

Walden

Henry David Thoreau

Why does Thoreau surround his command to simplify with images of counting, clutter, storms, and navigation?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Simplify, simplify
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Where I Lived, and What I Lived For
START	Our life is frittered away by detail.
END	Simplify, simplify.
PASSAGE ID	sec-wal-03

THE MOVE

Read accumulation as the problem an argument is trying to solve

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Before commanding 'Simplify,' Thoreau piles up details about counting, possessions, news, schedules, storms, and navigation. The crowded prose performs the problem he is attacking: life becomes overfilled before the sentence tries to clear it away.

MARK

Bracket the accumulating list of details, numbers, obligations, or complications. Draw a vertical line where the prose shifts into the command to simplify. Note how the rhythm changes after the accumulation.

NOTICE

- How does the long accumulation make the reader feel the burden Thoreau is describing?
- Why does the command 'Simplify' sound different after so much verbal clutter?
- How do the navigation and storm images turn complexity into a problem of losing direction?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Thoreau surround his command to simplify with images of counting, clutter, storms, and navigation? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Thoreau surround his command to simplify with images of counting, clutter, storms, and navigation? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The accumulating images of numbers, clutter, storms, and navigation make complexity feel physically burdensome and disorienting. The crowded language performs the problem that the command 'Simplify' is meant to solve.
EVIDENCE	Use examples from the accumulation and then explain how the rhythm or imagery changes the force of the short simplifying command.
WATCH FOR	Do not list metaphors separately. Explain how accumulation itself becomes part of the argument.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

Walden

Henry David Thoreau

Why does Thoreau surround his command to simplify with images of counting, clutter, storms, and navigation?

START ANCHOR

Our life is frittered away by detail.

END ANCHOR

Simplify, simplify.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Bracket the accumulating list of details, numbers, obligations, or complications. Draw a vertical line where the prose shifts into the command to simplify. Note how the rhythm changes after the accumulation.
2. NOTICE - How does the long accumulation make the reader feel the burden Thoreau is describing? Why does the command 'Simplify' sound different after so much verbal clutter? How do the navigation and storm images turn complexity into a problem of losing direction?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Thoreau surround his command to simplify with images of counting, clutter, storms, and navigation?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.