Lesson 6

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

abolish

ə bal’ ish

v. To bring to an end; to do away with.
[Most people would support a plan to abolish weapons of mass destruction.]

agonize

tag’ a niz

n. Great pain of mind or body; suffering.
[The pinched nerve caused him agony for several weeks.]

agonizing

adj. (ag’ a niz ing) Very painful.
[Watching their sick child in the hospital bed was agonizing to the parents.]

catapult

kat’ ə pult

n. A machine used in ancient wars that threw objects with great force.
[Roman catapults could throw six-pound objects almost a third of a mile.]

v. To move or be moved suddenly and with great force, as if by a catapult.
[The Groaners’ latest song catapulted them to the top of the country music charts.]

character

kar’ ok tar

n. 1. The qualities that make a person or place different or special.
[Your friend’s support during your long illness demonstrates her true character.]

2. A person in a story, movie, or play.
[Madame Defarge and Sydney Carton are the two characters I remember most clearly from A Tale of Two Cities.]

3. A letter or symbol used in writing or printing.
[The license plate number NKT605 contains six characters.]

denounce

də nouns’

v. 1. To speak out against something; to criticize.
[The president denounced Congress for failing to approve the budget.]

2. To accuse someone of doing wrong.
[Carla denounced Victor, who sat next to her, for cheating on the test.]

escalate

es’ kə lat

v. To go up or increase in size or scope.
[House prices escalated so much in the 1980s that many people could no longer afford to buy a home.]

grim

grim

adj. 1. Cruel; fierce.
[There were many grim battles during the Civil War.]

2. Unfriendly or threatening; stern.
[The coach’s grim face expressed his displeasure at our team’s poor performance.]

3. Unpleasant; disturbing.
[We heard the grim news that no one had survived the plane crash.]

harbor

här’ bar

n. A protected place along a seacoast where ships can find shelter.
[In the summer the harbor is busy with sailboats going in and out.]

v. 1. To give shelter to; to take care of by hiding.
[In most states, it is a crime to harbor someone wanted by the police.]

2. To hold and nourish a thought or feeling in the mind.
[Try not to harbor anger against the person who stole your bike.]

inflict

in flikt’

v. To cause something painful to be felt.
[The hurricane inflicted severe damage on coastal areas.]
loathe

loathing

meddle

meddlesome

monstrous

rouse

steady

steadfast

translate

6A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 6. Write each sentence in the space provided.

1. (a) involve oneself in the affairs of others. (b) hold certain thoughts in the mind. (c) To translate is to (d) To meddle is to

2. (a) A harbor is something that (b) is expressed in another language. (c) hurls objects with great force. (d) A catapult is something that

3. (a) feels resentment against others. (b) is not easily changed by others. (c) A monstrous person is one who (d) A steadfast person is one who
4. (a) To loathe something is to  (c) express it in a different language.
   (b) To translate something is to  (d) present it for the first time.

5. (a) one that is very wicked.  (c) one that keeps getting put off.
   (b) An agonizing decision is  (d) A monstrous decision is

6. (a) a protected place for boats.  (c) A harbor is
   (b) anything that shocks or horrifies.  (d) A character is

7. (a) To rouse someone is to  (c) wake up that person.
   (b) say that person’s name out loud.  (d) To denounce someone is to

8. (a) a person’s special qualities.  (c) deliberate rudeness.
   (b) Character is  (d) Agony is

9. (a) find its causes.  (c) say that it is wrong.
   (b) To denounce a quarrel is to  (d) To escalate a quarrel is to

10. (a) To loathe something is to  (c) To abolish something is to
    (b) have an understanding of it.  (d) feel hatred for it.

6B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the italicized phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 6.

1. Overnight, someone had put up a gigantic and very unattractive billboard across the street.

2. Americans in 1776 were stirred into action by Thomas Paine’s writings.

3. I was in very great pain after I fell and twisted my ankle.
4. The school did away with the rules that prevented girls from playing on the baseball team.

