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## Civil disobedience answers commonlit pdf answers key grade

Teacher's Note: Here Thoreau is referring to logistical or instrumental issues — taxes, roads, etc. What two dangers does Thoreau see in paying the law “undue respect”? Develop an oral argument that might be used in a mock trial to defend someone who has violated such a law. There is but little virtue in the action of masses of men. Even voting for the right is doing nothing for it. Text Type Essay, literary nonfiction. According to Thoreau, what is the basis of majority rule? You may want to use its first slide to direct whole class discussion in which you ask students to support their answers with evidence from the text. 1879. The majority is fit to decide only questions to which the “rule of expediency” can be applied. First, if a law is unjust, and we follow it, we are made “agents of injustice,” that is, we commit injustice ourselves. I cast my vote, perchance, as I think right; but I am not vitally concerned that that right should prevail. You might investigate war protests, civil rights struggles, police brutality, or other events as directed by your teacher. Ninth-plate Daguerrotype. “What I have to do,” he writes, “is to see... that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn.” He maintains that there are two ways to avoid lending oneself to the wrong: resistance to the state and separation from it. (We explore this point in the lesson’s second interactive exercise.) Our chief concern here, however, is not Thoreau’s call for resistance but rather his critique of representative democracy. Only his vote can hasten the abolition of slavery who asserts his own freedom by his vote. The second interactive exercise asks students to write a contrast paragraph, which will require pen and paper. Photographic print. Its obligation, therefore, never exceeds that of expediency. “How can a man be satisfied to entertain an opinion merely?” he asks. — issues in which the public must select a means to a specific goal in a particular set of circumstances, issues that raise no moral questions. [9] Law never made men a whit more just; and, by means of their respect for it, even the well-disposed are daily made the agents of injustice. 11. It is only expressing to men feebly your desire that it should prevail. He contends that majority rule is not based on justice or fairness but rather on nothing more than the fact that the majority is physically stronger than the minority. They will then be the only slaves. According to Thoreau, when is the majority likely to vote for morality and justice? [4] Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? When we vote, we put our money down and hope that our candidate wins. (October 10, 2014) He distrusted majority rule for the same reasons Thoreau did and held the same views of mass culture. Your task is to choose an example from history or current events in which a law was seen to conflict with what was right. When the majority shall at length vote for the abolition of slavery, it will be because they are indifferent to slavery, or because there is but little slavery left to be abolished by their vote. For Thoreau the goal of any response to unjust policies is to insure that the individual does not, either directly or indirectly, advance them. We understand that it’s crucial for you to be able to tell if the answers you have for any story or chapter of CommonLit are correct or wrong. When we bet, we put our money down and hope that our team wins. I am willing to leave it to the majority. [6] It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right. He means the voter’s character is not at stake in the election; the voter has nothing personal to lose because he has turned over responsibility for the decision to the majority. 7. In his view what sort of questions can legitimately be decided by majority rule? But in leaving all issues — the expedient and ethical — up to the majority, when justice is at stake, it cannot be just because the majority will inevitably violate the conscience of someone. “Civil Disobedience,” by Henry David Thoreau, 1849. The character of the voters is not staked. Majority rule depends, of course, on voting. First, he maintains that the individual is the source of all moral authority. In both we relinquish our ability to influence outcomes through action. Today we would probably use it in the singular: “...in which the majority rules.” Focusing on the tension between the individual conscience and majority rule, this paragraph lies at the heart of Thoreau’s critique of representative democracy. [12] Now, what are they? Teacher’s Guide (continues below) Background note Text analysis and close reading questions with answer key Interactive exercises Follow-up assignment Student Version (click to open) Interactive PDF Background note Text analysis and close reading questions Interactive exercises Background Prompted by his opposition to slavery and the Mexican War (1846-1848), Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) wrote “Civil Disobedience” in 1849, but its central question — how should individuals respond to a government that pursues policies they believe to be immoral — still challenges us today. In the Text Analysis section, Tier 2 vocabulary words are defined in pop-ups, and Tier 3 words are explained in brackets. Based on your reading of this paragraph, why does Thoreau assert that “a government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice”? 