

Name _____ Date _____

“Excelsior”

The poem portrays a young man who ignores all warnings and all other opportunities on his journey “ever higher.” However, it becomes clear that there is risk involved in this determined focus that forces him to pass by the rest of humanity, alone. Have you ever wanted something so much that you were willing to ignore all else to achieve it?

Write an essay in which you explain the risk involved in this kind of behavior. Include examples from the poem, as well as real-life experiences.