

Civil Disobedience

Henry David Thoreau

How can Thoreau claim greater freedom while describing stone walls, iron doors, and a locked cell?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The prisoner claims to be freer
------------	---------------------------------

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 Jail

START I have paid no poll-tax for six years. I was put into a jail once on this account, for one night;
END I felt as if I alone of all my townsmen had paid my tax.

PASSAGE ID	sec-cd-04
------------	-----------

THE MOVE

Test a paradox against the concrete setting around it

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Thoreau is physically confined, yet he describes the state as having access only to his body, not his conscience. The jail makes the paradox testable: walls restrict movement while refusal preserves a form of moral independence.

MARK

Underline the physical details of confinement. Circle the claims Thoreau makes about what the state can and cannot control. Star the line where he describes himself as freer than compliant townsmen.

NOTICE

- What freedoms has imprisonment clearly taken away?
- What kind of freedom does Thoreau claim remains untouched?

- How does the concrete setting of a locked cell prevent 'freedom' from becoming a vague metaphor?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How can Thoreau claim greater freedom while describing stone walls, iron doors, and a locked cell? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How can Thoreau claim greater freedom while describing stone walls, iron doors, and a locked cell? 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	Thoreau distinguishes physical confinement from moral freedom. The state can lock his body inside stone and iron, but it cannot compel his conscience or make him cooperate inwardly.
EVIDENCE	Use the concrete jail features and his claim about what the state can and cannot reach.
WATCH FOR	Do not deny that prison restricts real freedom. The paradox depends on holding physical unfreedom and moral independence together.
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

Civil Disobedience

Henry David Thoreau

How can Thoreau claim greater freedom while describing stone walls, iron doors, and a locked cell?

START ANCHOR	I have paid no poll-tax for six years. I was put into a jail once on this account, for one night;
END ANCHOR	I felt as if I alone of all my townsmen had paid my tax.

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** - Underline the physical details of confinement. Circle the claims Thoreau makes about what the state can and cannot control. Star the line where he describes himself as freer than compliant townsmen.
2. **NOTICE** - What freedoms has imprisonment clearly taken away? What kind of freedom does Thoreau claim remains untouched?

How does the concrete setting of a locked cell prevent 'freedom' from becoming a vague metaphor?

3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: How can Thoreau claim greater freedom while describing stone walls, iron doors, and a locked cell?
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.