing woodchuck and holding a funeral for beans). Thoreau's personal, contradicting beliefs are highlighted through town gossip, and his political views are displayed through his encounter with a cop.

F. Character Names/Performers:

- Henricus David-Thoreaus - Gustavo
- Narrator - Rishab
- Setup Crew - Isha
- Mom - Isha
- Woodchopper - Isha
- Emerson - Hartej
- Woodchuck- Hartej
- Cop - Isha

G. Plot (Action) Break-Down:

Beginning: Walden and his peculiar life and obsession with beans and chasing woodchucks is introduced. His condescending attitude and superiority complex are visible throughout the scene as he talks to the woodchopper.

Middle: Thoreau's dependence on others throughout his "isolation" is also shown through his mother doing his laundry and bail out of jail, as well as Emerson proofreading his work. His contradictory nature is shown through his opinion on gossip and how he contradicts his beliefs.

End: Thoreau descends to madness as he raps about his beans, proving that he is not capable of surviving in modern society.

To-Do List

- ~~Make house and jail~~
- Make confetti and bean bag
- ~~Write the new scene~~

Bournedale Walden Skits Worksheet #1

Class Section: B Group Number: B3

A. Names of Group Members: Rishab, Gustavo, Isha, Hartej

B. Focus (What aspects of Thoreau and/or Walden do you want to convey? Be as specific as possible

here):

- Isolation
- Attitude- "holier than thou"
- Obsession with beans
- Contradictions
- Ants and woodchuck

C. Concept (How will you convey these aspects?):

- Some jokes
- Narrative
- (Maybe) Time Travel
- **National Geographic Documentary**

D. Format (What will the skit look like? Are you redoing a concept from tv or a film, or are you starting from scratch?):

- National geographic - on "Henricus David-Thoreaus, or known to the common man, as Henry David Thoreau- Thoreau, for short."
- Forest is a habitat, he escapes in the last minute and sees the modern world
- Predator vs. prey ("The hunt begins! The unsuspecting woodchuck...")
- The Wild Thoreau stares at his beans (Daily Bean session)
- At end, goes into audience and gets upset at everyone for technology (have 2 people texting each other)

E. Tone (What is your attitude towards your topic/the focus of the skit?):

- Feigned seriousness (overall funny)
- Reflection
-

F. THEME (What is the main message that you want to convey? This should be articulated in a short phrase):

- Social Isolation is no longer feasible today, to the point where visualizing it is absurd.

G. Title of Skit: The Wild Thoreau

H. Work Accomplished Today:

- Established a concept
- Created a title
- Stabilized some details
- Figured out tone and mood

Characters:

- Henricus David-Thoreaus (Gustavo)
- Narrator (Rishab)
- Visitor (Isha)
 - Setup Crew
 - Mom
 - Woodchopper
- Emerson - Hartej
- Shoe Seller - Hartej
- Woodchuck- Hartej
- Cop - Isha

Props:

- Animal
- Beard for Thoreau
- Hats/Beards for Visitors
- Selfie Stick
- Axe
- Police hat
- Bag of beans - confetti
- Cardboard house / jail
- Clap-board
- Shoes
- Book

Outline:

1. Set-up crew says narrator is all set, "cameras rolling"- clap movie board
2. Spring/summer: Background description by Rishab while Thoreau is wandering animal like around the woods, planting beans
3. Woodchuck appears, no more beans, woodchuck!!!!
4. Visitor Woodchopper, condescending attitude towards him (Woodchopper is smart but Thoreau talks down to him, Thoreau talks big words and beans while Woodchopper is rightfully confused) (Woodchopper says "I'M SORRY, WHAT?!?!?" and Narrator says "The Woodchopper is confused".
5. Woodchuck runs across the stage (blinking lights- Isha), Thoreau chases it and the woodchopper leaves("An unsuccessful hunt.").
6. Scene change: Thoreau gets caught by the police. (Narrator- "Am I all set?" SC- "No, we still need to use our budget." "What more do we need to record? "I don't know figure it out!")

