

the night thoreau spent in jail

the night thoreau spent in jail is a powerful phrase that evokes both a historic event and an acclaimed literary work. This article explores the multifaceted significance of Henry David Thoreau's act of civil disobedience, which inspired the celebrated play "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. Readers will gain insight into Thoreau's protest against the Mexican-American War, the philosophical roots of his decision, and the lasting impact of this night on American literature and social movements. We will analyze the plot, themes, and characters of the play, discuss its relevance to contemporary issues, and examine its critical reception. Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this comprehensive guide to "the night thoreau spent in jail" will deepen your understanding of Thoreau's legacy and the enduring message of individual conscience. Continue reading for a thorough exploration of Thoreau's historical act, its dramatic adaptation, and its ongoing resonance in society.

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Historical Context of "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail"

The phrase "the night thoreau spent in jail" refers to the historic event in July 1846 when Henry David Thoreau was incarcerated for refusing to pay a poll tax. This act of defiance was a protest against the United States government's involvement in the Mexican-American War and its support of slavery. Thoreau's brief imprisonment in Concord, Massachusetts, became a seminal moment for the philosophy of civil disobedience, influencing generations of activists and thinkers.

During the mid-19th century, America was divided over issues of expansion and slavery. Thoreau's protest highlighted the growing tensions and the moral dilemmas faced by citizens. His decision to spend a night in jail served as a catalyst for discussions on individual responsibility and the power of conscience.

This event was later dramatized in the play "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," which brought Thoreau's ideas to the stage and introduced them to a wider audience. The play remains a significant work in American theater, reflecting the historical and cultural importance of Thoreau's actions.

Henry David Thoreau: Life and Philosophy

Early Life and Influences

Henry David Thoreau was born in 1817 in Concord, Massachusetts, and became a leading figure in American literature and philosophy. Influenced by transcendentalism, Thoreau believed in the inherent goodness of people and nature. He was a student of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who encouraged his independent thinking and commitment to social reform.

Transcendentalism and Social Reform

Thoreau's writing emphasized simplicity, self-reliance, and a deep connection to the natural world. He advocated for living deliberately and questioning societal norms. His book "Walden" is celebrated for its reflections on nature and individualism. Thoreau's philosophy extended to his activism, as he spoke out against slavery and injustice.

Legacy of Conscience

Thoreau's actions and writings established him as a pioneer of civil disobedience. His ideas influenced later figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" captures his enduring legacy, demonstrating how one person's conscience can challenge the status quo and inspire change.

Thoreau's Act of Civil Disobedience

Refusal to Pay the Poll Tax

Thoreau's decision to refuse the poll tax was a direct challenge to government policies he deemed immoral. He objected to the Mexican-American War and the institution of slavery, believing it was his moral duty to resist complicity. His act of civil disobedience was an early example of nonviolent protest in American history.

Imprisonment and Reflections

Thoreau spent one night in jail, an experience that shaped his views on justice and government. He later wrote the influential essay "Civil Disobedience," outlining the

importance of individual conscience and resistance to unjust laws. This text became a foundational document for future social movements.

Impact on Future Movements

- Inspired leaders such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.
- Influenced environmental and anti-war activism
- Promoted the concept of nonviolent resistance
- Encouraged citizens to question authority and act ethically

The Play: "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail"

Overview and Plot Summary

"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" is a play written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, first performed in 1970. It dramatizes Thoreau's imprisonment, blending historical facts with imaginative dialogue. The play follows Thoreau as he confronts authority, interacts with fellow prisoners, and debates philosophical concepts with Emerson.

Main Characters

- Henry David Thoreau – The protagonist; a principled and outspoken thinker.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson – Thoreau's mentor and friend; represents intellectual debate.
- Bailey – Thoreau's cellmate; provides comic relief and a contrasting perspective.
- Sam Staples – The jailer; represents the system Thoreau opposes.
- John Thoreau – Henry's brother; appears in flashbacks to highlight personal motivations.

Structure and Style

The play uses non-linear storytelling and flashbacks to illustrate Thoreau's memories and ideals. The dialogue is rich in philosophical inquiry, challenging audiences to consider their own beliefs and responsibilities. Its stagecraft emphasizes the tension between individual freedom and societal constraints.

Major Themes and Literary Devices

Civil Disobedience and Individual Conscience

A central theme in "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" is the moral obligation to resist injustice. Through Thoreau's refusal to pay the tax, the play explores the power of personal conscience and the necessity of standing up against wrongdoing, even at personal cost.

