



Long Island Farmer Husking Corn (1833–1834) by William Sidney Mount. Oil on canvas mounted on panel (20⁷/₈" × 16⁷/₈").

The Long Island Museum of American Art, History and Carriages. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Melville, 1975.

from **Self-Reliance**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till. The power which resides in him is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he know until he has tried. Not for nothing one face, one character, one fact makes much impression on him, and another

none. This sculpture in the memory is not without preestablished harmony. ❶ The eye was placed where one ray should fall, that it might testify of that particular ray. We but half express ourselves, and are

❶ Emerson believes that each person has unique talents and passions that can be discovered only on one's own.
❷ What does he mean by "this sculpture in the memory"?

Vocabulary

conviction (kən·vik'shən) *n.*: fixed or strong belief.