Essay on Friendship

Friendship is an important piece in a human's life. Our friendships mold us into the personalities we become. I agree with Emerson and his thoughts on friendship. When we are affectionate, we become active. We spend time thinking of our friends, important things to them, and how to find ways to help them. We enjoy our time with our friends, so we look forward to activities with them. With new friends, we invite them to our house and we talk about things we never knew we could. A new friend is exciting to listen to. Since she/he is new, we see him as perfect. Once he or she has showed us their faults, we no longer have a feeling of nostalgia. It is like with any possession that is new. We are excited about it in the beginning, but it loses its luster after some time passes.

Emerson and I agree that we must have an active part in our friend's lives. We are happy when they are happy, their accomplishments become ours, and we feel good when they are praised. We often look for a friend whose life we would like to have. We believe, a friend is pure, his nature is finer and he is temptation less. We even seem to better articulate to our friend. But this cannot continue forever. All of these things become too good to be believed. With time we become suspicious, possibly jealous, at the very things that made our friend so interesting. For example, if he is rich, then we want a poor person like ourselves. Emerson explains this process as natural. And it is only natural to replace old friends with new ones, isn’t it? Or not? Since we seem to meet new and interesting people often, some of our friendships become short-lived. We rush to make friends and in doing so, never have a good foundation for a good friendship. As Emerson says, there are two elements that compose a friendship. The other element of friendship is tenderness.

"We must be our own best friend before we can become another's." We must learn to love ourselves before we can love our friends. We learn, first with ourselves, what we like, how we like to be treated. This way we are more prepared to become a friend of someone else. I do not agree when Emerson says, "I do with my friends as I do with my books." That is, not see them very much and use them only once. I believe we live our lives with our friends, some everyday and some infrequently. I do agree when he says he enjoys his friends, but he cannot afford to study their visions, or he may lose his own. We should enjoy our friends and not their lives. I love and agree with this line: "The essence
of friendship is entireness, a total magnanimity and trust." You cannot have a friendship you believe in and trust without both parties giving their all, and being sincere.

Adapted from: "Emerson and Friendship." 123HelpMe.com. 08 Nov 2010

For discussion or writing in the personal journal:
1. Choose your favorite phrase and enter it first, or read for discussion purposes. Now tell us why you like this phrase, disagree with it, or wonder about it.
2. List some attributes that are described in this essay which we have not mentioned in class earlier in discussions of friendship.
3. Do you believe, like this writer, that friendship “cannot continue forever”. Why or why not?
4. Emerson believes that TRUTH and TENDERNESS are two important elements of friendship. Do you agree, and is there anything else more important?
5. Do you believe that this statement is true: “We must be our own best friend before we can become another’s.” If true, why do you believe this? If not, why?