Nature and Simplicity

Reflecting Thoreau's transcendental beliefs, the play highlights the beauty of nature and the value of simple living. Scenes set in Walden Pond and references to natural landscapes serve as metaphors for freedom and authenticity.

Dialogue and Symbolism

Lawrence and Lee employ symbolism and poetic language to deepen the play's impact. The jail cell represents societal limitations, while flashbacks to Walden evoke the idea of spiritual liberation. The interactions between Thoreau and Emerson symbolize the tension between theory and practice.

Enduring Impact and Contemporary Relevance

Influence on Literature and Social Thought

"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" remains a cornerstone in American drama and educational curricula. Its portrayal of ethical resistance encourages critical thinking and dialogue about justice. The play's message continues to resonate with audiences concerned about civil rights, environmentalism, and governmental authority.

Modern Applications

The themes of the play are relevant to contemporary issues such as protest movements, environmental advocacy, and debates over personal liberty. Thoreau's example inspires individuals to act according to their conscience and challenge unjust systems.

Critical Reception

- Praised for its intellectual depth and historical accuracy

- Widely performed in schools and theaters
- Recognized for stimulating discussion on ethics and activism
- Celebrated for its innovative structure and compelling characters

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" about?

A: "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" is a play that dramatizes Henry David Thoreau's imprisonment in 1846 for refusing to pay a poll tax. The play explores themes of civil disobedience, personal conscience, and the conflict between individual beliefs and societal norms.

Q: Why did Thoreau spend a night in jail?

A: Thoreau spent a night in jail as a protest against the United States government's involvement in the Mexican-American War and its support of slavery. He refused to pay a poll tax that funded these policies, making a powerful statement about individual responsibility.

Q: Who wrote "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail"?

A: The play was written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, first performed in 1970. They are acclaimed American playwrights known for their thought-provoking and socially relevant works.

Q: What are the main themes of the play?

A: The main themes include civil disobedience, the importance of individual conscience, nature and simplicity, ethical resistance, and the tension between personal beliefs and societal expectations.

Q: How did Thoreau's actions influence future social movements?

A: Thoreau's act of civil disobedience and his essay "Civil Disobedience" inspired leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. His philosophy became foundational for nonviolent protest and social reform movements worldwide.

Q: Who are the key characters in the play?

A: The key characters are Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bailey (Thoreau's cellmate), Sam Staples (the jailer), and John Thoreau (Henry's brother).

Q: Why is the play relevant today?

A: The play remains relevant due to its exploration of moral responsibility, resistance to unjust laws, and advocacy for ethical living. Its message applies to modern issues such as civil rights, environmental activism, and personal freedom.

Q: What literary devices are used in the play?

A: The play uses symbolism, non-linear storytelling, flashbacks, and philosophical dialogue to engage audiences and highlight its key themes.

Q: Has "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" been adapted in other forms?

A: While primarily a stage play, the story and its themes have influenced various adaptations and discussions in literature, education, and activism.

Q: What impact has the play had on American theater?

A: The play is celebrated for its intellectual depth, historical relevance, and encouragement of social discourse. It remains a popular choice for schools and theaters, fostering meaningful conversations about justice and individual conscience.

[The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail](#)

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The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail: A Deeper Dive into Civil Disobedience

Introduction:

Have you ever heard the tale of Henry David Thoreau's single night in jail? More than just a brief incarceration, this event became a pivotal moment in American history, sparking a revolution in thought and action regarding civil disobedience. This post delves deep into the night Thoreau spent in jail, exploring the context, the event itself, its lasting impact, and the enduring relevance of his message today. We'll unpack the myths surrounding the story and uncover the true significance of his act of defiance. Prepare to revisit a pivotal moment in history and gain a fresh perspective on individual conscience versus the state.

The Context: Thoreau's Anti-Tax Stand and the Mexican-American War

H2: Thoreau's unwavering belief in individual conscience led him to actively oppose the Mexican-American War, which he viewed as morally reprehensible and unjust. He vehemently disagreed with the expansionist ambitions fueling the conflict and believed the government was using tax revenue to fund this war of aggression.