2. On the grounds of expediency, on what will be most useful to the greatest number of people. It also encourages vocabulary building and calls upon students to draw an inference. A wise man will not leave the right to the mercy of chance, nor wish it to prevail through the power of the majority. Taken together, they strike, as one critic has written, “at the very core principles of democracy.” 1. Conscience. Here he uses it in the plural. Henry David Thoreau. [13] Men at all? Paragraph 11 9. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library. The first interactive exercise, recommended for use after you have conducted the close reading, reviews the central points of the textual analysis. We each have a conscience. So what if the right, as dictated by your conscience, appears on a ballot; you vote for it, and it wins. — in which majorities decide only those questions to which the rule of expediency is applicable? He bases his analysis on two fundamental assertions. They are both passive. To help with that, we gathered all the answers/keys of stories or chapters of CommonLit which are listed below. (October 10, 2014) Maxham, Benjamin D. Kennedy, and Supreme Court Justice William O. c. Text Complexity Grade 11-CCR complexity band. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of anonymous donor. We are here to help. From Library of Congress Miscellaneous Items in High Demand. However, this article is not about learning more of CommonLit. In Thoreau’s view what should determine right and wrong? It also offers teachers a wide collection of reading and writing materials so that they can make use of them without starting from scratch. Follow-Up Assignment “It is not desirable,” wrote Thoreau, “to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right.” Many have been influenced by Thoreau’s distinction between what is law and what is right (moral), including Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, President John F. [11] They have no doubt that it is a damnable business in which they are concerned; they are all peaceably inclined. On what grounds does Thoreau believe the majority will make its decision? 6. Advisor: Charles Capper, Professor of History, Boston University; National Humanities Center Fellow. Copyright National Humanities Center, 2014 Lesson Contents In “Civil Disobedience” Thoreau not only calls for resistance to immoral and unjust government actions, he also criticizes the foundations of representative democracy — majority rule, voting, and representation. According to Thoreau, how should individuals relate to the law and why? It means letting someone else decide our views on what is right and what is wrong. [8] It is truly enough said that a corporation has no conscience; but a corporation of conscientious men is a corporation with a conscience. 76. [3] Can there not be a government in which majorities do not virtually decide right and wrong, but conscience? Teacher’s Note While most people recognize that in “Civil Disobedience” Thoreau argues against submission to government policies that individuals deem immoral, few note that he also issues a sharp critique of representative democracy. Share your oral argument with your class. This lesson focuses on that critique. Thoreau would disagree. “Even voting for the right,” he insists, “is doing nothing for it.” [His italics.] As we shall see in our analysis of excerpts from “Civil Disobedience,” his critique of voting goes hand-in-hand with his objections to majority rule and representation. In the paragraph Thoreau says no. The majority is likely to vote for morality and justice when the issue has already been decided, when it takes no courage to vote for the right, when, in other words, its vote no longer matters. He demands “action from principle.” The “perception of right” must be accompanied by “the performance of right.” We might respond by saying that, in a democratic society, citizens “perform” the right by deciding where they stand on issues and voting according to their principles. Some time before that act, when he was commanded to pay a tax to support a clergyman, he not only resisted by refusing to pay it, he also proclaimed his separation from the state: “Know all men... that I, Henry David Thoreau, do not wish to be regarded as a member of any... society which I have not joined.” At the conclusion of “Civil Disobedience” he even claims that democracy would be improved if the state permitted some citizens to live beyond its reach. They do so on the basis of majority rule, on mere numbers, on the simple fact that one side of a question gets more votes than the other. In both hope takes the place of action. Emerson shared many of Thoreau’s political views. Vocabulary