7. Thoreau goes to the town, cop finds him and chases after him, have a dodging around a tree scene
8. New scene = Winter - Narrator: "(In fall, most creatures try to store food"
9. Emerson walks in, talks to Thoreau about fixing house and getting food, Thoreau wants Emerson to proofread
10. Funeral of Beans, (optional)rap the bean rap in honor of the beans that we have lost - (Has breakdown) I poured my entire blood and tears into this song (Starts slow almost like poetry, 5 seconds in "HIT IT!" and then full out sicko mode on the beans)

Script: ANGLE YOURSELF

Setup- Pre-Scene:

- SC- "Alright, you're all set."
- N- "So you're telling me some lunatic ACTUALLY decided to give us funding for this project?"
- SC- "Look, do you want to get paid or not?"
- N- "...ugh, fine"
- SC- "The Wild Thoreau, Scene 1. Brought to you by Nat Geo and Hollywood. Begin!" *clap of movieboard"

Scene 1: Ants

- *Enter: Thoreau*
- **Narrator:** "Spring in the Walden Woods is full of life. And nothing reflects this more than observing the Henricus David-Thoreaus, known to the common man as the Henry David Thoreau– Thoreau, for short"
- *Thoreau walks around, creeping, animal-like*
- **Narrator:** The wild Thoreau is comfortable in its isolation, as it does not feel alone.
- **Thoreau:** BEANSS!!!!!! (Hugs beans to body) I cherish them, I hoe them, early and late I have an eye to them; and this is my day's work.
- *Thoreau pulls out his bean bag (confetti) He begins to walk around, throwing around beans in a manic manner*
- **Thoreau:** Go forth, my bean children!! Seep into the Earth!!!
- *Animal sounds*
- **Narrator:** The Thoreau is not alone, however.
- **Thoreau:** "What beautiful sounds, I hear a loon and a duck, they do not eat my beans"
- **Narrator:** "The Thoreau blends in in the way it knows best."
- *Thoreau talks to the loons*
- **Narrator:** But suddenly, something piques the Thoreau's interest.
- **Thoreau:** "Ahh! ANT FIGHT" FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT
- *Thoreau pulls out magnifying glass*
- **Thoreau:** Time to take this fight home (takes a few ants)
- *Change scene as Thoreau walks back*

Scene 2: the woodchopper and woodchuck

- *Thoreau is wandering his woods again*
- **Narrator:** "A new day in the walden woods, the Thoreau is continuing his normal pattern"
- *Enter: Woodchopper*
- **Narrator:** A visitor!
- **Woodchopper:** "Good morning Henry, what are you doing this morning?"
- **Thoreau:** "I have been thinking about philosophy and ants and beans.. You wouldn't understand."
- **Woodchopper:** "...Alright Henry. So how's life in the woods been for you? I can't believe you're actually doing this!"

- **Thoreau:** “Of course you wouldn’t. I have spent my time photosynthesising and philopidating precariously, and tangilating the circumsene of which I connectivise.”
- **Woodchopper:** “I’M SORRY WHAT!!”
- **Narrator:** “The woodchopper is confused”
- *Woodchuck runs across*
- **Thoreau:** WOODCHUCK!!! My enemies are worms, cool days, and most of all woodchucks. .
- *Thoreau starts running after woodchuck*
- *Woodchuck is faster than Thoreau*
- **Narrator:** “An unsuccessful hunt. Dejected, the Thoreau returns to its beans.”
- *Change scene*