H3: The Poll Tax and the Act of Defiance: To demonstrate his opposition, Thoreau refused to pay his poll tax, a direct and symbolic act of civil disobedience. This wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision; it was a calculated, principled stand against a government he considered complicit in an immoral war. His actions weren't fueled by hatred but by a deep-seated conviction in the importance of individual morality and the right to resist unjust laws.

The Night Itself: More Than Just Bars and a Cell

H2: Accounts of Thoreau's night in jail vary, often embellished over time. The reality was probably less dramatic than popular legend suggests. He was arrested, briefly held, and then released by his aunt, who paid the tax without his knowledge.

H3: The Significance of the Symbolic Gesture: The brevity of his confinement didn't diminish its power. The act itself was a powerful statement. It was a public declaration of his unwavering principles and a challenge to the moral authority of the state. It wasn't about the hardship of imprisonment; it was about the principled refusal to comply with a law he considered unjust.

The Lasting Impact: Civil Disobedience as a Legacy

H2: Thoreau's experience inspired his seminal essay, "Civil Disobedience," which articulated his philosophy of resisting unjust laws through nonviolent means. This essay became a foundational text for future movements for social justice and equality.

H3: Inspiring Generations of Activists: From Mahatma Gandhi to Martin Luther King Jr., leaders of nonviolent resistance movements drew inspiration from Thoreau's example and his essay. His articulation of the moral imperative to disobey unjust laws provided a powerful framework for challenging oppression and advocating for social change. His impact transcends time and continues to resonate with activists today.

Debunking Myths: Separating Fact from Fiction

H2: Many embellished tales surround Thoreau's night in jail. It's important to understand that the actual event was far less dramatic than some accounts portray. The focus should remain on the significance of his principled stand, not on the sensational details.

H3: The Power of the Idea, Not the Experience: The true power lies in the courageous act of defiance itself and the subsequent articulation of his beliefs in "Civil Disobedience." This essay became a far more enduring and influential testament to his convictions than his brief imprisonment.

The Enduring Relevance of Thoreau's Message

H2: Today, Thoreau's message of civil disobedience remains profoundly relevant. In a world facing complex ethical challenges, his philosophy offers a powerful framework for engaging in responsible and effective resistance against injustice.

H3: Modern Applications: From environmental activism to social justice movements, Thoreau's ideas continue to inspire individuals and groups to challenge unjust laws and systems. His emphasis on individual conscience and the importance of resisting oppression remains a crucial element in the fight for a more just and equitable world.

Conclusion:

Thoreau's night in jail, while short, stands as a powerful symbol of individual conscience and the right to resist unjust laws. His actions and subsequent writings continue to inspire generations of activists, reminding us of the importance of moral courage and the power of nonviolent resistance. His legacy isn't solely about a single night in jail; it's about the enduring principle of civil disobedience and the ongoing fight for justice.

FAQs:

1. Was Thoreau's night in jail truly only one night? While accounts vary, the generally accepted narrative is that he was released after a single night due to his aunt paying his tax.

2. Did Thoreau enjoy his time in jail? There's no evidence suggesting he enjoyed his experience. The focus was on the principled stand, not the comfort of imprisonment.
3. What was the specific law Thoreau was protesting? He was protesting the poll tax, which he saw as funding the unjust Mexican-American War.
4. How did Thoreau's night in jail directly impact the Mexican-American War? While it didn't directly end the war, his action and essay highlighted the moral implications of the conflict and contributed to growing anti-war sentiment.
5. What are some modern examples of civil disobedience inspired by Thoreau? The Civil Rights Movement, various environmental protests, and many anti-war movements have drawn heavily from Thoreau's philosophy of civil disobedience.

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, Robert Edwin Lee, 1972 This drama opens with Thoreau in jail for refusing to pay taxes to a government conducting a war of aggression in Mexico, at midpoint shows Emerson visiting him, and ends on the morning of his release.--Publisher's website.

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, Robert Edwin Lee, 1982-12 After refusing to pay taxes to the American government, which was engaged in what he saw as an unjust war, Henry David Thoreau is thrown in prison.