5. Ida still holds on to feelings of mistrust toward Fern who made promises she knew she could not keep.

6. The people written about in Judy Blume's books seem like real people to me.

7. The burned-out buildings were a disturbing and unpleasant sign that the city had been under attack.

8. The quarrel between us became more and more serious, until we no longer spoke to each other.

9. The Beatles were suddenly lifted to world fame in the early 1960s.

10. The 1994 earthquake was the cause of heavy damage throughout much of Los Angeles.

6C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might be denounced?
   (a) a plane's arrival  (c) an act of cruelty
   (b) a scoundrel  (d) a bad law

2. Which of the following can be harbored?
   (a) anger  (c) a runaway child
   (b) a car  (d) hatred

3. Which of the following can be abolished?
   (a) a rule  (c) a law
   (b) an idea  (d) a custom

4. Which of the following might meddlesome persons do?
   (a) keep to themselves  (c) ask a lot of questions
   (b) offer advice freely  (d) mind their own business

5. Which of the following can be translated?
   (a) paintings  (c) books
   (b) music  (d) laughter

6. Which of the following is a character?
   (a) Snow White  (c) 9
   (b) &  (d) optimism
7. Which of the following can be *grim*?
   (a) news  
   (b) jubilation  
   (c) weather  
   (d) vegetables

8. Which of the following could be *agonizing*?
   (a) a bad toothache  
   (b) the death of a friend  
   (c) a persistent cold  
   (d) a distraction

**6D Word Relationships**

| 1. OPTIMISM | LOVE | 6. PLEASANT |
| DISTRACTION | LOATHING | GRIM |
| 2. SUPPORT | DENOUNCE | 7. BUDGE |
| CATAPULT | ADJUST | ABOLISH |
| 3. CHALLENGE | REDUCE | 8. UNRELIABLE |
| ESCALATE | ROUSE | STEADFAST |
| 4. STEADFAST | ATTRACTIVE | 9. INFlict |
| MONSTROUS | DETERMINED | DISLIKE |
| 5. OBEDIENCE | AGONY | 10. FOOLHARDY |
| CHARACTER | JUBILATION | OBSCURE |
|          |       | STEADFAST |

**6E Narrative**

**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD**

In the early nineteenth century, a number of Americans supported slavery, a practice that had been widely accepted since ancient times. Even people who loathed slavery, and there were a great many, thought that there was little that one person could do about it. They were wrong. Harriet Beecher Stowe, who was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1811, was someone who caused important changes. She believed that slavery was a monstrous crime. While living in Ohio in the 1840s, she used her house to harbor slaves who had escaped from their southern owners and were making their way north to freedom. In 1850, after moving to Maine with her
minister husband, she wrote a novel called *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, which not only awakened people to the horrors of slavery but also catapulted her to world fame.

Her book painted a grim picture of slave life. Readers shared the agony that the slave mother Eliza felt when she accidentally overheard that her only child was to be sold to a slave trader. They eagerly followed Eliza’s adventures after she escaped with her child, crossing the half-frozen Ohio River by jumping from one broken piece of ice to the next, with armed men and yelping dogs close behind. They breathed a sigh of relief when Eliza and her child reached Canada and freedom.

Another character in the book is the wise and kindly slave, Uncle Tom. He was sold to Simon Legree, a man who took pleasure in inflicting severe punishment on his slaves. When Legree ordered Uncle Tom to give a whipping to a sick and weak female slave who had failed to pick enough cotton, Tom refused. So Legree had him whipped instead. Later, when Uncle Tom steadfastly refused to tell Legree where two of his runaway slaves were hiding, Legree had him beaten so severely that he died. Readers wept.

*Uncle Tom’s Cabin* sold millions of copies and was translated into many different languages. It was also made into a play that was performed all over the world. The book helped rouse the people of America, especially those in the North, into demanding an end to slavery. Of course, not everyone looked with favor on *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. It was banned in the South, and slave owners and their supporters accused Harriet Beecher Stowe of meddling in their lives. She ignored their protests and continued to denounce slavery in speeches, articles, and books.

The quarrel between North and South over the question of slavery escalated. In 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed an order abolishing slavery in states then under Confederate control. Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel played no small part in bringing about the war that ended slavery. Her life shows that just one determined person can make a difference.

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**Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word, use a vocabulary word in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words) from this lesson’s word list.**

1. What differing views did Americans have of slavery?

2. What happened to the quarrel between North and South over slavery?

3. What event occurred thirteen years after *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was written?
4. Why did Harriet Beecher Stowe suddenly become famous?

5. Which act described in the narrative do you think is the most monstrous?

6. Why were some people who didn't know English able to read Uncle Tom's Cabin?

7. Why is it inaccurate to describe Harriet Beecher Stowe as meddlesome?

8. How did Harriet Beecher Stowe stand up to the supporters of slavery?

9. What is the meaning of character as it is used in the narrative?

10. Why do you think Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin?

11. What is the meaning of harbor as it is used in the narrative?

12. How would you say Eliza's agony differed from Uncle Tom's?

13. What is it about Simon Legree that makes him so unpleasant?

14. How did Uncle Tom answer when Simon Legree demanded to know where the runaway slaves were hiding?

15. What is the meaning of grim as it is used in the narrative?