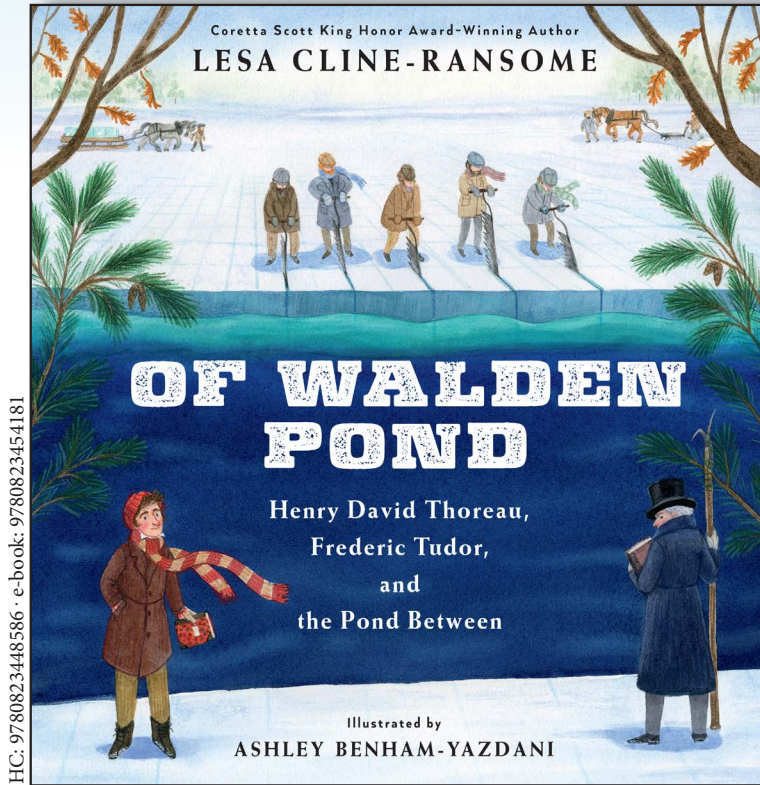


HOLIDAY HOUSE

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Of Walden Pond

Henry David Thoreau, Frederic Tudor, and The Pond Between

by **Lesa Cline-Ransome**

illustrated by **Ashley Benham-Yazdani**

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the award-winning author of *Before She Was Harriet* comes another work of lyrical beauty, the story of Henry David Thoreau and businessman Frederic Tudor—and a changing world.

Thoreau and Tudor could not have been more different from each other. Yet both shared the bounties of Walden Pond and would change the course of history through their writings and innovations. This study in opposites contrasts the austere philosopher with the consummate capitalist (whose innovations would change commercial ice harvesting and home refrigerators) to show how two seemingly conflicting American legacies could be built side by side.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Define landscape. Describe the landscape on the first page. Discuss why the landscape is painted in blues and white. How many shades of blue do you see? How does this reflect the season?
- Note the season changes in the book. How do the colors change with each season? Point out the animal life that lives around Walden Pond. Explain why Walden Pond is described as poetry.



- Both Henry David Thoreau and Frederic Tudor escaped to Walden Pond. What was each man escaping? Discuss what Thoreau and Tudor were seeking. Describe each man’s reputation back home. Look at the illustration on p. 6 & 7. Why are the men facing one another?
- Note the aerial view of Walden Pond on p. 8 & 9. Explain the lone cabin. Who lives there? Define “inspiration.” How and why is Walden Pond an “inspiration” for Thoreau?
- Study the illustration on p. 13. Explain the placement of Thoreau’s writing desk. How does this reflect what he is seeking? How is Walden Pond a “harvest” for Tudor? Define “bounty.” Explain why the pond is “a bounty for both.”
- Explain what Tudor means when he says, “Let those laugh who win” (p. 18). Discuss what Thoreau is doing while Tudor is executing his “win.” Why is Tudor taking the ice to India? How long does it take the ship, *Delhi*, to reach Calcutta? Point to the illustrations that best reveal the distance and length of the journey.
- Read the “Author’s Note” on p. 38 & 39. Discuss Thoreau’s thoughts about Tudor’s work. Note the illustrations on the bottom of these pages. Which tools belong to each man? Thoreau is called a philosopher, a naturalist, and a poet. Identify the tools that reflect each of these labels. Tudor is called an inventor, a genius, and an ice king. How do his tools reflect his work? Discuss the illustrations in the book that reveal his genius.
- What do the illustrations on p. 34 & 35 reveal about each man? How is this a good way to conclude the book? Read aloud p. 36. Explain how the “end” returns the reader to the “beginning.”

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Lesa Cline-Ransome is the author of almost twenty books for young readers. Her work has received a plethora of honors, including dozens of starred reviews, NAACP Image Award nominations, a Coretta Scott King Honor, and a Christopher Award, and has been named to ALA Notable Books and Bank Street Best Children’s Books lists. She lives in Rhinebeck, New York.



Ashley Benham-Yazdani is a picture book author and illustrator. Her debut, *A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park*, received a Golden Kite Award and was called “mesmerizing” by the *New York Times* Book Review. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and son.