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, Robert E. Lee, 1981 If the law is of such nature that it requires you to be an agent of injustice to another, then I say, break the law. In 1849, the young Henry David Thoreau, philosopher, poet, naturalist, penned these timeless words in his Civil Disobedience. Three years earlier Thoreau had refused to pay taxes to the government, which was engaged in the Mexican War. He condemned the war as unjust--a war never formally declared, begun without Congressional authorization, a savage and bloody war fought to assuage the United States' territorial ambitions. For his courageous and unprecedented act of protest, he was thrown in jail. Thoreau was a man of the future. Over the past century, his action has had worldwide repercussions. Tolstoy was influenced by his stand, and Gandhi based his passive resistance campaign on the words of the philosopher of Walden Pond. Now, Thoreau's action take on a new relevance. The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail is an essential work for today's world.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, 2000

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail ; a Play Jerome Lawrence, 1970

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, Robert E. Lee, 1981

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Center for Learning Network Staff, Myrna Warren, Jerome Lawrence, Robert E. Lee, 2006-03-30

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, Robert Edwin Lee, 1970 Folder contains the script with manuscript annotations, notes, and four leaves of scene break down.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Night Thoreau /jail Jerome Lawrence, 1982-12-01

the night thoreau spent in jail: Civil Disobedience Henry David Thoreau, 2009-01-01 Thoreau wrote Civil Disobedience in 1849. It argues the superiority of the individual conscience over acquiescence to government. Thoreau was inspired to write in response to slavery and the Mexican-American war. He believed that people could not be made agents of injustice if they were governed by their own consciences.

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail Jerome Lawrence, Robert E.

Lee, 2001-07-10 A play dramatizing the philosopher, Henry David Thoreau, and his stand concerning civil disobedience. He refused to pay taxes owing to his disapproval of the Mexican War. For his act of protest he was sent to jail.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Where I Lived, and What I Lived For Henry Thoreau, 2005-08-25 Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are. Thoreau's account of his solitary and self-sufficient home in the New England woods remains an inspiration to the environmental movement - a call to his fellow men to abandon their striving, materialistic existences of 'quiet desperation' for a simple life within their means, finding spiritual truth through awareness of the sheer beauty of their surroundings.

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Adventures of Henry Thoreau Michael Sims, 2014-07-31 From Mahatma Gandhi and John F. Kennedy to Martin Luther King and Leo Tolstoy, the works of Henry David Thoreau - author, poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, surveyor, schoolteacher, engineer - have long been an inspiration to many. But who was the unsophisticated young man who in 1837 became a protégé of Ralph Waldo Emerson? The Adventures of Henry Thoreau tells the colourful story of a complex man seeking a meaningful life in a tempestuous era. In rich, evocative prose Michael Sims brings to life the insecure, youthful Henry, as he embarks on the path to becoming the literary icon Thoreau. Using the letters and diaries of Thoreau's family, friends and students, Michael Sims charts his coming of age within a family struggling to rise above poverty in 1830s America. From skating and boating with Nathaniel Hawthorne, to travels with his brother, John Thoreau, and the launching of their progressive school, Sims paints a vivid portrait of the young writer struggling to find his voice through communing with nature, whether mountain climbing in Maine or building his life-changing cabin at Walden Pond. He explores Thoreau's infatuation with the beautiful young woman who rejected his proposal of marriage, the influence of his mother and sisters - who were passionate abolitionists - and that of the powerful cultural currents of the day. With emotion and texture, The Adventures of Henry Thoreau sheds fresh light on one of the most iconic figures in American history.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Wild Fruits Henry David Thoreau, 2001-03-06 Thoreau presents information about the 'unnoticed wild berry whose beauty annually lends a new charm to some wild walk, ' along with what may be considered Thoreau's last will and testament, in which he protests our desecration of the landscape, reflects on the importance of preserving wild space 'for instruction and recreation, ' and envisions a new American scripture.--Jacket.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Henry Hikes to Fitchburg D.B. Johnson, 2006-10-30 Inspired by a passage from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, the wonderfully appealing *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg* follows two friends who have very different approaches to life. When the two agree to meet one evening in Fitchburg, which is thirty miles away, each decides to get there in his own way, and the two have surprisingly different days.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Henry David Thoreau for Kids Corinne Hosfeld Smith, 2016-02-01 American author and naturalist Henry David Thoreau is best known for living two years along the shores of Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, and writing about his experiences in *Walden*; or, *Life in the Woods*, as well as spending a night in jail for nonpayment of taxes, which he discussed in the influential essay *Civil Disobedience*. More than 150 years later, people are still inspired by his thoughtful words about individual rights, social justice, and nature. His detailed plant observations have even proven to be a useful record for 21st-century botanists. *Henry David Thoreau for Kids* chronicles the short but influential life of this remarkable American thinker. In addition to learning about Thoreau's contributions to our culture, readers will participate in engaging, hands-on projects that bring his ideas to life. Activities include building a model of the Walden cabin, keeping a daily journal, planting a garden, baking trail-bread cakes, going on a

