

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage in which some of the words you have studied in Units 7-9 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer the questions on page 119.

The following passage discusses the serial novel, a popular literary form that leaves readers eagerly awaiting the next installment.

(Line)

A new literary form known as the *serial novel* developed in England around 1840. It was made famous by Charles Dickens, William

(5) Makepeace Thackeray, and a number of other writers. The stories were peopled with a lively array of characters, from **unassuming** heroes and **disarming** heroines to

(10) **predatory** villains. They were faced with realistic and heart-wrenching dilemmas. The story lines were complex, and each episode had a cliff-hanging ending that left readers

(15) hungry for more.
Serial novels were usually published over a period of a year or more. Each new installment was printed as the author finished it. The

(20) serial form gave nineteenth-century novelists the freedom to make up their stories as they went along. This allowed them to take the public's reaction into account. Loyal readers

(25) vigorously **proclaimed** their views in letters to publishers and at open literary discussions.

These writers were not able to

(30) **avail** themselves of the kinds of sophisticated market research

techniques that today's writers can turn to, but they knew how to satisfy their readers. Depending on the reaction to each new episode, a

(35) writer might decide to soften a planned harsh ending or provide a long-lost wealthy relative to come to the rescue of a poor character.

The serial novels of Charles

(40) Dickens were enormously popular, attracting **fervent** fans on both sides of the Atlantic. In Boston, for example, thousands of readers

flocked to the harbor to greet the

(45) ships that brought each new installment from London. The phrase "hot off the press" really meant something to readers eager to know what would become of the

characters who had won their hearts.

(50) Today's daily soap operas and weekly television series owe much to serial novels. An individual episode stands on its own but is also part of an ongoing saga. Viewers and

(55) readers regard recurring characters almost as members of the family. They await each new episode to see how the story will unfold.

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which some of the words appear in **boldface** type. page 119.

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1. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - a. eighteenth-century literature
 - b. nineteenth-century serial novels
 - c. weekly television series
 - d. Charles Dickens's novels
 - e. modern soap operas
2. The meaning of **unassuming** (line 8) is
 - a. modest
 - b. foolish
 - c. boastful
 - d. friendly
 - e. idealistic
3. **Disarming** (line 9) most nearly means
 - a. tragic
 - b. alarming
 - c. flighty
 - d. tearful
 - e. charming
4. **Predatory** (line 10) is best defined as
 - a. comic
 - b. snarling
 - c. clever
 - d. rapacious
 - e. proud
5. From the author's description of serial novels (lines 6-15), you can infer that the author
 - a. never reads novels
 - b. dislikes serial novels
 - c. enjoys serial novels
 - d. teaches creative writing
 - e. is a novelist or playwright
6. Which of the following generalizations would the author agree with?
 - a. Authors of serial novels were unmoved by criticism or acclaim.
 - b. Serial novels were not popular in America.
 - c. Novels in the 1840s were boring.
 - d. Charles Dickens is a better novelist than William Makepeace Thackeray.
 - e. Authors of serial novels adapted their plots according to readers' responses.
7. The meaning of **proclaimed** (line 25) is
 - a. concealed
 - b. declared
 - c. shouted
 - d. changed
 - e. repeated
8. **Avail** themselves of (line 29) means
 - a. pay for
 - b. look up
 - c. read about
 - d. make use of
 - e. put together
9. The function of paragraph 4 (lines 39-50) is to
 - a. discuss the modern novel
 - b. introduce a totally new topic
 - c. dispute the passage's main idea
 - d. summarize the passage's main idea
 - e. provide a specific example of the main idea
10. **Fervent** (line 41) is best defined as
 - a. loyal
 - b. stoical
 - c. enthusiastic
 - d. critical
 - e. unconcerned
11. When Dickens was publishing his novels, American readers had to wait until the latest installment arrived by
 - a. ship
 - b. plane
 - c. railroad
 - d. computer
 - e. telephone
12. The fifth paragraph (lines 51-59) examines the
 - a. origins of serial novels
 - b. popularity of serial novels
 - c. influence of serial novels
 - d. plot of a specific novel
 - e. structure of a specific novel

Two-Word Completions

Select the pair of words that best completes the meaning of each of the following sentences.

