

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN



Lesson 1

CONTEXT: Literary Traditions and Beyond

Ancient Heroes

The hero is an ancient figure. Most of the earliest stories that people told focused on the adventures of heroes. These men and women were superior to ordinary people; they were stronger, wiser, or braver. Seldom, however, were these heroes perfect. Ancient heroes were human, and they had flaws and made mistakes, just as regular people do. Listeners often learned valuable lessons by hearing of the adventures—and misadventures—of ancient heroes.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about three ancient heroes:—Odysseus, Beowulf, and the Cid. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

annals demoralize disperse epic

extremity inconspicuous

intact landlocked negotiate replenish

EXERCISE 1

Mapping &

Directions. In the item below, a vocabulary word is provided and used in a sentence. Take a guess at the word's meaning and write it in the box labeled **Your Guess**. Then look the word up in your dictionary and write the definition in the box labeled **Definition**. In the **Other Forms** box, write as many other forms of the word, such as adjective and noun forms, as you can think of or find in your dictionary.

Then, following the same procedure, draw your own map for each of the nine remaining vocabulary words. Use a separate sheet of paper.

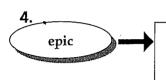
1.	You probably won't find the Greek hero Odysseus in the annals of history, but this legendary character appears frequently in the pages of ancient Greek mythology and literature.	
Other Forms:	Your Guess:]
—	Definition:	



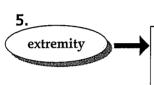
No disaster could **demoralize** Odysseus. He always remained spirited and determined to make his way home.



A threatening crowd greets Odysseus and his crew when they arrive on the coast of the Ciciones. The crew kills many of these men and **disperses** the rest, but those who are scattered quickly return with reinforcements.



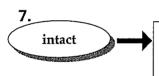
The *Odyssey*, which tells the story of Odysseus' journey home after the fall of Troy, is a famous Greek epic. The Greeks also had another famous poem, the *Iliad*, about the adventures of great heroes.



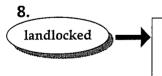
Although Odysseus attempts to chart a course directly home following the Trojan War, his adventures take him to the **extremities** of the Mediterranean world.



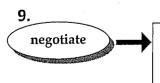
When Odysseus returns home, Athena disguises him as a beggar so the hero can remain **inconspicuous** while he investigates what has happened in his absence.



When Odysseus leaves Troy, he undoubtedly hopes to arrive home safely with his ship and his crew **intact**, but both are broken up and lost.



Odysseus was an able sailor who felt at ease at sea. It is interesting to consider how different his story might have been if he had lived in a land-locked country.



Odysseus' life might have been very different if the Greeks and the Trojans had decided to negotiate their differences. By talking things out, they might have avoided the Trojan War.



Odysseus' wife, Penelope, has suitors who refuse to leave the palace and who demand that she provide them with hospitality. With so many greedy men around, she has to **replenish** the supplies of food and drink constantly.

EXERCISE 2 Context Clues

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

	COLUMN A
11.	word:
n, the farth	est or outermost point or part;
	t degree; grave danger,
necessity o	or distress; an extreme measure
necessity, c	of distress, are extreme incubate
	word:
n. a long po	oem about the adventures of a
great hero;	adj. impressive; grand in scope
13.	word:
v. to refill o	or resupply; restore; nourish
	11 37
14.	word:
v. to settle	by discussing; to arrange an
agreement	
Ü	
15.	word:
<i>adj.</i> attract	ing little attention; not readily
noticeable;	ordinary
16	
	word:
	, with no part missing;
undamage	d ,
17.	word:
v. to under	mine the confidence of a persor
	liscourage; dishearten
0 1,	
18.	word:
v. to break	up and scatter; to cause to
vanish or d	lisappear; to spread or distribut
widely	
10	word:
	nded by land; cut off from the
	naed by fand, cut on from the
sea	
20.	word:
	gical records; historical
	· ·