half-day hike, and starting a rock collection. The book also includes a time line and list of resources—books, websites, and places to visit that offer even more opportunities to connect with this fascinating man.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Henry Thoreau Robert D. Richardson Jr., 2015-04-20 The two years Thoreau spent at Walden Pond and the night he spent in the Concord jail are among the most familiar features of the American intellectual landscape. In this new biography, based on a reexamination of Thoreau's manuscripts and on a retracing of his trips, Robert Richardson offers a view of Thoreau's life and achievement in their full nineteenth century context.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Henry David Thoreau Laura Dassow Walls, 2017-07-07 [The author] traces the full arc of Thoreau's life, from his early days in the intellectual hothouse of Concord, when the American experiment still felt fresh and precarious, and 'America was a family affair, earned by one generation and about to pass to the next.' By the time he died in 1862, at only forty-four years of age, Thoreau had witnessed the transformation of his world from a community of farmers and artisans into a bustling, interconnected commercial nation. What did that portend for the contemplative individual and abundant, wild nature that Thoreau celebrated? Drawing on Thoreau's copious writings, published and unpublished, [the author] presents a Thoreau vigorously alive in all his quirks and contradictions: the young man shattered by the sudden death of his brother; the ambitious Harvard College student; the ecstatic visionary who closed Walden with an account of the regenerative power of the Cosmos. We meet the man whose belief in human freedom and the value of labor made him an uncompromising abolitionist; the solitary walker who found society in nature, but also found his own nature in the society of which he was a deeply interwoven part. And, running through it all, Thoreau the passionate naturalist, who, long before the age of environmentalism, saw tragedy for future generations in the human heedlessness around him.--

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Maine Woods Henry David Thoreau, 1884

the night thoreau spent in jail: A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers Henry David Thoreau, 1883

the night thoreau spent in jail: Walden Henry David Thoreau, 1882

the night thoreau spent in jail: Equivocation Bill Cain, 2014 England, 1605: A terrorist plot to assassinate King James I and blow Parliament to kingdom come with 36 barrels of devilish gunpowder! Shagspeare (after a contemporary spelling of the Bard's name) is commissioned by Robert Cecil, the prime minister, to write the true historie of the plot. And it must have witches! The King wants witches! But as Shag and the acting company of the Globe, under the direction of the great Richard Burbage, investigate the plot, they discover that the King's version of the story might, in fact, be a cover-up. Shag and his actors are confronted with the ultimate moral and artistic dilemma. Speak truth to power-and perhaps lose their heads? Or take the money and lie? Is there a third option-equivocation? A high-stakes political thriller with contemporary resonances, EQUIVOCATION gallops from the great Globe to the Tower of London to the halls of Parliament to the heart of Judith, Shag's younger daughter, who finds herself unexpectedly at the very heart of the political, dramatic and-ultimately-human mystery. - from publisher's website.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Walden Henry David Thoreau, 1980 On the Duty of Civil Disobedience: This is Thoreau's classic protest against government's interference with individual liberty. One of the most famous essays ever written, it came to the attention of Gandhi and formed the basis for his passive resistance movement.

the night thoreau spent in jail: The Signet Book of American Essays M. Jerry Weiss, Helen Weiss, 2006-08-01 Featuring Essays by Benjamin Franklin • Ralph Waldo Emerson • W.E.B. Du Bois • Albert Einstein • Gloria Steinem • Henry David Thoreau • Martin Luther King, Jr. • Mark Twain • Erma Bombeck • Abraham Lincoln • John F. Kennedy • and More... These are Americans who had something important to say—and said it in powerful, convincing ways. A compendium of commentary, criticism, and oratory excellence from throughout the nation's history, The Signet Book of American Essays is a perfect resource for those searching for the most timeless essays ever conceived by America's notable scientists, philosophers, politicians, and writers. From the wisdom of

Benjamin Franklin to the outspoken empowerment of Gloria Steinem, from the biting satire of Mark Twain to the grave seriousness of Franklin D. Roosevelt, this collection offers the opportunity to learn the subtle arts of persuasion and rational argument as exemplified in these great American dissertations crafted by some of the country's most brilliant and intriguing citizens.

