

CORNERSTONE

INTEGRATED LIBERAL ARTS

Cornerstone Fall 2025 Contest “Solitude”



Henry David Thoreau tells us he never found a “companion that was so companionable as solitude.” To know ourselves and live life deliberately and not, as Thoreau imagined most of us do, in “quiet desperation,” is one way to imagine the fruits of solitude. This fall, we are seeking submissions that explore the question of finding ourselves through solitude. Solitude can result in liberation by disconnecting from the world, but it can also be acquainted with loneliness. How do you view solitude?

Eligibility: Any student currently enrolled in SCLA 110, 111, 101, or 102

Criteria: Artwork, essays, short fiction, videos, and poetry inspired by Transformative Texts. All contest entries must be a student’s own work without *any* use of generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, DALL-E, Midjourney, DeepSeek). A committee composed of Cornerstone faculty will judge submissions based on originality and creativity.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards. First Place: \$95; Second Place: \$65; 3 honorary mentions: \$35. Winners will automatically be nominated for publication in *The Cornerstone Review*.

Timeline: Submission deadline: **November 14, 2025**. Please send your submissions to cornerstonecontest@outlook.com. All files must be labeled with your last name. In your entry, please list your full name and your professor’s name. Winners will be announced on **December 9, 2025**.