What is Thoreau saying is important about life? Create a mini-comic strip to illustrate some key passages & make Thoreau’s story & beliefs clear

H: Do 5 lines (one must be #7) ACP: Do 5 lines CP: Do 4 lines

Directions:

* Find the line in the text.
* Print the line clearly somewhere on your panel (Dialogue? Heading? Narration?)
* Write 2-3 words from the text that answer the questions
  + Illustrate the answers to the questions

1. “It is the characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things.” (1)
   1. What is the desperate thing that he describes in the second and third paragraph?
   2. How does this explain why Thoreau might have chosen to live in a cabin in the woods?
2. “A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone” (2)
   1. What is the thing that Thoreau decides to leave alone in this paragraph?
   2. How does Thoreau feel about the process of considering a land purchase? What are two images that capture that feeling?
3. Thoreau looks at Hollowell Farm and decides, “I knew all the while that it would yield the most abundant crop of the kind I wanted, if only I could afford to let it alone.” (3)
   1. What is the crop that Thoreau wants? What are two or three images of the farm and how does Thoreau seem to feel about them?
   2. Go back a paragraph. Compare the poet and the farmer. What do they get from a farm?
4. “We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep.” (3)
   1. What does this line mean? Why might Thoreau choose dawn?
   2. What is one line in the paragraph before and one line in the paragraph after that helps explain what this line means?
5. “I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life…like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms” (4)
   1. Thoreau also says he wants to avoid “what is not life.” Pick two images from the next paragraph that illustrate “not life.”
   2. “Lowest terms” here means basically the “essential truths.” What are the two images in this piece that capture what seems most meaningful to Thoreau?
6. “We do not ride on the railroad; it rides upon us…” (5)
   1. What word gets repeated five times? (It’s really two versions of the same word.)
   2. Pick three images from this paragraph that underscore the meaning of the line above.
7. “Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.” (6)
   1. What does Thoreau mean here?
   2. The previous paragraph has a long description of an bug. What exactly happens to the bug?
   3. The bug is a metaphor and it connects directly to this line about the sun. How?