the night thoreau spent in jail: An Island Like You Judith Ortiz Cofer, 2015-07-28 Judith Ortiz Cofer's Pura Belpre award-winning collection of short stories about life in the barrio! Rita is exiled to Puerto Rico for a summer with her grandparents after her parents catch her with a boy. Luis sits atop a six-foot mountain of hubcaps in his father's junkyard, working off a sentence for breaking and entering. Sandra tries to reconcile her looks to the conventional Latino notion of beauty. And Arturo, different from his macho classmates, fantasizes about escaping his community. They are the teenagers of the barrio -- and this is their world.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Walking Henry David Thoreau, 1914

the night thoreau spent in jail: My Friend, My Friend Harmon L. Smith, 1999 This book tells the story of their friendship. Harmon Smith emphasizes their personal bond, but also shows how their relationship affected their thought and writing and was in turn influenced by their careers.--BOOK JACKET.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Being Henry David Cal Armistead, 2013-03-01 STARRED REVIEW! This compelling, suspenseful debut, a tough-love riff on guilt, forgiveness and redemption, asks hard questions to which there are no easy answers.—Kirkus Reviews starred review Best Teen Books of 2013, Kirkus Reviews 2014 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People The Best Children's Books of the Year 2014, Bank Street College Seventeen-year-old Hank, who can't remember his identity, finds himself in Penn Station with a copy of Thoreau's *Walden* as his only possession and must figure out where he's from and why he ran away. Seventeen-year-old Hank has found himself at Penn Station in New York City with no memory of anything—who he is, where he came from, why he's running away. His only possession is a worn copy of *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. And so he becomes Henry David—or Hank—and takes first to the streets, and then to the only destination he can think of—Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. Cal Armistead's remarkable debut novel about a teen in search of himself. As Hank begins to piece together recollections from his past he realizes that the only way he can discover his present is to face up to the realities of his grievous memories. He must come to terms with the tragedy of his past to stop running and find his way home.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Sisters in Spirit Sally Roesch Wagner, 2011-06-28 This groundbreaking examination of the early influences on feminism may revolutionize feminist theory. Distinguished historian and contemporary feminist scholar Sally Roesch Wagner has compiled extensive research to analyze the source of the revolutionary vision of the early feminists. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Matilda Joselyn Gage, and Lucretia Mott had formed friendships with their Native neighbors that enabled them to understand a world view far different, and in many ways superior, to the patriarchal one that existed at that time. This is the provocative and compelling history of their struggle to bring equality and dignity to all women, and the role played by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) women who modelled the position women could occupy in society.

the night thoreau spent in jail: A Study Guide for Jerome Lawrence's "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016 A Study Guide for Jerome Lawrence's *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Drama For Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Drama For Students* for all of your research needs.

the night thoreau spent in jail: A Mystery for Thoreau Kin Platt, 2008-09-30

Sixteen-year-old Oliver Puckle, news gatherer for the Concord Freeman in the summer of 1846, has his work cut out for him when word arrives of a gruesome murder at Walden Pond. It seems the only citizen who is not a suspect is the poetphilosopher Henry David Thoreau, who spent the night locked in the local jail for refusing to pay his poll tax. As Oliver leads the charge to unravel the mystery, he

has much to learn from his colorful neighbors – among them Ralph Waldo Emerson and a feisty teenage Louisa May Alcott – but unexpectedly it is the recluse Thoreau himself who provides particular help to the investigation. This posthumously published novel, set in the famously literary town of Concord, Massachusetts, is rich with intrigue and witty detail and features a foreword by the author's son.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Selected Plays of Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee Jerome Lawrence, Robert Edwin Lee, 1995 Collected here for the first time are the major plays of award-winning authors Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. This edition represents the only attempt to date to explore the range and nature of the team's collaboration. With introductions to each of the eight works - Inherit the Wind, Auntie Mame, The Gang's All Here, Only in America, A Call on Kuprin, Diamond Orchid, The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, and First Monday in October - editor Alan Woods places the plays in their critical and historical contexts. Although they are known primarily as successful commercial writers, Lawrence and Lee have always shared a passionate commitment to larger social issues. Their plays were written not just to entertain a broad audience but to present some problem ideas - for example, the evolution versus creationism debate in Inherit the Wind, perhaps their most famous collaboration. While some of the plays collected here have become classics of the American stage, others remain obscure. In his introductions, Woods explores the factors that contributed to the success or failure of each play, including information about the actors and directors involved in the original production and the contemporary critical response.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

