



Name _____ Date _____

8

Rays
ways

7C Words Defined

allot / assimilate / bountiful / conventional / deceptive / foster / haven / instill / memoir / ornate / phenomenon / shackle / sublime / surpass / theme

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. **allot** (verb) to distribute or divide into portions or shares

On Halloween, I always *allot* each trick-or-treater the same amount of candy no matter how scary their costumes are in comparison to each other.

Synonyms: to pass out, allocate

Antonyms: to keep, retain, withhold

2. **assimilate** (verb) to incorporate or absorb something; to adjust to

Hot dogs, though originally German, became so *assimilated* into American culture that they now seem truly American.

Other forms: Ping's *assimilation* (noun) into American culture was quick and easy.

3. **bountiful** (adj) having a lot; plentiful

Our math teacher had a *bountiful* supply of sharpened number two pencils in her desk drawer.

Synonyms: big, ample, copious

4. **conventional** (adj) standard; ordinary

My parents chose to drive the more *conventional* way home as opposed to the scenic route.

Synonyms: common, traditional

Other forms: A *convention* (noun) is both a normal practice (like shaking hands when you meet someone) and a big gathering of people (like the Whale Watchers Convention).

5. **deceptive** (adj) misleading or dishonest

It wasn't until my ninth birthday that I realized my parents had been *deceptive* about the existence of the tooth fairy.

Other forms: A *deception* (noun) is a lie.

6. **foster** (verb) to encourage or care for

Ms. C tried to *foster* creativity in all her students.

Synonyms: promote, cultivate, support

Antonyms: neglect, suppress

7. **haven** (noun) a refuge or safe place

My mom always says that the health spa is her true *haven*.

Synonyms: retreat, sanctuary, asylum



Name _____ Date _____

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8. instill (verb) to introduce gradually; implant

It is important to *instill* good manners into children when they are young.
Synonyms: implant, infuse

9. memoir (noun) a written account of one's personal life

Bill Clinton's memoir, *My Life*, was a best seller for many months.
Synonyms: biography, anecdote

10. ornate (adj) decorated in a very fancy, flashy style

I was envious of Sydney's jewelry box because it was filled with *ornate* necklaces, earrings and bracelets.
Synonyms: glitzy, gaudy
Antonyms: plain, unadorned, austere
Other forms: *Ornate* is related to *ornament* (noun), a decoration you might put on your Christmas tree.

11. phenomenon (noun) an observable event; something that is extraordinary

Again and again in nature we see an interesting phenomenon: Storms in the Gulf of Mexico become powerful hurricanes.
Other forms: The celebrity looked *phenomenal* (adj), really extraordinary, after her makeover.

12. shackle (noun) a device (usually metal) that restricts the movement of a prisoner, like handcuffs

Our abductors threatened to tighten our *shackles* unless we stopped screaming for help.
Other forms: *Shackle* is also a verb meaning "to confine or restrain," as in: The *kidnappers* shackled the reporter to a pipe in their backyard.

13. sublime (adj) supreme, outstanding or lofty

There is a *sublime* view from the peak of any mountain.
Synonyms: divine, heavenly
Antonyms: lowly, gross, unattractive

14. surpass (verb) to exceed or go beyond

The Olympic athlete tried to *surpass* the world record time in his first race.
Antonyms: to lose, retreat, fall behind

15. theme (noun) 1. the main subject or unifying idea 2. the music associated with a TV show or person (short for theme song)

1. The *theme* of the story "To Build a Fire" is survival. 2. The Batman *theme* is one of the most famous songs, even though there is only one word in it: *Batman!*



Name _____ Date _____

7D Fix the Mistake

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Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. During standardized testing, students are **shackled** two pencils and five pieces of scratch paper.

2. The injured wild chimpanzee had to **foster** to its new home at the animal rescue sanctuary, which took three months.

3. Our P.E. teacher always tried to **surpass** teamwork in us as she taught different sports and games all year long.

4. The movie's main **memoir** was about the importance of friendship.

5. The party was **bountiful**, an amazing mix of good people, great music, and delicious food.

6. Her ability to predict car accidents was a strange **haven**.

7. It was **conventional** of our teacher to tell us that the test would be all multiple choice and then change it to an essay test.

8. The reception hall was so **sublimely** decorated; it looked like someone had thrown shiny jewels over everything.

9. I decided to write a(n) **phenomenon** about my life as the adopted child of a millionaire.



Name _____ Date _____

10. Since the police had **assimilated** me to the chair, I could not reach into my pocket to use my phone.

11. Haven't I always **allotted** your artistic talents, buying you lessons and instruments and such?

12. Kendra hopes to **instill** the other climbers when they stop to rest.

13. The wedding ceremony was so **ornate**; I swear I had seen it a hundred times before.

14. In the hospital, there was a(n) **deceptive** supply of pills.

15. It is a myth that Cuba is a safe **theme** for criminals.



Name _____ Date _____

7G Understanding What You Read

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Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Mo walked through the ornate halls, staring up at the detailed windows and walls. He couldn't help thinking that there had to be some mistake. It just wasn't conventional for a fourteen-year-old to inherit a house like this from a relative he hardly knew. Of course, he knew that his Aunt Josephine had always liked him, but this much?

Mo looked around the house, examining the curtains inlaid with gold fabric. He kicked off his shoes and ran his toes through the carpet. This, he thought to himself, was the most sublime feeling he'd ever experienced.

He glanced outside the window. The garden outside was breathtaking, with a stone walkway leading down through the lawn. The plants were bountiful: Large trees stood guard like obedient soldiers, and vines snaked their way up the high brick walls that surrounded the estate. What could possibly surpass this? Mo wondered. As he walked on, Mo ran his fingers over the back of a chair, noticing that the chair's arms resembled snakes. He gazed down a hall, and it seemed endless. It was almost like looking into outer space. A strange feeling came over him. Instead of feeling elated over this phenomenon, this absolute miracle of inheriting a house at his age, Mo began to get scared.

Suddenly, instead of feeling like a prince in a palace, Mo felt as though he were alone in a horrible dream. The staircase that had taken his breath away a minute ago suddenly instilled a sense of impending dread. The sun streaming through the skylight only fostered his fear: The fear that someone, somewhere was watching his every step.

He backed up slowly toward the door, as if he were waiting for a horror movie theme to start playing. He hardly breathed, as if every breath of air would shackle him further to the house. With his heart pounding, he stepped outside the door, into the fresh air and the warm, waiting sunlight.

1. The passage suggests that the house is

- (A) cheap
- (B) dirty
- (C) clean
- (D) expensive

2. According to the text, Mo goes from feeling

- (A) overwhelmed to feeling fearful
- (B) apprehensive to feeling deceived
- (C) happy to feeling sublime
- (D) excited to feeling scared

3. In the third paragraph, when Mo wonders "what could possibly surpass this," he means

- (A) what could possibly be scarier than this
- (B) what could possibly be more expensive than this
- (C) what could possibly be more amazing than this
- (D) what could possibly occur later in time



Name _____ Date _____

4. The final line of the story leads us to believe that Mo

- (A) is about to get killed
- (B) may have been imagining things
- (C) was having a nightmare
- (D) is scared of sunlight

5. The word "theme" is used in the last paragraph to mean

- (A) music
- (B) subject
- (C) idea
- (D) game