

*Concord: A Novel* by Don Zancanella  
Reading Group Guide

1. *Concord* is based on actual historical figures and events. When you read historical fiction, how much do you care about historical accuracy? Is it acceptable for the author to alter the facts to make the story more engaging? Are there lines that shouldn't be crossed?
2. What does *Concord* reveal about the lives of women in the 19th century?
3. Many people know about these famous Transcendentalist writers from school study. What events in the novel were surprising to you?
4. The relationship between men and women is at the center of the novel. What does *Concord* suggest about the nature of courtship, love, and marriage? How was it different in 1840 from the way things are today?
6. How does Elizabeth Peabody shape the lives of the people in the book? What more would you like to know about her influence in the intellectual life of Boston and Salem and Concord?
7. What forces seem to be influencing these people as readers, writers, and thinkers? How do they appear to influence one another?
8. How are moments of sorrow and tragedy related in the story? Disappointment? Loss? Joy?
9. Several of the main characters change their names (David Henry Thoreau to Henry David Thoreau, Lidia Emerson to Lidian Emerson). What do these changes suggest about their identities and relationships?
10. Each of *Concord's* four sections begins with a quote by one of the novel's main characters. How are the quotes related to the events in the book?
11. Does this novel/author remind you of other novels/authors?