Pop-Ups conscientious: governed by moral conscience whit: small amount palpitation: beat, throb unscrupulous: unprincipled, dishonest gaming: gambling tinge: the quality of being slightly marked or influenced by something staked: bet prevail: win, triumph expediency: practical, used here with the connotation of ignoring morality feebly: weakly indifferent: uninterested in hasten: to bring about more quickly Images: Rowse, Samuel Worcester. Why does Thoreau object to governing through legislators? [10] A common and natural result of an undue respect for law is, that you may see a file of soldiers, colonel, captain, corporal, privates, powder-monkeys, and all, marching in admirable order over hill and dale to the wars, against their wills, ay, against their common sense and consciences, which makes it very steep marching indeed, and produces a palpitation of the heart. According to Thoreau, how do governments decide questions of right and wrong? Divide your argument into three parts: state the law, explain why it is not moral, and offer a solution to resolve the conflict between the law and morality: should the law be abolished or should it be rewritten, and if so, how? CommonLit Answers — Answers to Everything Related to CommonLit. Are you looking for CommonLit answers? “The only obligation which I have a right to assume,” he says, “is to do at any time what I think right.” Second, he contends that it is not enough simply to perceive the right. [2] But a government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice, even as far as men understand it. The decisions of government are expressed as laws. Men and women should value the right more than the law because the law, decided by mere numbers and not moral principles, may not embody the right. His refusal to pay his poll tax to protest slavery and the Mexican War was an act of resistance that landed him in jail for a night. The America in Class® lesson on individualism in Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” would make an excellent companion piece for this lesson. Leigh Kathryn Jenco, “Thoreau’s Critique of Government,” in A Political Companion to Henry David Thoreau, (Lexington, University of Kentucky Press, 2009), p. The key word here is “all.” Were the majority to rule in “some” cases, those in which the “rule of expediency” could be applied, and reserved issues of right and wrong to the individual conscience, its rule would be just. What does Thoreau mean when he says that “the character of the voters is not staked” in voting? [7] The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right. 3. How is voting like betting? Douglas. Does that sequence bestow moral legitimacy on government? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. 5. Henry David Thoreau, head-and-shoulders portrait, facing slightly right. Click here for standards and skills for this lesson. We should not delegate its use to another person. The second slide provides the correct responses with textual support. [1] After all, the practical reason why, when the power is once in the hands of the people, a majority are permitted, and for a long period continue, to rule, is not because they are most likely to be in the right, nor because this seems fairest to the minority, but because they are physically the strongest. Instead, we will help you find the answers to different stories or chapters found in CommonLit. All voting is a sort of gaming, like checkers or backgammon [a dice game], with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral questions; and betting naturally accompanies it. CommonLit is an online platform that helps students from 5 to 12 to polish their reading and writing. Henry David Thoreau, 1854 (crayon portrait) or small movable forts and magazines, at the service of some unscrupulous man in power? For more information on text complexity see these resources from achievethecore.org. Second, an “undue respect for the law” can lead us to follow it blindly, thereby giving up our humanity, as Thoreau suggest in his description of soldiers whose unthinking embrace of their orders has turned them into “movable forts.” 8. Thoreau objects to governing through legislators because it means turning one’s conscience over to someone else. Teacher’s Note: To clarify Thoreau’s grammar here, you might point out that since “majority” is a collective noun, it can be either singular or plural. All you have to do is find the story or chapter in the list below (if it exists in our database) and click the “Get Answers” button to get all the answers related to that story or the chapter. 12. Text Analysis Paragraph 4 1. It is most appropriate for individual work. This chart (Emerson-Thoreau Comparison) illustrates the similarities between “Self-Reliance” and “Civil Disobedience.” Should you teach the two, you might point out that Thoreau’s idea of the “wise majority” resembles Emerson’s conception of the self-reliant, those few in society who as “guides, redeemers, and benefactors” will rescue democracy. 10. [5] Why has every man a conscience, then? 4.

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