**Theme - “Nature”**

**Discussion Questions**

These questions are designed to help you understand the texts and relate them to your own life.

**Questions to Consider Before You Read:**

When you see the word “Nature,” what comes to mind? You might list words and phrases here.

What places represent “Nature” to you?

What emotions do these places evoke?

Think back to when you’ve been happiest in nature. Do you remember any smells or sounds? If so, what?

Have you ever felt afraid or uneasy in nature? Where? Why?

**Discussion questions for J. B. MacKinnon’s article “False Idyll”**

According to Mackinnon, what do we normally associate with the word

“Nature”? Does his description relate to your own thoughts and

experiences?

Why does MacKinnon say that we’ve made “Nature” into a false idol?

**Discussion questions for Lloyd Schwartz’s poem “Nostalgia (The Lake at Night)”**

Why do you think this poem is called “Nostalgia”?

Why do you think the poet uses the senses to recreate this memory?

**Discussion question for an excerpt from William Wordsworth’s poem “Tintern Abbey”**

Why is the poem’s speaker still a “lover” of nature? What does he find

there?

**Discussion questions for John Keats’s poem “On the Grasshopper and Cricket”**

What is the “Poetry” of Earth, according to Keats?

Of what does the Cricket’s song remind the speaker at the end of the poem?