Scene 3: Thoreau in town

- **Narrator:** It is a new day, and the Thoreau approaches the town habitat. Otherwise despising this area, the Thoreau has no choice but to restore the quality of its shoes.
- **Thoreau:** “I would like to purchase some shoes”
- **Shoe seller:** “Sure, one moment. ”
- *Shoe seller turns around, talks to someone else*
- **Shoe seller:** Oh my god, I had never seen a hand as bad as Mary’s
- **Narrator:** As the shoe seller begins speaking, the Thoreau feels disgusted. Thoreaus don’t participate in gossip.
- **Thoreau(emphasize):** “So... what ever happened to Mary?”.
- **Narrator:** what?(quiet)... *flips through pages* (Loud) In a recent discovery, researchers have found that Thoreaus like to gossip.
- **Shoe seller:** “She hurt her hand in a machine in the factory”
- **Thoreau:** “Nothing good comes from technology. I am happy I live in the woods, away from your evil machines”
- *Thoreau leaves the shop.*
- **Narrator:** As it leaves, danger begins to strike. A predator approaches the unsuspecting Thoreau.
- **Cop:** “Is that you Thoreau? Stop right there!”
- *Cop catches Thoreau and brings him to jail*
- **Thoreau:** “I was seized and put into jail, because, as I have elsewhere related, I did not pay a tax to, or recognize the authority of, the state which buys and sells men, women, and children, like cattle at the door of its senate-house”
- *Close lights*
- **Narrator:** A gracious relative, feeling pity, decides to free the Thoreau from its captivity.
- **Thoreau:** “Thank you Aunt, whatever could I do without you!” Back to my solitude–without you!
- *Change scene*

Scene 4: *The bean funeral*

- *Thoreau sitting in front of his beans*
- **Narrator:** As the winter approaches, the Thoreau relies on its beans for sustenance and company. However, it decides to continue its act of “philosophizing”.
- *Enter Mom*
- **Mom:** “Honey, I’m here to do your laundry!” **Knocking**
- **Thoreau:** “GO AWAY! I’M BUSY **crying**”
- **Narrator:** “Thoreaus are not known for their fondness toward family”
- *Mom stomps away*
- *Thoreau stares intently at his beans*
- **Thoreau:** Isolation has been enlightening for me, maybe I may do my own laundry.....
- *Thoreau ponders, decides*
- **Thoreau:** Eh, I’d rather philosophize
- *Enter Emerson*
- *Emerson Knocks on the Door*
- **Thoreau:** “I SAID I’M BUSY MOM!”
- **Emerson:** “It’s me. The person whose land you are on!”
- **Thoreau:** “Oh, Emerson. What is your cupidity?”
- **Emerson:** “You need to prepare for winter store food and wood. Don’t you know that your plants will die?”
- **Thoreau:** “Not my beans!”
- **Emerson gives Thoreau a tool to fix the house**
- **Emerson:** “Goodbye Henry. I will see you after winter”
- **Narrator:** Honored by its new visitor, the wild Thoreau offers a gift.
- **Thoreau:** WAIT! Here, I want you to proofread this book. Filiopidating and phomangilating have brought me to this utter work of somaticism.
- *Emerson takes book and starts reading it*
- **Emerson:** Wow, this is practically unreadable! **Throws book**
- **Narrator:** Unfortunately, most don’t find its gifts to be fulfilling

Scene 5 Start

- *Thoreau wanders out to his bean field*
- **Thoreau:** My beans, my precious Beans!!!! What happened to you!!! My love, where hath thou fruit goneth.
- **Narrator:** Tragedy has struck. As the harsh winter approaches ever closer, the Thoreau has lost its only means of sustenance and comfort. In situations like these, Thoreaus tend to portray their sadness in a special way.
- **Thoreau:** "I have a poem in honor of my dearest beans, but I fear words are not enough"
- *Bean rap:*

ANGLE YOURSELF

Beans, Beans,
I love you beans,
Brought up from the Earth, \ bean, ready for birth
Beans, Beans, Beans, Beans, Beans Beans
Favorite remedy, it boosts my immunity,
Beans, Beans, Beans, Beans,
All i munch, all I savor, All I crunch, all I favor,
BeaAAAAAAAAAAAAANNNNNNNNNNNSSSSSSSSSS
My godly possession, praise the bean, praise my love!

Beans, Beans, Beans,
All these beans, all these beans, bouta burst from the seams,
Beans, beans, beansssssssss
All these beans, all these beans, running down my very jeans,
My Beans My beans my beans my beans my beans

- *Thoreau begins to sob, repeating my beans, over and over again.*
- *Thoreau has a meltdown*
- *Close lights*
- **Narrator:** With that, the Henricus David-Thoreaus proves its inability to survive in modern society.