

# ESSAYS



## RALPH WALDO EMERSON

TITLE:  
**Essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson**

AUTHOR:  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

READ BY:  
**Phil Paonessa**

CLASSIFICATION:  
**NONFICTION**

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**Literary / Nonfiction / Philosophy / Short Stories & Collections**

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## Essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Read by Phil Paonessa

**A collection of eleven of Emerson's most celebrated and memorable essays**

In 1834, Ralph Waldo Emerson, formerly a Unitarian minister, began a new career as a public lecturer. Many of those lectures formed the source material for his essays. *Nature* (1836), his first published work, contained the essence of his transcendental philosophy, which involved viewing the world of natural phenomena as a symbol of the inner life and emphasizing individual freedom and self-reliance. This collection contains eleven of his most celebrated and memorable essays from this period: "Self-Reliance," "Nature," "Circles," "Friendship," "Heroism," "Prudence," "Compensation," "Gifts," "Manners," "Shakespeare; Or, the Poet," and "The American Scholar."

### AUTHOR

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was an American essayist, lecturer, and poet who led the transcendentalist movement of the mid-nineteenth century. A Unitarian minister, he gradually parted with the religious and social beliefs of his contemporaries, formulating and expressing the philosophy of transcendentalism instead. Seen as a champion of individualism and a prescient critic of the countervailing pressures of society, he disseminated his thoughts through published essays and public lectures across the United States.

### READ BY



Phil Paonessa is a U.S. Army Veteran of the Vietnam era who works as an automotive industry project engineer, a public speaker, an actor, a voice actor, and, formerly, a local newspaper feature writer. The father of three adult children, he is a lifelong resident of Michigan, where he currently resides with his wife.