COLUMN B

- (A) The Spanish have an **epic** poem that tells the story of the adventures of a great hero, Rodrigo Díaz de Bivar, commonly referred to as the Cid.
- (B) The Cid fights to destroy the power of the Moors in Spain by **dispersing** their armies.
- (C) It was clear even in his childhood that the young Rodrigo Díaz would not be a quiet, inconspicuous citizen. From the beginning he had the makings of a great knight.
- (D) The Moors had gained power in Spain partly because they had easy access to it from the sea. If Spain had been landlocked, then the history of Rodrigo Díaz might have been quite different.
- (E) A brave citizen of Burgos risks his life to **replenish** the dwindling supplies of the Cid and his men after they are condemned by King Alfonso VI.
- (F) King Alfonso VI, of Castile, was not happy with the Cid and banished him, but the Cid did not despair or become **demoralized**.
- (G) Stories of a real-life Rodrigo Díaz, who is the model for the epic hero, are recorded in the annals of Spanish history.
- (H) In the face of any extremity, the Cid was always brave. He never seemed fearful, even in the most dangerous circumstances.
- (I) Only one early manuscript of the *Poema del Cid* the story of the Cid—survived after the fourteenth century, and it was not intact. Several pages of text were missing.
- (J) After a period of exile, the Cid is able to **negotiate** with Alfonso, and after the two talk out their differences, Alfonso welcomes the Cid back.

accounts

EXERCISE 3 Sentence Completion

Directions. For each of the following items, circle the letter of the choice that best completes the meaning of the sentence or sentences.

- **21.** Many of the persons mentioned in the tale of Beowulf are also mentioned in historical records and _____.
 - (A) epic
 - (B) extremity
 - (C) negotiations
 - (D) annals
 - (E) dispersal
- **22.** King Hrothgar's once-happy land is _____ by the monster Grendel, who comes out of the lake and gobbles up its citizens. The people are reaching the _____ of despair.
 - (A) demoralized . . . extremity
 - (B) landlocked . . . annals
 - (C) negotiated . . . epic
 - (D) replenished . . . replenish
 - (E) dispersed ... extremity
- **23.** To _____ with a monster like Grendel would be impossible; he is not interested in talk but only wants to _____ himself with the flesh and blood of human beings.
 - (A) replenish . . . negotiate
 - (B) demoralize ... demoralize
 - (C) replenish . . . disperse
 - (D) negotiate . . . replenish
 - (E) disperse . . . demoralize
- **24.** Women are important in the stories of Odysseus and the Cid, but they play roles in the story of Beowulf.
 - (A) landlocked
 - (B) inconspicuous
 - (C) demoralized
 - (D) epic
 - (E) intact
- **25.** Grendel does not survive his battle with Beowulf _____. Beowulf tears off the monster's arm.
 - (A) landlocked
 - (B) demoralized
 - (C) inconspicuous
 - (D) extreme
 - (E) intact

- **26.** On the night after the battle with Grendel, soon after Beowulf's guests have begun to _____, Grendel's mother arrives at the nearly empty hall to seek revenge.
 - (A) negotiate
 - (B) disperse
 - (C) replenish
 - (D) landlocked
 - (E) irritate
- **27.** Queen Welthow honors Beowulf when she personally _____ his goblet.
 - (A) replenishes
 - (B) disperses
 - (C) demoralizes
 - (D) negotiates
 - (E) manifests
- 28. Beowulf is not the sort of man who is likely to remain ____ for long. In fact, the ____ of his boasts is matched only by the degree of his courage.
 - (A) intact...annals
 - (B) dispersed . . . epic
 - (C) inconspicuous . . . extremity
 - (D) landlocked ... extremity
 - (E) demoralized . . . annals
- **29.** The _____ of Beowulf is clearly the story of people who routinely travel the seas; it is not the poem of a _____ people.
 - $(A) \ annals \dots inconspicuous \\$
 - (B) extremity . . . epic
 - (C) epic...demoralized
 - (D) epic . . . landlocked(E) annals . . . extreme
- **30.** In the ____ of literary history, the ____ is a particularly interesting form of storytelling.
 - (A) annals . . . epic
 - (B) epic ... annals
 - (C) annals... extremity
 - (D) dispersal . . . annals(E) extremity . . . negotiation