the night thoreau spent in jail: Dolly Vardon Anton Holden, 2013-06-14 Dolly Vardon is the biography of an orphan girl's struggle to survive 19th century London; dancing in the streets for pennies, begging, stealing, and the dark side of Victorian England - one of the most horrendous eras of prostitution in the modern world. A chance encounter brings Dolly - poorest of the poor - together with Harry Sidney Nichols, wealthy publisher and dealer of the rarest books, and also books of every variety of sexual diversion and perversion, at a time when printing and selling erotica was highly illegal. This unlikely couple is bound together by Harry's fetish - the tiny foot and shoe. Pulling herself up by her bootstraps, orphan Dolly becomes his greatest treasure. Harry buys Dolly from her foster mother and takes her as his teenage 'ward,' introducing her to a world of luxury she could not have imagined. But there is a price she will have to pay ... She was called 'Dolly Vardon', named herself 'Dorothy Vardon Holden' later in New York. She was 'Mum' to her children and 'Nana' to the author, one of her many grandchildren. A biography in the manner of 'Half-Broke Horses' and 'The Glass Castle,' 'Dolly Vardon' is a tale of generations of a dysfunctional family recreated in conversations with Dolly's oldest daughter, the author's mother, and his memories of Dolly and Harry - conscious and not.--Amazon.com.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Thoreau on Nature Henry David Thoreau, 2015-11-24 “How important is a constant intercourse with nature and the contemplation of natural phenomena to the preservation of moral and intellectual health!” —Henry David Thoreau Since his death in 1862, Henry David Thoreau has left an indelible mark on the American mind. A vocal champion of simple living and social equality, he is revered for his tempered prose, gentle words, and wise observations. His most well-known work, Walden, is still read around the world, cherished for both its beautiful writing style and its timeless musings on life, simple living, and nature. Collected in Thoreau on Nature: Sage Words on Finding Harmony with the Natural World are some of Thoreau’s most impactful musings—drawn from the many writings he completed over his lifetime. His work touched on every aspect of living a harmonious life, from respecting your neighbors, whether human or animal, to the joys of a simplified life, free of clutter and distractions. Thoreau on Nature will undoubtedly be an essential resource for anyone seeking to find peace and balance in life.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Mr. Emerson's Wife Amy Belding Brown, 2006-05-30 In this novel about Ralph Waldo Emerson's wife, Lidian, Amy Belding Brown examines the emotional landscape of love and marriage. Living in the shadow of one of the most famous men of her time,

Lidian becomes deeply disappointed by marriage, but consigned to public silence by social conventions and concern for her family's reputation. Drawn to the erotic energy and intellect of close family friend Henry David Thoreau, she struggles to negotiate the confusing territory between love and friendship while maintaining her moral authority and inner strength. In the course of the book, she deals with overwhelming social demands, faces devastating personal loss, and discovers the deepest meaning of love. Lidian eventually encounters the truth of her own character and learns that even our faults can lead us to independence.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Wild Apples Henry David Thoreau, 1992 A meditation on apples begins with a short history of the apple tree, tracing its path from ancient Greece to America. Thoreau saw the apple as a perfect mirror of man and eloquently lamented where they both were heading.

the night thoreau spent in jail: A Plea for Captain John Brown Henry D. Thoreau, 2021-02-06 A Plea for Captain John Brown is an essay by Henry David Thoreau, based off a speech that he originally gave in Concord, Massachusetts in 1859. John Brown was a slavery abolitionist who, along with 21 other men, stole 100,000 rifles and muskets from the Federal armory.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? Anita Rau Badami, 2010-03-05 Longlisted for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award Anita Rau Badami's acclaimed novel Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? chronicles the stories of three women, linked in love and tragedy, over a span of fifty years, sweeping from the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 to the explosion of Air India flight 182 off the coast of Ireland in 1985. Alive with Badami's warmth and humanity, and brimming with the daily sights and sounds of both Canada and India, this novel brilliantly conveys the tumultuous effects of the past on new immigrants, and the ways in which memory and myth, the personal and the political, become heartrendingly connected.

the night thoreau spent in jail: Aesthetic Papers Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, 1849

the night thoreau spent in jail: Walden Pond , 2004-06-15 One of Commonwealth Editions' perennials: Bonnie McGrath's photos of Walden matched with quotations from Thoreau's Walden.

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