1. The old adage that clothes often _____ the man simply means that a person's _____ is frequently a kind of public statement about his or her personality.

a. convey . . . renown	c. defile . . . stance
b. attribute . . . mien	d. proclaim . . . attire

2. During the deciding game, the challenger, a 12-year-old _____ by the name of Mikie, _____ the moves of the champion, herself a grand master and chess authority, with the expertise of an accomplished veteran.

a. prodigy . . . parried	c. recluse . . . nullified
b. crony . . . belittled	d. acme . . . fended off

3. For a while the politician stood high in public favor, but then his reputation suddenly _____ to earth. One day he was basking in the sunshine of popular approval; the next he found himself _____ under the yoke of universal disfavor.

a. plummeted . . . chafing	c. parried . . . wallowing
b. wavered . . . encroaching	d. belittled . . . rankling

4. At first, I was perfectly content to do the rather _____ tasks that my summer job involved. But as time went on, I became thoroughly _____ with such undemanding and unpleasant assignments.

a. exotic . . . obsessed	c. menial . . . disgruntled
b. unassuming . . . endowed	d. tawdry . . . intriguing

5. The wolf, a _____ creature that eats large hoofed animals, is often viewed as a threat to ranchers. Presently, the grey wolf has been designated an endangered species, and its most serious threat is human _____ into wolf territory.

a. fervent . . . impunity	c. menial . . . infiltration
b. disarming . . . attribution	d. predatory . . . encroachment

6. Though they never seem to think alike on any subject, there isn't the slightest hint of _____ between them. I think it's not uncommon for two people whose views _____ so sharply to dislike one another intensely.

a. juncture . . . abut	c. impunity . . . encroach
b. enmity . . . diverge	d. doctrine . . . nullify

7. Struck by a dreadful disease, my friend became a shadow of her former self. I did not at first recognize the _____ figure that lay in the bed before me. Her once carefree face was now drawn and _____.

a. cryptic . . . jaunty	c. gaunt . . . haggard
b. ravaged . . . disarming	d. stinted . . . fervent

Prove

A prove often ref be obvi serious,

Choos

Read eac boldfac

1. "Wf we p
2. Don ther
3. As v after they
4. Whe for v hand
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6. Don birth
7. Now whil
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10. Ever day, but

WORD STUDY

Proverbs

In the passage about Tecumseh (see pages 108–109), the author makes a statement about the leader, noting that “a true warrior never seeks glory.” The author uses this proverb to make the point that real leaders have no desire for glory, especially on the battlefield. They are not motivated by a selfish desire for fame or praise.

A **proverb** is a short saying that summarizes or encapsulates a universal truth. Proverbs often reflect cultural values. Some proverbs are quite old, and their meanings may not be obvious at first. They are best understood in context. Proverbs can be humorous, serious, or insightful, but in all cases they offer sound advice and truths about life.

Choosing the Right Proverb

Read each sentence. Use context clues to figure out the meaning of each proverb in **boldface print**. Then write the letter of the definition for the proverb in the sentence.

1. “**Where there’s a will, there’s a way**,” Dad said as we prepared to clean out my closet. _____
 2. Don’t let the twins stay out after curfew; **if you give them an inch, they’ll take a mile**. _____
 3. As we watched the former senator’s life unravel in the aftermath of the scandal, we realized that **the bigger they are, the harder they fall**. _____
 4. When Barry saw that Mike was handing out cookies for votes, he decided to **fight fire with fire** and handed out donuts. _____
 5. You have to be able to handle stress if you want to be a manager, so **if you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen**. _____
 6. Don’t be angry at your brother because he forgot your birthday; **let bygones be bygones**. _____
 7. Now that Naomi is out of work, she should **make hay while the sun shines** and write her novel. _____
 8. I’ve noticed that complainers often get what they want. I guess it’s true that **the squeaky wheel gets the grease**. _____
 9. When Lou told me he has refused to play tennis with Henry ever since Henry beat him, I told Lou that he shouldn’t **cut off his nose to spite his face**. _____
 10. Even though this looks like it will be a bright, sunny day, let’s pack our rain parkas. **Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst** is my philosophy. _____
- a. If you can’t cope with the pressure of a particular task, do something else.
 - b. Forgive and forget wrongs done to you.
 - c. When you try to punish someone else, you only punish yourself.
 - d. Those who plan ahead will not be taken by surprise.
 - e. If you put your mind to it, you can do anything.
 - f. Use the same methods as your opponent.
 - g. Famous, wealthy, or powerful people have more to lose when they fail.
 - h. The person who is loudest or most persistent will often get what he or she wants.
 - i. Seize an opportunity.
 - j. If you are too permissive, people will take advantage of you.