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Deliberate Living: The Challenge of Walden in the 21st Century (Flyer)

Laura Walls
University of Notre Dame



Thomas Cole (1801-1848). View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm - The Oxbow. 1836. Oil on canvas, 51 1/2 x 76 in. (130.8 x 193 cm). Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908 (08.228). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, U.S.A. Photo Credit: Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY



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Deliberate Living: The Challenge of *Walden* in the 21st Century

Laura Walls

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Thoreau's *Walden* remains one of the most-read and most-taught classics of American literature, yet it remains one of the most challenging of books. Why did Thoreau go to the woods? What did he learn there? And why didn't he stay? These questions puzzled Thoreau himself, and his quest to compose answers that would bear the full weight of his life and thought led to the publication of *Walden*—which in turn led him to reach beyond his local audience and down the generations to us, today. Thoreau was a prophet as well as a naturalist and poet, and now that we live in the future he most feared, his call to live "deliberately" seems more urgent, and more difficult, than ever.

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